

**MINUTES OF MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
HELD AT THE VANCOUVER PARK BOARD OFFICE
ON MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2009**

PRESENT:	Chair	- Raj Hundal
	Vice Chair	- Loretta Woodcock
	Commissioners	- Constance Barnes
		- Sarah Blyth
		- Aaron Jasper
		- Stuart Mackinnon
		- Ian Robertson
	General Manager	- Susan Mundick
	Director of Planning & Operations	- Piet Rutgers
	Director of Stanley District	- Peter Kuran
	Director of Vancouver East District	- Liane McKenna
	Director of Special Projects	- Jim Lowden
	Manager of Business Development	- Octavio Silva
	Urban Forestry Technician	- Bill Stephen
	Manager of Communications	- Joyce Courtney
	Recorder	- Julie Casanova

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on Monday, March 09, 2009 were adopted as circulated.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair reported on the launch of the Mason Bee Project in Stanley Park.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Planning and Environment Committee: met on March 3 and discussed the Street Trees Program, Marinas Update, Indoor Tennis Proposal and Spanish Bank(s).

Services and Budgets Committee: met on March 10 and discussed the 2008 Year End Budget, Vancouver Golf Tournament, Update on Budget Directives and the motion regarding the Celebration Pavilion was withdrawn.

City Council Report

The General Manager advised the Board that Park Board related items on the Council and Committee agendas are the Mount Pleasant Centre at #1 Kingsway and Interim Estimates for Operating Budget 2009.

STAFF REPORT

Mount Pleasant Centre at #1 Kingsway

Board members received copies of a staff report dated March 12, 2009 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A and B.

Staff advised the Board that the Mount Pleasant Centre at #1 Kingsway includes a new Library, a Child Development Centre, a Café and a Community Centre to replace the existing Mount Pleasant Community Centre. After the relocation of the Mount Pleasant Community Centre to #1 Kingsway, the building and pool will be decommissioned. The childcare program currently offered at Mount Pleasant Community Centre will require an interim solution until the modular facility on the site of Simon Fraser School is available. There are two options to continue to support the interim needs for childcare programs, Option 1 is to use Simon Fraser School for before school care and the new Mount Pleasant Centre for the balance of the childcare programs and Option 2 is to continue to use the existing Mount Pleasant Community Centre.

Moved by Commissioner Barnes,

THAT the Board:

- A. Receive the attached Council report for information
- B. Support Option 1 as the interim solution for the childcare programs offered through the Mount Pleasant Community Centre Association.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Phalgun Joshi
- Nancy A. Chiavario, President, Mount Pleasant Community Centre Association
- Mallory O'Connor
- Kerri Abramson
- Jenn McGinn, MLA Vancouver-Fairview
- Sarah Lloyd
- Christopher Richardson

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

- does not support Option 1, safety of children will be compromised as they will be travelling through a very high vehicular traffic area such as Main Street and Kingsway;
- there has been no public process regarding the decommissioning of the building and returning it to parkland;
- the Mount Pleasant Community Association will assist in the cost to maintain the use of the current building for childcare programs;
- assured the Board that funding will be in place for the completion of the modular facility;
- encourage the Board to support the continued use of the Mount Pleasant Community Centre as an interim solution for childcare programs;
- will raise the issue with the Provincial Government to address the concerns of the families.

Board members thanked the delegations and acknowledged their concerns. A member of the Board requested that recommendation A and B be severed.

Moved by Commissioner Barnes,

THAT the Board receive the attached Council report for information.

- Carried Unanimously.

An amendment to recommendation B was suggested.

Moved by Commissioner Jasper,

**THAT recommendation B be deleted and replaced with the following:
THAT the Board approve the interim use, at no cost to the Board, of
the Mount Pleasant Community Centre for childcare programs until
no later than March 15, 2010 which factors in some contingency time
for program use prior to the decommissioning of the Centre.**

Board members discussed the amendment motion and stated that they were glad to see the childcare issue being addressed as there was concern with transporting the children from one facility to another. A member of the Board stated that this motion will provide the assurance to the community in their fundraising efforts.

The motion was put forward and it was Carried Unanimously.

Commemorative Naming – Community Kitchen at Kitsilano War Memorial Community Centre

Board members received copies of a staff report dated March 12, 2009 recommending that the Board approve the commemorative naming of the community kitchen at Kitsilano War Memorial Community Centre after the late Ken Hillman (Ken's Kitchen”).

Staff advised the Board that the community kitchen at Kitsilano War Memorial Community Centre was completed in October 2008. This professional-grade kitchen benefits the community by supporting numerous programs and events, including cooking classes, outreach programs for the less fortunate, and hosting of community centre special events. A formal application was received from the Kitsilano War Memorial Community Centre Association to name the new community kitchen after Ken Hillman, a long-time Association Board member who was instrumental in this initiative. The Commemorative Naming Policy consultation requirement was conducted and met. Pete Quevillon, Vice President, Kitsilano War Memorial Community Centre Association appeared before the Board to speak in support of the naming of Ken's Kitchen. Mr. Quevillon stated that Mr. Hillman was a very humble individual who always worked hard for the community, and, his dedication was an inspiration to many people.

Board members discussed the report and stated that Mr. Hillman's dedication as a volunteer was invaluable to the community.

Moved by Commissioner Jasper,

THAT the Board approve the commemorative naming of the community kitchen at Kitsilano War Memorial Community Centre after the late Ken Hillman (“Ken's Kitchen”).

- Carried Unanimously.

Trout Lake Community Centre

Board members received copies of a staff report dated March 12, 2009 recommending that the Board approve Recommendations A to E.

Staff advised the Board that an analysis of the soil conditions of three possible locations for the new community centre was done and a significant construction cost difference has been identified. The option with the most savings would be to build at the location of the present centre. This will require a full shut down of the community centre during the course of the construction. Staff will work with the Community Association to address this disruption and work on relocation of core programs to other facilities during the construction.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Kate Perkins, 2nd Vice President, Grandview Community Association
- Chris Payne, President, Grandview Community Association

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

- looking forward to the project moving ahead;
- the Association Board is pleased with the architect's work, the rink is far beyond expectation;
- had a lot of public process regarding the siting of the new centre;
- will support staff's recommendation to save construction costs;
- the Association Presidents' Group campaigned very hard to get the Capital Plan approved;
- the 32,000 sq ft as recommended is not adequate and would like the money saved from the construction cost applied to increasing the size to 34,000 sq ft;
- do not want to wait 30 or 40 years for future expansion that would never happen as it was in the case of the present community centre building;
- would like the building ready for the 2011 Fall program.

Board members thanked the delegation and stated that they would like to see every effort made to have the size of the building increased to 34,000 sq ft.

Moved by Commissioner Robertson,

- A. THAT the Board approve the location of the new Trout Lake Community Centre (Option 3), as illustrated in Appendix C**
- B. THAT the Board enter into a contract for the full consulting services for the design and construction contract administration of Trout Lake Community Centre with Walter Francl Architecture Inc. for a fixed fee of \$1,817,865.00, plus GST and disbursements, as detailed in this report.**
- C. THAT the contract be on terms and conditions outlined in this report and on such other terms and conditions as are approved by the General Manager of the Park Board and the Director of Legal Services;**
- D. THAT upon approval of the contract by the General Manager of the Park Board and the Director of Legal Services, the General Manager of the Park Board be authorized to execute the contract on behalf of the Board;**
- E. THAT no legal rights shall arise hereby, and none shall arise until execution of the contemplated contract, and the Board**

reserves the right to rescind this resolution at any time up to the execution and delivery of the contemplated contract by the General Manager of the Park Board.

- Carried Unanimously.

Stanley Park Forest Management Plan

Board members received copies of a staff report dated March 23, 2009 recommending that the Board receive the management plan for information.

Staff provided a detailed overview of the Stanley Park Forest Management Plan report and explained that the document should be used as a guide for the current and future activities which are consistent with the overall vision for the forest. The major elements of the report are related to public safety, forest protection, ecosystem enhancement and management strategies. The Stanley Park Forest Management Plan is an extension of the restoration plan and was guided by a steering committee made up of professionals and academics from the ecology and forestry community.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Dr. Steve Mitchell, UBC Forestry
- Patricia Thomson and Robyn Worcester, Stanley Park Ecology Society
- Paul Lawson, Malcolm Knapps Research Forest

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

- the forest management plan will guide the future management of the forest in Stanley Park;
- the use of GIS mapping is an important tool for forest management;
- increased awareness of wildlife and maintaining the ecology of Stanley Park;
- a number of forestry students from UBC worked on the project;
- this is a very thorough and thoughtful plan to address the recovery process;
- continued management is needed to have a healthy forest;
- thinning the forest will make it more resilient to strong winds;
- would be happy to be involved with the implementation of the plan;
- the ecology society will work in collaboration with staff to ensure the plan remains current;
- a resilient forest does not happen on its own, need to make sure that the forest does not go through the 2006 destruction again.

Board members thanked staff, stakeholders and the previous Board for their leadership in the restoration of Stanley Park after the 2006 windstorm. The forest management plan will protect the park enjoyed by millions of visitors and reflects the environmental values of the Board.

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock,

THAT the Board receive the Stanley Park Forest Management Plan Report for information.

- Carried Unanimously.

2009 Operating Budget – Stanley Park Shuttle

Board members received copies of a staff report dated March 11, 2009 recommending that the Board approve Recommendations A and B.

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock,

- A. THAT as part of the proposed 2009 Budget Initiatives, the Board approve discontinuation of funding for the Stanley Park Shuttle service for 2009.
- B. THAT staff explore other options for funding the Shuttle which could allow for its continued service in 2009 and/or future years, at no or minimal cost to the Board.

Staff advised the Board that as part of the 2009 Budget Initiatives the discontinuation of the free shuttle service around Stanley Park was identified as an opportunity to meet the \$200,000 target directed by Council. The shuttle is a “hop on hop off” service in Stanley Park and is at the end of a five-year contract with Vancouver Trolley Company. As the shuttle is a popular service staff will investigate a long-term cost neutral option with the Vancouver Trolley Company and Stanley Park stakeholders.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Jim Storie, Vancouver Trolley Company
- Eleanor Hadley
- Daniel Frankl, Prospect Point Café and Stanley Park Pavilion
- Patricia Thomson, Stanley Park Ecology Society
- Stuart Colquhoun, Brockton Visitor Centre
- Christopher Richardson
- Chad Mckenzie

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

- the shuttle service encourages visitors to leave their cars at home;
- increased parking revenue more than pays for the trolley;
- not advisable to discontinue the shuttle service as the Board is in the business of serving the tourists, how would the visitors travel around the park?
- unhappy with the Board for attacking services in Stanley Park;

- the shuttle is always full, maybe consider adding more buses to address the overcrowding problem;
- the shuttle is a core service in the park, it brings business to the cafés and restaurants in the park;
- the shuttle service provides an alternate to private vehicles which means reduced exhaust in the park;
- request the Board to explore a solution for 2009 and future years as there is a growing demand for environmental sustainability;
- the parking lots are full in the summer and the demographics of tourists to Stanley Park are aging, cannot risk losing the service of the shuttle;
- the Board will find their savings, but the discontinuation of the shuttle will affect the revenues;
- suggest the Board investigate opportunities for sponsorship with other transit providers;
- request the Board to reconsider, the stopping of the shuttle service will have an adverse affect on restaurants and the wages of its employees.

Board members expressed concern with the information provided by the delegation and suggested that the matter be referred back to staff. The General Manager advised the Board that the \$200,000 from the shuttle was only a part of the \$1.9 million reduction from the 2009 Operating Budget allocated to the Board by the City in order to meet Council's directive. The recommendations have been clearly structured for the Board to pursue a solution and at the same time meet the commitment to Council.

Moved by Commissioner Barnes,

THAT the Board recess for five minutes.

- Carried Unanimously.

The Board recessed at 10:30 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 10:43 p.m.

Board members discussed the motion and the mover of the motion requested that the word "other" be deleted and replaced with "all" in recommendation B. Board members concurred with this change. Board members discussed the issue further and stated that they would like to see a compromise and would like to see the continuation of the service of the shuttle in 2009, maybe the tourism industry would step in to provide assistance.

The motion was put forward as follows:

- A. THAT as part of the proposed 2009 Budget Initiatives, the Board approve discontinuation of funding for the Stanley Park Shuttle service for 2009.**

- B. THAT staff explore all options for funding the Shuttle which could allow for its continued service in 2009 and/or future years, at not or minimal cost to the Board.**

- Carried Unanimously.

Jericho Marginal Wharf – Re-consultation

Board members received copies of a staff report dated March 12, 2009 recommending that the Board direct staff to undertake an online bulletin board and a focus group process for Jericho Marginal Wharf project as outlined in this report, or that the Board direct staff to undertake a facilitated consultation process as outlined in this report.

Staff advised the Board that a public consultation process was conducted consistent with the Board's practices regarding the Jericho Marginal Wharf. However, some of the delegations at the Planning and Environment Committee on February 2, 2009 did not support the decision of the Board made in 2008 and argued for more process and staff was asked to look into a more extensive consultation program. In addition to the process already done regarding the Jericho Marginal Wharf project, two more options are presented, an Online Bulletin Board/Focus Group and a Facilitated Consultation Process to cover the request for more process.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Gary Wedeking
- Jan de Vries
- Maureen Jack LaCroix
- Ray Tomlin
- Carole Palmer
- Chris Stairs
- Joan Bunn
- Gail Owen

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

- the public consultation process was flawed, need to revisit the whole process;
- notices should be put up in the summer at the wharf when everyone is using the park;
- all Vancouver citizens are stakeholders of this park, Board is responsible to determine the public good and make decision in the best interest of heritage and environmental reasons;
- previous process does not reflect public input, need to thoroughly explore the value of public space; consider how the waterfront will be used if wharf is

- dismantled; need a brainstorming workshop and invite online input as part of the public process;
- an ad-hoc survey revealed that many people were not aware of the decision to take down the wharf; need to increase the area for postering; save money by having Park Board members as facilitators and use the money for advertising instead;
 - the Jericho Sailing Association are concerned that the Board is overturning the previous decision under the assumption of a flawed public process, the decision regarding the Jericho Marginal Wharf was arrived at after extensive public consultation; having another public consultation will cost more money, asked the Board on how the process was flawed;
 - the public process should not be cumbersome and not cost a lot of money; consider having members of different groups to work in a panel; need an open process; do not confine to online tools only;
 - a resident of East Vancouver received notice regarding the public meeting on Jericho; a notice was posted at the wharf for three weeks; the wharf is dilapidated and is beyond repair; would like to save it but know that it is unsafe to continue to keep the wharf; Board should stand by the original decision as the process was not flawed;
 - support recommendation B in the staff report – 3 speakers.

Moved by Commissioner Jasper,

THAT the Board direct staff to undertake a facilitated consultation process as outlined in the Jericho Marginal Wharf – Re-consultation reported dated March 12, 2009.

Board members discussed the motion and stated that this was an opportunity for improved process and a better public consultation is important. A member of the Board stated that he did not agree with spending money when the Board is having to cut its budget, this decision is neither financially, socially or environmentally responsible. A member of the Board stated that there had been extensive public consultation process on this issue already and the Board needs to make a difficult decision, there will always be people who do not agree with the Board's decision.

The motion was put forward and it was Carried.
(Commissioners Mackinnon and Robertson contrary)

Stanley Park and Queen Elizabeth Park Road Reconstruction – Award of Contract

Board members received copies of a staff report dated March 19, 2009 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A to D.

Commissioners Jasper and Woodcock left the room at this time.

Moved by Commissioner Mackinnon,

- A. **THAT, subject to Recommendations B, C and D, the Board enter into a contract with Imperial Paving Ltd. in the amount of \$871,701 plus GST, for the reconstruction of portions of Stanley Park Drive and portions of Queen Elizabeth Park as described in this report;**
- B. **THAT this contract be on the terms and conditions outlined in this report and on such other terms and conditions as are approved by the General Manager of the Park Board in consultation with the Director of Legal Services;**
- C. **THAT, upon approval of this contract by the General Manager of the Park Board in consultation with the Director of Legal Services, the General Manager of the Park Board be authorized to execute this contract on behalf of the Board;**
- D. **THAT no legal rights shall arise hereby, and none shall arise until execution of the contemplated contract, and the Board reserves the right to rescind this resolution at any time up to the execution and delivery of the contemplated contracts by the General Manager of the Park Board.**

- Carried Unanimously

(Commissioner Jasper and Woodcock were not present at the time of the vote.)

MOTIONS

Commissioner Jasper returned to the room at this time.

Moved by Commissioner Blyth,

- A. **THAT staff examine the feasibility of and report back on posting Board meeting proceedings on line so as to allow public access to full audio recordings of these meetings.**
- B. **THAT staff be instructed to explore the feasibility of using Facebook, Twitter and other forms of social media to communicate with the public as to Park Board public consultation and to advertise activities and services.**

- Carried Unanimously.

(Commissioner Woodcock was not present at the time of the vote)

The meeting adjourned at 12:20 a.m.

Susan Mundick
General Manager

Commissioner Raj Hundal
Chair