

**MINUTES OF MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
HELD AT THE PARK BOARD OFFICE
ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 02, 2009**

PRESENT:	Chair	- Raj Hundal
	Vice Chair	- Loretta Woodcock
	Commissioners	- Constance Barnes
		- Sarah Blyth
		- Aaron Jasper
		- Ian Robertson
		- Stuart Mackinnon
	Acting General Manager	- Peter Kuran
	Director of Vancouver East District	- Liane McKenna
	Co-Acting Director of Stanley District	- Philip Josephs
	Co-Acting Director of Stanley District	- Thomas Soulliere
	Acting Director of Queen Elizabeth District	- Diane Murphy
	Manager of Communications	- Joyce Courtney
	Recorder	- Shala Hay

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on Monday, October 19, 2009 were adopted as circulated.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair reported on the launch of the Olympic and Paralympic Bag program at Lord Strathcona School; the unveiling of a memorial sculpture of Kinuko Laskey at Seaforth Peace Park. The Chair announced that in commemoration of Remembrance Day the Park Board would allow free parking to veterans displaying a veteran's licence on their vehicles from November 4th to 11th, 2009 at Park Board parking lots.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Planning and Environment Committee has not met since the last Board Meeting, the next meeting would be on Thursday, November 12th, 2009.

The Services and Budgets Committee has not met since the last Board Meeting. Instead of a Services and Budgets meeting, on November 17th, 2009 a Special Board Meeting would be convened.

City Council Report

At the next Regular Council Meeting a motion would be brought before Council regarding the work that is being done by staff at McBride Park.

STAFF REPORTS

Dog Off-leash Update

Board members received copies of a staff report dated October 01, 2009 recommending that the Board receive this report for information and approve the designation of a portion of Devonian Harbour Park and Stanley Park as off-leash areas and new seasonal hours at Fraser River Park.

Staff advised the Board that there is a growing demand for off-leash sites in the downtown core and the two additional areas will provide legitimate off-leash opportunities for dog owners, and take pressure off of other on-leash locations. The recommended extension of hours at Fraser River Park is based on the need for more functional year round hours to better serve the needs of existing park users. Staff also advised the Board on the feasibility of installing fencing at these sites as recommended by the Planning and Environment Committee and Stanley Park Ecology Society to overcome concerns that were raised.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Diana Livingston
- Megan Carvell Davis
- Michael Livingston
- Helen Hill
- Eleanor Hadley
- Bobbie Merilees
- Patricia Thomson, Stanley Park Ecology Society
- Edna Bond

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

- Devonian Park is a good site for dog walking as there are no highways and it is the only beach on the south side
- It is difficult for seniors to walk dogs and give them the sufficient exercise they need on-leash
- The beach at Devonian Park is not safe for children and the presence of dogs does not impinge on beach users.
- The early morning period is often difficult for seniors to walk their dogs, later in the morning or noon is often more appropriate
- Off-leash hours at Devonian Park should be all day or longer during summer
- Does not support the proposal because seasonal and staggered hours do not work

- Special sites which do not have other primary usage should be selected as off-leash parks and they should be available all-day for the entire year
- Once a park becomes off-leash it is no longer available for other users
- All off-leash areas should be contained by fencing to define the boundary and restrict persons without dogs and ensure the safety of pedestrians
- There are too few dog off-leash regulatory signs at Fraser River Park and as a result most people think that the park is off-leash all-day
- Signage should be installed at the parking lot so park users are informed from the moment they enter the park
- There should be dog waste disposal facilities in the parks
- Suggest that another picnic site be established at Fraser River Park
- Due to the density in the downtown area more space should be allocated to people not dogs and the general public should get preference over dog owners
- Thinks that dog associations keep demanding more space every year
- Dog owners consistently break the rules regardless of how much off-leash hours they are designated
- Hadden beach has become a dog beach and access by non-dog walkers is restricted
- Dogs and children should never be allowed to share the same space for safety and health reasons
- Stanley Park Ecology Society (SPES) does not support the introduction of an off-leash area at Stanley Park
- The proposed area in Stanley Park is home to many species of wildlife and this would pose a great threat to their existence in the park
- Areas designated for off-leash activities should have a low value to wildlife
- If Devonian Park is selected as an off-leash site fencing should be used to protect wildlife in this area and if this does not prove to be effective the designation should be withdrawn
- Non-dog owners often do not have a problem with having off-leash activity in the parks and many of them have signed the petition in favour of this
- Professional dog walkers who walk several dogs at once should be restricted in the parks; often dog owners have to take it upon themselves to confront these individuals
- There is no lighting at Fraser River Park which makes it difficult to walk dogs after 5pm in winter

Board members discussed the report. A member of the Board asked staff whether there were any instances where the Board had to withdraw off-leash designation in a park. Staff informed the Committee that this has been done in the past; Heather Park is one example of this.

Moved by Commissioner Jasper,

- A. THAT the Board receive this report for information.
- B. THAT the Board approve the designation of a portion of Devonian Harbour Park as an Off-leash Area as outlined in this report.
- C. THAT the Board approve the designation of a portion of Stanley Park as an Off-leash Area as outlined in this report.
- D. THAT the Board approve new seasonal hours at Fraser River Park as outlined in this report.

A member of the Board requested that the motion be severed.

Moved by Commissioner Jasper,

- A. THAT the Board receive this report for information.**

- Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Jasper,

- B. THAT the Board approve the designation of a portion of Devonian Harbour Park as an Off-leash Area as outlined in this report.

Board members discussed the motion. Some members expressed concerns as to whether additional off-leash sites should be considered based on the lack of resources to effectively enforce the regulations.

An amendment to motion B was suggested.

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock,

- B. THAT the Board approve the designation of a portion of Devonian Harbour Park as an Off-leash Area, as outlined in this report, for the period of one year with an evaluation at the end of this year to determine whether the designation should continue.**

- Defeated.

(Commissioner Woodcock and Commissioner Mackinnon contrary)

Board members discussed whether fencing would be effective in preventing an impact on wildlife at the park.

The original motion B was put forward and it was Carried (Commissioner Robertson and Commissioner Mackinnon contrary).

Moved by Commissioner Jasper,

- C. THAT the Board approve the designation of a portion of Stanley Park as an Off-leash Area as outlined in this report.

Board Members discussed the recommendation and concerns were raised regarding the impact on wildlife at the area.

Motion C was put forward and it was Defeated Unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Jasper,

- D. THAT the Board approve new seasonal hours at Fraser River Park as outlined in this report.

A member of the Board suggested an amendment to motion D.

Moved by Commissioner Robertson,

- D. THAT the Board approve Fraser River Park as a year round all-day off-leash park.**

-Defeated

(Commissioner Robertson contrary)

A member of the Board suggested that another amendment to motion D be put forward.

Moved by Commissioner Mackinnon,

- D. THAT the recommended new seasonal hours at Fraser River Park be referred to the Planning and Environment Committee for further study to look into alternatives to having the entire park off-leash during the suggested hours.**

-Carried

(Commissioner Woodcock contrary)

In-Camera Meeting

Moved by Commissioner Mackinnon,

THAT the Board later this evening 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:

(k) negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of an activity, work or facility that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the Board, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the Park Board if they were held in public.

-Carried Unanimously.

Enquiries, Other Matters and New Business

A member of the Board inquired into whether there was any information as to whether Park Board Commissioners would play a role during the 2010 Games. Staff informed the Board that they would follow up on this.

A member of the Board inquired into whether staff received any new information on the rumour that the BC Lions would be relocated to Empire Bowl for their next season during the renovation of BC Place. Staff informed the Board that at the Park Board and City level there has been no discussion on this matter, the Board would be kept updated on this issue.

The meeting adjourned at 10:14 pm.

Peter Kuran
Acting General Manager

Commissioner Raj Hundal
Chair