

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

DATE OF MEETING: September 22, 2008

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

Commissioners De Genova, Holden and Woodcock were absent from the meeting.

Park Board Staff

Susan Mundick	General Manager
Anita Ho	Director, Corporate Services
Peter Kuran	Director, Stanley District
Lori MacKay	Director, Queen Elizabeth District
Liane McKenna	Director, Vancouver East District
Paul Montpelier	Supervisor, Arboriculture
Ron Caswell	Manager, Operations, Vancouver East District
Joyce Courtney	Manager, Communications
Kate Davis-Johnson	Manager, Park Development
Bill Manning	Manager, Horticulture & Arboriculture
Thomas Soulliere	Manager, Recreation Services, Stanley District
Meg Elliott	Senior Business Analyst
Darren Peterson	Recreation Programmer
Linda Brindley	Recorder

Guests

Elizabeth Walker, Vancouver Historical Society
Ann Warrender, Riley Park Community Association
Claudia Laroye, Marpole Business Association

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

1. Approval of Minutes of July 14, 2008 Meeting
2. In Camera Meeting
3. 2009 Budget Process
4. Motion – Street Tree Management Plan
5. Seniors Community Park
6. #1 Kingsway Operating Model & Budget
7. Golf Operations
8. Use of Coal Harbour Community Centre and Roundhouse Community Arts & Recreation Centre during the 2010 Winter Games

9. Sport Strategy – Implementation Plan
10. Motion – Burrard Civic Marina

1. Approval of Minutes of July 14, 2008 Meeting

The minutes of the Committee meeting of July 14, 2008 were adopted as circulated.

2. In Camera Meeting

Moved by Commissioner Robertson,

THAT the Board go into a meeting which is closed to the public, pursuant to Section 165.2 (1) of the *Vancouver Charter*, to discuss matters related to paragraph;

(b) personal information about an identifiable individual who is being considered for an award or honour, or who has offered to provide a gift to the city on condition of anonymity.

- Carried Unanimously.

3. 2009 Budget Process

Staff provided a brief overview of the 2009 Operating Budget process and timetable. Each year the Board's base Operating Budget needs to be adjusted for increases in costs, such as changes in collective agreements, supply costs, utilities and equipment. Under the arrangement with Council, in order to receive the expense adjustments, the Board must agree to increase its Fees & Charges by a similar inflationary increase. The City has increased its revenue expectations for all City Departments to 4.00% which for the Park Board will mean the revenue inflationary increase is \$1.5 million. An analysis is being undertaken on the 2008 Fees and Charges and will be brought to Committee in October.

Discussion:

A Commissioner asked why the City was planning to increase the revenue expectations from the departments. The General Manager responded that because of increases in costs beyond inflation, fees will have to be increased by 4% across all City Departments.

4. Motion – Street Tree Management Plan

The General Manager stated that the Motion was put forward at the Board meeting of June 23rd and at that time was referred to Committee.

Staff provided a brief overview of the street tree planting program. The Street Tree Management Plan was approved in 1989 and proposed a 20 year planting program to place trees on 70 to 75% of available sites on City streets. Capital funding was provided to increase the tree population and an average of 1200 trees has been planted each year. Additionally, funds are provided in the Operating Budget to replace about 1200 dead or diseased trees each year. The street tree stocking level can be increased to 80% by adding another 20,000 street trees over the next 20 years which would require capital funding of \$6 million.

Copies of the motion were distributed to the Committee.

WHEREAS the Street Tree Management Plan has not been updated since 1989;

AND WHEREAS the current plan calls for trees on approximately 70 percent of available areas;

AND WHEREAS the planting of trees beautifies areas, provides wildlife habitat, and sequesters carbon;

AND WHEREAS climate change was not widely seen as a vital problem in 1989, and has now been shown to be of paramount importance to public policy today;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Vancouver Park Board resolve to ask staff to develop a new long range stocking plan setting considerably higher targets for tree planting in the City;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that staff investigates funding sources from the Provincial Government's announced 'Trees for Tomorrow' program in addition to capital plans, and private developers.

The General Manager advised that if the Motion is approved, a new long term Street Tree Management Plan will have to be developed and approved by both the City and the Park Board.

Discussion:

A Commissioner stated the increase to 80% in street trees is a good direction to move and worth considering. The Committee discussed the Motion and it was decided not to send the item to the Board.

5. Seniors Community Park

Staff stated the item is before the Committee for information and is an initiative from the Provincial Government called “ActNow BC Seniors”. Vancouver has been chosen to participate in the initiative as one of eighteen locations in BC. The program consists of parks for seniors that are designed to keep seniors mobile, physically healthy and active. The Province will supply the specialized equipment, and funding for the installation and shipping of the equipment, as well as signs in the parks. The City’s responsibility includes providing the park space, overall design to coordinate the uses in the park and any other requirements such as pathways, community gardens and seating areas. The City is also asked to supply ongoing user training, as well as maintenance of the equipment. A list of parks was compiled with the most important criteria being a park with a neighbourhood consisting of a large senior’s population. The choice of Tisdall Park was based on factors such as its adjacency to major bus routes, the proximity to George Pearson Centre and senior-oriented housing in the area.

An implementation plan has been prepared that identified the needs of the area as well as the preparation of an agreement between the Province and the City. The plan includes a completion date of spring 2009. The City is waiting to receive the signed agreement back from the Province.

6. #1 Kingsway Operating Model & Budget

Staff presented the Operating Model and Budget for the Mount Pleasant Civic Centre. The building was first conceived as replacement for the existing building in 2001, and the plans include a community centre, library, child development centre and market rental housing. The final budget for construction is \$50.4 million, a large portion of funding came from the Property Endowment Fund.

The groups that will be involved in this facility include the Community Centre, Library, Child Development Centre, as well as housing, but also the Mount Pleasant Community Association, the Friends of the Library and a Community Advisory Committee. The projected completion date is March/April 2009 and it is anticipated that the existing Community Centre will continue to operate its programs until June 2009. It is also anticipated that the Mount Pleasant pool will continue to operate in the summer of 2009, followed by the demolition of the old Community Centre and pool in the fall of 2009 when community consultation will be initiated on the Mount Pleasant Park process.

The integrated services means that the library and Community Centre will have mirror operating hours between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. most days, so both the library and Community Centre will be open. In addition, the fitness centre will also be open between 6 a.m. and 9 a.m.

There is an existing budget at the existing Community Centre and it is estimated that there will be additional staffing costs of approximately \$100,000 at the new facility. There will also be a one time transition cost during the move.

Discussion:

The Commissioners questioned if existing staff will be transferred to the new facility and if staff are aware of the percentage of users who are expected to migrate to the new facility. Staff responded that existing staff will transfer and new positions will also be created. It is expected that the users will migrate to the newer facility because it will be a new facility, one that provides childcare, and will have a larger fitness centre.

7. Golf Operations

Staff provided a progress report on the golf operations which is showing an increase in the rounds of golf, an increase in green fee revenue and an increase in the food and beverage revenue, but a decrease in the driving range revenue. The total revenue for January to June 2008 compared to 2007 is up 2.1%. In 2006, a committee was set up to look at revenue initiatives and since that time maintenance improvements have been undertaken and a cancellation policy has been posted and is being enforced. In early 2009, a new tee time booking system will be implemented.

A consultant has been hired to implement a marketing plan and analyze the business plans of the golf courses. Various activities have been completed which include interviews with staff, the review of previous customer surveys, a Silent Shopper review was undertaken at the three facilities and competitors' facilities have also been visited. The consultants are using that information to develop a set of service standards for all the golf operations.

A number of improvements have been made in various areas including the parking lots, clubhouse exteriors, washroom facilities, locker rooms, and various customer service enhancements. The golf professionals' contracts are due at the end of 2008 and the target date for the RFP closing is October 24. It is expected that a report will be made to the Board later in 2008.

8. Use of Coal Harbour Community Centre and Roundhouse Community Arts & Recreation Centre during 2010 Winter Games

Staff stated that the Canada Olympic Committee is interested in hosting their Canada House at the Roundhouse and would require the exhibition hall, as well as some other ancillary space from February 4 to March 2, 2010. VANOC is proposing to work with the Community Association to hold a cultural festival in the Roundhouse Performance Centre. While a lot of the existing programming would remain, it would be enhanced.

The Olympic Protocol Coordination Committee is seeking exclusive use of Coal Harbour Community Centre from January 1 to March 31, 2010. It would involve all levels of protocol working together to coordinate the itineraries of approximately 1600 visiting dignitaries from around the world. 120 staff would be required. The West End Community Association is in agreement and could take some of the displaced programming at their centre. The next step is to wait for Provincial approval.

Discussion:

The Commissioners questioned how the revenue would be shared between the Community Centres and the Park Board and if existing staff would be laid off. Staff responded that the Community Centres would normally take in the revenue for the programs, so they will remain revenue neutral. The General Manager replied that there is a Memorandum of Understanding in the Collective Agreements that staff will be deployed during the Olympics.

9. Sport Strategy – Implementation Plan

Staff stated that in May 2008 the Park Board and City Council approved the adoption of the Vancouver Sport Strategy. Staff was instructed to consult with sports stakeholders within the community and report back on a detailed Implementation Plan including funding strategies and timeline. A Sport Summit is scheduled for September 24 and will include a cross section of representatives of the sport community.

Discussion:

The Commissioners questioned if there is duplication between Sport for Life and the Sport Strategy. Staff responded that it is his understanding that Sport for Life is part of Active Communities. The General Manager advised that the Park Board will be seeking support from Council for partial funding.

10. Motion – Burrard Civic Marina

Commissioner Houghton read out the following Motion:

WHEREAS the Burrard Civic Marina has demand for boat moorage and the Marine Trades Association has indicated an interest in helping the Vancouver Park Board, create a new vision for the Marina;

WHEREAS the Vancouver Park Board would like to improve and expand its' services at Burrard and look at both dry land storage, retail and food and beverage operations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that staff contact the Marine Trades Association to investigate their interest and potential involvement in a re-development of Burrard Civic Marina and long term vision for marine boating operations;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that staff, in consultation with the Board, determines the best practices of other operators in North America for similar operations;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that staff report back to the Vancouver Park Board by March 1, 2009.

Discussion:

A Commissioner asked for a description of the Marine Trades Association and how it is anticipated to proceed. The Chair replied that the Association represents people who are in all facets of the industry. The General Manager replied that money has been allocated in the 2009-2011 Capital Plan and the intent is that a study will be completed on Burrard Marina.

The Committee discussed the matter and agreed to have the Motion on the September 29 Park Board agenda.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm. The next meeting will be held on Monday, October 20, 2008.