

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

DATE OF MEETING: October 20, 2008

ATTENDEES: Park Board Commissioners
Commissioner Martin Zlotnik
Commissioner Allan De Genova
Commissioner Heather Holden
Commissioner Korina Houghton
Commissioner Ian Robertson
Commissioner Loretta Woodcock

Commissioner Herbert was absent from the meeting.

Park Board Staff

Susan Mundick	General Manager
Anita Ho	Director, Corporate Services
Lori MacKay	Director, Queen Elizabeth District
Ron Caswell	Manager, Golf and Park Operations
Alison Dempsey	Supervisor, Business Services
Tilo Driessen	Park Planner
Meg Elliott	Senior Business Analyst
Sean Healey	Aquatics Supervisor
Doug Taylor	Community Recreation Coordinator
Linda Brindley	Recorder

Guests

Bryan Newson, Public Art Program Manager, City of Vancouver

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

1. Approval of Minutes of September 22, 2008 Meeting
2. Stanley Park Entrance – Public Art
3. Evaluation – Kits Farmers Market
4. Vancouver Olympic Centre – Program Update
5. Administrative Report – Position Change
6. Fees and Charges/Policy Review

1. Approval of Minutes of September 22, 2008 Meeting

The minutes of the Committee meeting of September 22, 2008 were adopted as circulated.

2. Stanley Park Entrance – Public Art

Staff stated that in 2001, the Park Board, along with City Council, approved the design for expansion of the Stanley Park causeway and part of the design included two locations for art installations. Mr. Newson, Public Art Program Manager, City of Vancouver, stated that he works very closely with Park Board staff and now there is an opportunity created by the Olympics for a more ambitious public art program. The plan is to seek commissioned artworks that will remain as a 2010 Winter Games legacy. Regarding the two locations opposite each other at the Georgia Street entrance to Stanley Park, a request has gone out to the international arts community requesting artists to submit their qualifications and a statement of approach as to their plans for the site. The deadline for submission is November 17 and the submissions will be reviewed by an independent panel. At that time, all of the concerns raised during the public notification process will be addressed.

Discussion:

A Commissioner asked the amount of budget involved and who will be responsible for ongoing maintenance of the installations. Staff replied that the budget is \$750,000 for this commission and the total plan has a budget of \$6,000,000. The City has a public art maintenance reserve and the interest on that reserve funds ongoing maintenance.

3. Evaluation – Kits Farmers Market

Staff advised that the Board had approved a pilot market location for the parking lot at Kitsilano Community Centre in 2007 and because that was not a typical year, it was decided to operate the market during 2008 in order to provide a better evaluation. In 2008, the market averaged 3000 people each Sunday. Flyers were distributed to the neighbours for their feedback and two positive responses were received. 10 verbal complaints were received from ice rink hockey patrons about parking shortages. Staff recommends that the market become a regular event to be included on the yearly calendar (Board report scheduled for November).

4. Vancouver Olympic Centre – Program Update

Staff provided a brief presentation regarding the progress of the Vancouver Olympic Centre. Hillcrest pool is slated to be available for the late summer and early fall of 2009, but will close later in December in preparation of the 2010 Winter Games. The vision for the centre is that it will be operating as the premiere destination community facility for all citizens of Vancouver as well as others in the lower mainland and beyond. The goals include managing the transition from now until 2012, maximizing service delivery,

protecting and managing the facility assets, financial sustainability and leadership excellence. Construction of the curling venue is coming to a completion and the first ice will be installed in early November. The Board will recall that the creation of a position to manage the refrigeration plant at the Aquatic facility was recently approved. That position has now been filled. A proposal is being put together to open up the Aquatic facility in late summer of 2009 to do a test run of the facility at a cost of \$1.2 million. The facility would then be closed to the public during the 2010 Winter Games.

Discussion:

A Commissioner inquired if revenue will be lost at the facility during the 2010 Winter Games and if it is practical to open up the facility on a temporary basis. Staff responded that VANOC is obliged under their agreement to provide all the costs during the exclusive use period and the reason for the temporary opening is to provide the community with an opportunity to use the facility and that proposal will be presented to the Board for their consideration.

5. Administrative Report – Position Change

Staff stated the report concerns the request to create a new senior position for the new aquatic centre at the Vancouver Olympic Centre. The initial priority for the position would be the recruitment of a large number of staff to open and operate the facility. Ultimately, the position would be responsible for the management and supervision of staff. It is expected to be an exempt position and the funding for the position will be included in the 2009 Added Basic Budget submission to the City.

Discussion:

The Commissioners questioned if the position would be filled earlier to accommodate the temporary opening of the facility. The General Manager stated that the position is subject to budget approval, and anticipated opening of the pool.

6. Fees and Charges/Policy Review

Staff stated that they are reporting back on a request by the Board regarding fees and charges. The Board's policy on user fees levies fees and charges to recover all or a portion of overall operating costs. The 2009 proposal is to adjust the age restrictions for some of the user classifications and to adjust the discount charged for seniors and youths. In regard to instituting different charges for residents and non-residents, we have been advised that a non-resident rate is in conflict with the Vancouver Charter. Playing fields and special events are still under review and staff will report back to the Board in January 2009.

2008 has been a challenge to meet our revenue budget and we are currently projecting a revenue shortfall of \$1.5 million. For 2009, the City of Vancouver expects an increase in revenue of 4%. Staff are proposing a 4% increase in fees across the board with a few exceptions. If the Committee supports the proposal, it will proceed for public consultation with a Board report scheduled for November 24, 2008.

Discussion:

The Commissioners discussed the various suggestions to change the age group definitions, the marketing initiatives to increase attendance and the proposal to increase golf fees. The Committee recommended that legal advice be sought on the suggestion to increase golf fees for non-Vancouver residents.

Moved by Commissioner Robertson,

THAT the General Manager seeks legal advice on increasing golf fees for non-Vancouver residents pursuant to the Vancouver Charter.

- **Carried Unanimously.**

The Committee supported proceeding with the other fee increase recommendations.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.