

**Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Parks and Recreation
Planning & Environment Committee Meeting
Held at the Vancouver Park Board Office on
Tuesday, February 3, 2009**

ATTENDEES: **Park Board Commissioners**
Aaron Jasper, Chair
Sarah Blyth, Vice Chair
Stuart Mackinnon
Raj Hundal

Commissioner Robertson was absent from the meeting.

Park Board Staff

Piet Rutgers	Director, Planning & Operations
Thomas Soulliere	Manager, Recreation Services
Mark Vulliamy	Manager, Research and Planning
Alan Duncan	Environmental Planner
Doug Pirozek	Recreation Service Coordinator
Linda Brindley	Recorder

Guests

Hartley Rosen, Environmental Youth Alliance

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

1. Urban Apiary Project
2. Jericho Marginal Wharf
3. Approval of 2009 Planning & Environment Meeting Dates
4. Sports Fields

1. Urban Apiary Project

Staff introduced Hartley Rosen, Manager, Environmental Youth Alliance. Mr. Rosen stated they are working with youth to make Vancouver neighbourhoods better places to live. In North America last year, there were huge losses in honey bee colonies. A project funded by Environment Canada was implemented by distributing 100 mason bee condos to volunteers across the City. The project was very successful and has led to Phase Two with 50 mason bee high rise buildings to be placed in parks and greenways. The structures were built by students at VanTech Secondary. The next step is super lodges in 3 high profile destination parks -

Stanley Park, Jericho and Everett Crowley. All lodges would be associated with a local stewardship group.

Discussion:

The Commissioners questioned why mason bees were selected and if the project is restricted to Vancouver.

Staff responded that mason bees were selected because they are very docile and are effective pollinators. At this time the project has focused on the City of Vancouver.

Moved by Commissioner Mackinnon,

THAT the Urban Apiary Project report be received for information.

- Carried Unanimously.

2. Jericho Marginal Wharf

Staff advised that last year after extensive public consultation, the Park Board of the day passed a motion to remove most, but not all, of the wharf. The present Board has requested a review of that decision.

The Marginal Wharf was originally built during World War II as a base for launching float planes. A number of studies have been done over the years on the wharf, but the most recent study commissioned in 2008 from an Urban Waterfront and Environmental Engineering Firm has shown that something has to be done to ensure public safety due to deterioration of the wharf structure. Four concepts were brought forward and they included the complete demolition of the wharf to restore the site to natural habitat and beach, demolition but with the addition of a seawall to the beach, retention of a portion of the east side of the original wharf, or the retention and repair of the entire wharf. An open house was subsequently held and 65 submissions were made. A survey was then placed on the Park Board website for two months outlining options and it generated 481 responses. 60% were in favour of either the complete or most of the demolition of the wharf. At that time, staff came back to Park Board with a new concept (1-C) that included the removal of most of the wharf, but retention of 4600 sq. ft. to allow for public use complete with some interpretative signage to show the historic use of the wharf. That proposal was accepted by the Park Board and staff continues to recommend that option.

Discussion:

The Commissioners questioned the ongoing maintenance of concept 1-C, the plans for commemoration, which sections of railing would be retained and if the costs are the same today.

Staff responded that the ongoing maintenance of 1-C would have a low cost. The plans for commemoration still have to be decided but will likely include a mix of plaques and artefacts. The best sections of railing will be retained with the remainder disposed of to interested parties. Staff stated that today's costs will not be finalized until the bids for the work are received.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board and were in favour of continuing with concept 1-C:

- Gail Owen
- Duane Geddes
- Dennis Passmore
- Mike Kotter, Jericho Sailing Centre

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

- frustrated to be back before the Board when the decision had already been made
- urges Park Board to standby the original decision
- important area for disabled sailors to sail their boats
- hoping that a floating dock will be built to assist disabled sailors
- concerned about the proposed 6% increase in City taxes, so does not want to retain the wharf if that will increase taxes
- all proposed use can be accommodated on the retained section of wharf

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board and were in opposition of removal of the wharf:

- Maureen Jack-LaCroix
- Jan de Vries
- Joan Bunn
- Elbridge Rand
- Gary Wedeking
- Leah Whitehead

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

- like to see the wharf retained to be used by citizens in the context of nature
- wharf is an asset to the City
- wharf is a unique amenity
- questions the cost of maintenance on the wharf from 1973 to present time
- suggests that the layer of concrete be removed to reduce weight on pylons

- feels public consultation was biased
- wharf is a unique structure along West Coast
- asks that the Park Board view a sunset from the wharf
- wharf is very accessible to wheelchairs
- urges Board to reverse previous Board's decision
- there is an absence of wide open spaces in Vancouver

Some Commissioners expressed concern with the consultation process and would like more consultation to take place in order to determine what the community wants. A campaign promise was made to have proper consultation.

Moved by Commissioner Blyth,

THAT the Committee recommends staff to bring forward a report outlining a more extensive public consultation program with respect to the Jericho Wharf.

- Carried.

(Commissioner Mackinnon opposed)

Commissioner Hundal left the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

3. Approval of 2009 Meeting Dates

The Committee members received the draft 2009 Planning & Environment Meeting Dates. The Committee decided to proceed only with the March 3, 2009 Planning & Environment meeting, with a 6:00 p.m. start time.

4. Sports Fields

Staff gave an overview of the sports fields in Vancouver. There are three types of fields in Vancouver consisting of natural turf, lit all-weather and synthetic turf. Most of the field booking is handled by Park Board (PB) and Vancouver School Board (VSB). Although the sports change seasonally, both winter and summer are very high demand. Park rangers monitor both PB and VSB fields. In the next 20 – 25 years, Vancouver's population will increase at a rate of approximately 5000 per year which will create additional demand for field use. Options to increase field space are to convert more park space and school grounds into playing fields, purchase land for new fields and develop lit synthetic turf fields. Synthetic turf allows for continuous & unlimited play with 4-5x the capacity of grass. Natural turf must be rested between games and often has extended closures.

Discussion:

The Commissioners requested a fact sheet on the different types of sports fields.

Moved by Commissioner Mackinnon,

THAT the Sports Fields report be received for information.

- Carried Unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

Piet Rutgers, Director,
Planning & Operations

Aaron Jasper, Chair