

**Minutes of Meeting
Committee Meeting, Vancouver Park Board**

DATE OF MEETING: June 16, 2008

ATTENDEES: Park Board Commissioners
Commissioner Martin Zlotnik
Commissioner Spencer Herbert
Commissioner Heather Holden
Commissioner Korina Houghton
Commissioner Ian Robertson

Commissioners DeGenova and Woodcock were absent from the meeting.

Park Board Staff

Susan Mundick	General Manager
Piet Rutgers	Director, Planning and Operations
Peter Kuran	Director, Stanley District
Liane McKenna	Director, Vancouver East District
Diane Murphy	Acting Director, Queen Elizabeth District
Kate Davis-Johnson	Manager, Park Development
Bill Manning	Manager, Operations, Stanley District
Thomas Soulliere	Manager, Recreation Services
Alex Downie	Supervisor, Queen Elizabeth Park
Sean Healey	Supervisor, Aquatics
Daisy Chin	Recreation Services Coordinator
Paul Montpelier	City Arborist
Linda Brindley	Recorder

Guests

Fred Bjork, Moffat and Nichol Engineers
Lee Casey, Vancouver Pride Society
Ken Coolidge, Vancouver Pride Society

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm, with the following Agenda:

1. Approval of Minutes of April 21, 2008 Meeting
2. Jericho Marginal Wharf Proposal
3. Motion on Use of Timber
4. Joint Operating Agreement
5. QE Park Celebration Pavilion Update
6. Aquatic Study Implementation
7. Special Event – Beer Garden Requests

The Chair introduced Thomas Soulliere, Manager of Recreation Services, to the Board.

1. Approval of Minutes of April 21, 2008 Meeting

The minutes of the Committee meeting of April 21, 2008 were adopted as circulated.

2. Jericho Marginal Wharf Proposal

Staff provided an update on the Jericho Marginal Wharf proposal. On June 11, 2007 the Board authorized staff to hire consultants to review the site and offer recommendations. The options are:

- Repair the wharf and keep it in place;
- Demolish the entire structure; or
- Retain a portion of the structure.

The Marginal Wharf was originally built sixty years ago for the Royal Canadian Air Force for amphibious aircraft. A number of studies have been done over the years, but the most recent study has shown that something has to be done to ensure public safety due to deterioration of the wharf structure.

Moffatt and Nichol, an Urban Waterfront and Environmental Engineering Firm, (with sub-consultants Sharp & Diamond, Landscape Architects) was hired and staff conducted a public process in March 2008. The concepts brought forward at that time were the complete demolition of the wharf at a cost of \$1.9 million, demolition but with the addition of a seawall to the beach at a cost of \$2 million, retention of a portion of the east side of the original wharf, or the retention and repair of the entire wharf at a cost of \$1.1 million, with an additional cost of \$500,000 to \$1 million for maintenance every 6 to 10 years.

A survey was placed on the Park Board website for two months outlining options and generated a total of 546 responses including those from the public meeting. 50% were in favour of the complete demolition of the wharf. Staff recommends that the Marginal Wharf be demolished, but that a small area be retained.

Discussion:

The Commissioners questioned if the wharf is on the Heritage Register and if it will be necessary to rehabilitate the soil. Clarification was sought if the proposal was to retain an existing portion of the wharf or replicate a portion and also the size of the proposed retention.

Staff responded that the wharf is not on the Heritage Register and that the costs as described do not include soil remediation, but does include the extraction of the piles. The proposal is conceptual, but a portion of the wharf will be retained if it is feasible and it is expected to be 50 to 70 ft. by 100 ft.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board and were in favour of the demolition of the wharf:

- Jane McIvor
- Peter Robson
- Gail Owen
- Mike Kotter, Jericho Sailing Centre
- Dawn Hanna, Chair, Jericho Stewardship Group
- Andrew Appleton, Manager, Stewardship & Restoration Services
- Bill Thomas
- Duane Geddes
- Ben Mumford, Mumford Marine Group
- Dennis Passmore, Point Grey Natural Foreshore & Water Fowl Sanctuary Protective Society

The following is a summary of comments provided by the foregoing delegations:

- would like to have a marina developed because of existing shortage of moorage
- commended the Board for conducting public meetings
- City needs more public marinas
- supports demolition of wharf, but opposes marina
- demolition will compliment foreshore enhancement
- will provide additional beach area for families
- supports demolition, but opposed to a new wharf structure
- important area for disabled sailors to sail their boats
- requests that a floating dock be built

The following delegations spoke against the demolition of the wharf:

- Joan Bunn
- Lia Whitehead

The following is a summary of comments provided by the foregoing delegations:

- would like wharf to be retained
- should not discount heritage factor of the wharf
- consultation was flawed because too few people were aware of it

The Commissioners liked the idea of a floating dock and supported the recommendation of retaining part of the wharf. With regard to the lack of boating facilities, perhaps this is an opportunity to come up with a boating strategy that encompasses Jericho, Heather and Burrard Marinas. Even though the wharf and railings are not listed on the Heritage Registry, a Commissioner would like comments to be sought from the Heritage Committee. A Commissioner stated he is not in favour of the wharf being demolished without having an overall plan for the other facilities.

The Committee agreed that the Jericho Marginal Wharf Proposal, 1(C), be brought before the Board.

3. Motion on Use of Timber

Further to the Motion passed by the Board on May 12, 2008 that staff develop a plan to ensure timely public access to wood from fallen trees through a page or link on the Park Board website and to explore the use of mobile milling technology, staff advised that they had a meeting with woodturners and woodworkers.

Approximately 1100 trees are removed each year and at the present time only the adjacent residents are advised. Occasionally there are days in which 35 to 45 trees are taken down due to storms, but generally only a few dead or diseased trees are removed a day. Small trunks and branches are chipped and hauled away by contractors. The Park Board uses some woodchips as mulch around newly planted trees. A few calls for wood are received each year from individuals or places such as Langara College and those calls are handled by the District Superintendents.

It was established at the meeting that there are two types of wood being sought with the woodturners seeking small logs and the woodworkers seeking larger logs for crafting furniture. Options for notification are to notify the guilds, run an annual ad, or post the information on the Park Board website. A suggestion to determine the extent of interest in available wood would be to put a survey on the website.

Discussion:

The Commissioners questioned the need for the Park Board to enter into the forestry industry and asked if the interest is primarily in small or large trees.

Commissioner Herbert replied that he had been contacted by woodturners and woodworkers for access to the trees rather than having them used for firewood. He replied that the artisans are interested in obtaining small trees and the furniture makers prefer larger trees.

Mike Bjelos, Enviro Tree Milling, requested to speak to the Board and stated that he would like to see the wood turned into usable lumber for use in the community.

A member of the Committee expressed concern about the practicality of such a program.

Staff responded that an appropriate procurement process would be in place for a process to mill the wood; however they are requesting additional time for research before reporting back to the Board. The Committee agreed to staff gathering further information.

4. Special Event – Beer Garden Requests

Staff provided a brief overview on two requests that have been made to hold a beer garden. The Folk Festival is requesting a 500 capacity beer garden during their July 18 to July 20 Jericho event. Staff is recommending approval because the location of the proposed beer garden is within the existing gated area.

A member of the Committee asked where the beer garden will be located on the site and staff advised that it will be located close to the Marginal Wharf, at the furthest corner away from residences.

Staff advised that the Vancouver Pride Society Festival is requesting a 1000 capacity beer garden located in the sport court area at Sunset Beach during their August 3rd event. In 2007, the Society made a request for a 200 capacity beer garden and during the municipal strike the capacity was increased to 1000 without Park Board approval. Staff is recommending approval of a 750 capacity beer garden.

Discussion:

The Committee asked how the event grew from 200 to 1000 last year and if it will impact the fireworks. Staff responded that the organizers had contracted with a management company to oversee the project and it was due to the City job action that the approval for the increase was not sought. Staff stated the fireworks are scheduled for the Saturday evening and the Pride event will be Sunday.

The Vancouver Pride Society representative, Lee Casey, stated that because it is the second year of the event, they would like to expand. Ken Coolidge stated that originally they asked for 200 because they thought they would be running the event on their own.

The Committee approved that the requests for the beer garden licensing be brought before the Board with details of exact site locations.

5. Joint Operating Agreement

Staff stated that a previous Board in June 2005 accepted a report as a framework for staff to negotiate new agreements with the Community Associations. Other recommendations followed that included how new joint operating agreements would be looked at with the Community Associations.

Negotiations have commenced with the Associations and to date there has been one signed agreement and three others including Dunbar, Kitsilano and the Roundhouse are under discussion. The Vancouver East presidents are interested in beginning discussions together with the Park Board and then finalizing each agreement separately. It is

anticipated that will happen this fall. A number of the Associations are waiting to see the outcome of the core services review. West Point Grey and Douglas have indicated interest in moving forward in the fall.

With regard to establishing a common year end, each Association will look at being able to report on January 1st, but continue fiscal year ends to meet their own needs.

Discussion:

A member of the Committee asked about the timeline for the project. Staff responded that initially they did not realize the extent of time that the project would take, but the hope is everything will be complete by the end of 2009.

6. QE Park Celebration Pavilion Update

Staff provided a brief overview on the Celebration Pavilion and stated that the QE Park Plaza has been under development since 2002. A year round fully enclosed structure was built by borrowing \$1.4 million from the Corporate Sponsorship Fund and Donations Account with an annual payment of \$186,000, including \$84,000 in interest. The scheduled opening date was moved from March 2005 to March 2007 because of delays in construction.

The facility has been very well received and is very popular for weddings. The facility netted \$50,000 in 2007 and \$80,000 is the anticipated net revenue in 2008. Weekends and summers are the busiest time and the challenge for the facility has been bookings during the week and in the non-wedding season. They are working on an RFP for an operator and plan to increase their marketing of the facility.

Discussion:

The Committee asked if there are washrooms and food preparation in the facility.

Staff responded that there are washrooms adjacent to the facility and caterers can be hired to bring in food. A member of the Committee stated that he is familiar with catering trucks supplying food and his suggestion would be for the facility to hold an open house set up with food supplied by a catering truck and invite all the event planners. The General Manager stated that the Manager of Business Development has been hired and he will be working with the QE staff on this project.

7. Aquatic Study Implementation

Staff provided a brief overview on the aquatic study and stated that in June of last year, the Board accepted the Aquatic Services Review which had the goal of increasing public swims. The approved policy ratified the practices already in place at the pools and so the impacts have been few. There are approximately 120 regular renters all year round at the indoor pools, but it is anticipated that there may be impacts after the new pool at Hillcrest is complete. The review talked about increasing the pool usage for admissions by 70% and that would move the annual swims from 1.4 million to 2.4 million by 2017.

The Board is familiar with the Renfrew project, the Killarney re-build, and the Percy Norman (Hillcrest) project which is currently underway. There are a number of upgrades taking place for energy efficiencies at Templeton and Lord Byng. The existing schedules are being reviewed and an attempt is being made to unify opening and closing hours at all sites. Attendance is up 5.1% over this time last year. An improved marketing strategy is also being developed.

Discussion:

The Committee asked if there is a plan to rebuild the Vancouver Aquatic Centre.

The General Manager responded that will be considered in future capital plans and it has yet to be decided if it will be a total re-build or a renovation.

8. Next Meeting

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm. The next meeting will be held on Monday, July 14, 2008.