

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

ATTENDEES: Park Board Commissioners

Aaron Jasper, Chair
Sarah Blyth, Vice Chair
Stuart Mackinnon
Ian Robertson

Park Board Staff

Piet Rutgers	Director, Planning & Operations
Peter Kuran	Director, Stanley District
Lori MacKay	Director, Queen Elizabeth District
Bill Manning	Manager, Arboriculture & Horticulture
Mark Vulliamy	Manager, Research and Planning
Philip Joseph	Manager, Revenue Services
Paul Montpellier	City Arborist
Linda Brindley	Recorder

Guests

Peter Jackson, Tennis BC

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm, with the following Agenda:

1. Approval of Minutes – February 3, 2009
2. Indoor Tennis Proposal
3. Street Tree Program
4. Marinas Update
5. Spanish Bank(s)
6. Approval of 2009 Planning & Environment Meeting Dates

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Planning & Environment Committee held on Tuesday, February 3, 2009 were adopted as circulated.

2. Indoor Tennis Proposal

Staff advised that there are two groups who have been working on an indoor tennis proposal and both would like to speak to the Committee. The first proposal is from Vancouver Indoor Public Tennis Project (VIPTP) and they are requesting that Park Board build and operate an indoor tennis facility with 5 or more courts. The second proposal is from the False Creek Community Centre Association and proposes to cover 2-3 courts adjacent to the Centre on Granville Island for mixed use (tennis and large gatherings) as an extension of Community Centre programming.

Staff reported on locating outside tennis courts close to existing support amenities (e.g., staffed reception area, wash/change rooms, security, on-site maintenance, etc.) versus building new tennis centre sites. Sites with existing courts and support capacities that could be expanded include Queen Elizabeth Park, False Creek, Champlain Park, Memorial South, Memorial West, Trout Lake, Moberly Park, Rupert Park, Kitsilano Community Centre, Killarney or Britannia. Costs vary with the type of facility chosen from \$1.5 M for a bubble facility, \$3 M for a sprung structure to \$4 – 5 M for a rigid steel modular structure. Detailed planning with respect to siting, construction type, design and funding have not yet addressed and will require considerable staff time and/or consultant support.

Peter Jackson stated that Tennis BC is a coalition of tennis players who are advocates for active living in Vancouver and they believe in healthy lifestyles, tennis for all seasons and financial sustainability. He stated that tennis centres do pay for themselves and an example of that is the Grant Connell Tennis Centre located in North Vancouver District.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Committee regarding the proposal:

- Leanore Copeland, President, False Creek Community Centre Association
- Tom Oliver
- Sam Chang, Member of Langara Tennis Group
- Christine Eaves
- Janet Church
- Janet Mackie
- Pedro Su
- Wayne Morris
- Brad Cameron

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

- False Creek has three outdoor courts, with two dedicated to tennis
- Tennis lessons are sold out very quickly when offered at False Creek

- They are proposing to extend beyond the existing tennis courts and cover them for mixed use (tennis and large gatherings) as an extension of Community Centre programming
- Association is working on partnerships to realize this objective
- Supports covering the existing tennis courts at False Creek to improve usage
- One half of year travels to Richmond to play tennis because of a lack of affordable indoor tennis facilities in Vancouver
- Represents youth of Vancouver and they need a year round facility for tennis
- Asks that a budget be supplied for a feasibility study to be done
- A world class city should have an indoor tennis facility
- Suggests a tennis facility could be built at Fraserview Golf Club

Discussion:

The Commissioners questioned if False Creek Community Centre Association and Tennis BC would be willing to work together on a proposal for an indoor tennis facility. The proponents stated they are willing to work together. Staff stated that both proposals are interesting and certainly there is a demand for an indoor facility.

The Commissioners questioned the minimum number of courts to make the facility viable for a tournament. Mr. Jackson replied that six courts are required.

The Commissioners support the idea of an indoor tennis facility, but are concerned about the present financial constraints. Direction was given to staff to further explore the False Creek Community Centre project, as well as to identify and evaluate potential sites for a minimum 6 court facility, either on park or VSB land, which could be served by an existing community centre.

3. Street Tree Program

Staff reported that there are over 134,000 street trees in Vancouver and that the City established street tree stocking level of 70%. The information regarding the trees (species, condition, height, size and location) is maintained on a computerized inventory program called VanTree. VanTree also records service requests from specific addresses, as well as work histories regarding specific street trees. An average of 3,500 street trees are planted each year, from the middle of October to the end of March. 50,000 new street trees have been planted throughout the city since the implementation of the 1990 Street Tree Management Plan. The Park Board operates a 20 acre tree farm in Langley which provides about 2/3 of the annual street trees with the rest purchased from local nurseries.

With regard to maintenance, a 7 year pruning cycle has been established with the aim of pruning at least 1/7th of the trees in each neighbourhood each year. About 1,200 dead or

diseased trees are removed annually with the stumps ground out for replanting. Park Board has about 70 full time arboriculture staff with additional staff hired seasonally for planting, watering and pest management. Service requests come from the public by way of phone, letters, email and the website.

Discussion:

The Commissioners questioned why there is a perception of more trees on the west side of Vancouver and asked about the problem of dripping trees. Staff replied that there are actually more trees on the east side, but the trees on the west side are more mature and the trees that drip are linden trees that have aphid infestation. Park Board is working to control the aphid infestation.

4. Marinas Update

Staff explained the Burrard Civic Marina is a Class B Marina with no liveaboard facilities located in the heart of downtown Vancouver. The marina nets about \$1 M after expenditures. The marina is regarded as a prime location for mooring because of its easy access. Heather Marina was built in 1974 with funds borrowed from the Property Endowment Fund and that has been paid back. The marina has 250 berths and generates about \$1 M a year, with half the funds being distributed to the City.

A resolution was passed by the previous Board that staff contact the Marine Trades Association to investigate their interest in a redevelopment of Burrard Civic Marina providing a long term vision for marine boating operations. Staff subsequently met with the Marine Trades Association, who have been helpful.

With regard to the False Creek fuel barge, it has been at this location since 1938 but closed in the fall of 2008 due to it being a low volume business of 1.5 million litres per annum. Once Esso has obtained environmental clearance on the groundwater, soils and soil vapour in the former underground tank nest, Park Board can then release Esso from their sublease and sublet to the new operator who must then install their own tanks and pipeline to the barge.

Discussion:

The Commissioners questioned when it is expected to have the fuel barge in place and who is responsible for supplying the fuel lines. Staff responded that it is hoped the fuel barge will be in place by June and that the lessee will have to supply the fuel lines, along with monitor.

The following delegation requested to speak to the Committee regarding the proposal:

- Bob Nagata, False Creek Yacht Club

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

- asks that the Park Board consider a working relationship with the Yacht Club when looking at the future of Burrard Marina

Staff will continue a review of best practices and develop a plan for the renewal of Burrard Marina.

5. Spanish Bank(s)

Staff advised that this issue concerns the 's' on Spanish Banks. The previous Chair of the Board had given direction to staff that when Spanish Banks' signs were replaced that they were to be replaced with Spanish Bank. That has continued to be staff practice when signs come up for renewal.

The following delegation requested to speak to the Committee regarding the proposal:

- Maurice Le Gallais

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

- Grew up with the area referred to as Spanish Banks
- Wonders why Park Board is changing the signs with no public notice
- Objects to having a mix of Spanish Bank and Spanish Banks signs

Moved by Commissioner Mackinnon,

THAT the Planning & Environment Committee refer this matter to the Naming Committee.

- Carried Unanimously.

6. Year 2009 Planning & Environment Committee Meeting Dates.

The Committee decided to proceed with holding the Planning & Environment meetings on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Piet Rutgers, Director,
Planning & Operations

Aaron Jasper, Chair