

**MINUTES OF MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
HELD AT VANDUSEN BOTANICAL GARDEN
ON MONDAY, JULY 05, 2010**

PRESENT:	Chair	- Aaron Jasper
	Vice Chair	- Sarah Blyth
	Commissioners	- Constance Barnes
		- Raj Hundal
		- Stuart Mackinnon
		- Ian Robertson
		- Loretta Woodcock
	Acting General Manager	- Peter Kuran
	Director of Planning and Operations	- Piet Rutgers
	Director of Vancouver East District	- Liane McKenna
	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 regular meeting of the Board held on Monday, June 21, 2010 were adopted as circulated.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair reported on several community events that occurred over the last few weeks: 25th anniversary of the Air India bombing; recognition event for staff with 25 years of service and those who retired in 2009; Little Mountain Riley Park Community Festival; launch of Klahowya Village at Stanley Park, this showcase of Aboriginal culture and traditions will run all summer; Canada Day festivities at Kensington; visit by the Minister of Education, Dr. Margaret MacDiarmid, to Hillcrest Aquatic Centre; and completion of the new Kensington Skate Park, the official opening will occur on July 17.

COMMITTEE REPORT

The Planning & Environment Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. The next meeting will convene on July 08, on the agenda are: Community Centre Renewal Priorities; and Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden Update.

The next Services & Budgets Committee meeting will convene on July 20. The agenda is currently being formulated.

City Council Report

The General Manager advised the Board that, at its next regular meeting, Council will receive reports on: Stanley Park and English Bay Seawall Construction; and Farmers' Market By-law Amendments and Interim Actions.

OPEN QUESTION PERIOD

Keith Jacobson referred to an article in the Vancouver Courier on June 20, 2010 which stated that \$20 million left over from the 2005-2008 capital plan will go towards the 2010 operating budget, and inquired whether the rules have changed to permit capital dollars to be transferred to the operating budget, as in the past this was not possible. A Board member clarified that left over funds from the previous capital plan will be carried forward to the 2010 capital budget (not the operating budget as stated in the article). Mr. Jacobson recommended that this be communicated to the community centre associations to address any misconceptions caused by the article. Mr. Jacobson inquired into whether left over revenue generated by community centres would go to a special reserve to ensure they are not taken away, as under the new joint operating agreement each association is required to contribute financially. Staff advised that there is a reserve fund for any unused revenue from each centre.

Maggie Martins, a parent representative from the pre-school at Kensington Community Hall, commented that the hall has been fairly neglected over the years. The building houses a pre-school, as it is no longer used for its original purpose, as a gym; however the space is unsuitable for this purpose as the acoustic is not right for learning and there is no natural sunlight. The community and the community centre association have made several requests for an appropriate space for the pre-school. Ms. Martins stated that although Kensington Community Centre will be included in the 2012-2014 capital plan, the community has to wait another four years before this problem is addressed and feels that this is unacceptable. Ms. Martins stated that with a capital budget of \$80 million there should be a way to allow a mere \$150,000 for a new pre-school and inquired whether the Board would provide an alternative facility for the next four years, as this falls under its mandate. Staff advised that a recent engineering study found the building to be safe but identified a few areas that need to be addressed. This work is currently being done and scheduled for completion by September. The request to have the school moved is also being considered.

Neil, a member of the public, requested an explanation for the removal of the Grandview Park agenda item. Staff advised that clarity is being sought on the bids that were received and this item will come to the Board at the next meeting on July 19. The Park will remain open until that time.

Raymond Greenwood inquired as to why patrons are not charged for parking at Jericho Beach, as this would help with the current revenue problems. Mr. Greenwood also inquired into the status of the Marketing Committee and thanked the Board for the current event at Stanley Park. Staff advised that there is free parking on the streets near Jericho Beach which affects the ability to successfully introduce paid parking. Staff further advised that the Marketing Committee is in the process of seeking committee members. Mr. Greenwood commented that event permit fees are outrageous and in some instances the charges are unjustifiable considering the small cost incurred by the Park Board to issue permits. Staff outlined the steps involved in processing a permit in order to explain some of the charges incurred in processing these applications.

STAFF REPORTS

Norquay Park Upgrade–Contract Award

Board members received copies of a staff report dated June 25, 2010 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A to D.

Staff advised the Board that the design concept preferred by the public, based on the results of the public consultation, was approved by the Board on February 01, 2010. Two bids were received in response to the tender. C.A.P. Ventures Ltd had the lowest bid and is the recommended contractor. Half of the park will be devoted to amenities such as a community garden, picnic area, and tai chi area, while the other half will be a playing field.

A Board member inquired into whether the park will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Staff advised that the walkway, washrooms and gravel path will be accessible and there will also be limited accessibility in the play area. Although it is not possible for all projects to go to the accessibility advisory committee at the City, the expertise and experience of the project designers and staff are utilized to ensure that new and upgraded parks have some level of accessibility. There are cost implications that prevent all facilities from being fully accessible. Another Board member inquired into the cost of making all play areas in parks accessible. Staff would provide the Board with this information.

Dave Harlow, Norquay Village Committee, requested to speak to the Board. Mr. Harlow advised that the current design replaces the historical pool with a multiuse court which is a big mistake considering that the park used to be a lake and when it rains water runs into and settles in this area of the park. This may not be the best decision as it can result in ongoing costs due to drainage problems and also due to the popularity of the pool with kids in the community. Mr. Harlow felt that the design is not in accordance with what was agreed with the neighborhood groups and although he supports the renovation of the park, he recommended that staff work with the community to establish the best solution for the space.

The Board thanked the delegation for its comments. A Board member inquired into the decision to replace the pool. Staff advised that the results of the public consultation

indicated that a multiuse court was preferred by the community. Staff further advised that unlike the pool, which is only operational in the summer, the court will be operational all year.

Moved by Commissioner Barnes,

- A. THAT, subject to Recommendations B, C and D, the Board enter into a contract with C.A.P. Ventures Ltd. In the amount of \$676,230, plus GST, for the Norquay Park Upgrade as detailed in this report;**
- B. THAT the contract be on the terms and conditions outlined in this report and on such other terms and conditions as are approved by the Vancouver Park Board, with Bid Committee and Chief Purchasing Officer (CPO) concurrence;**
- C. THAT, upon approval of the contract by the Vancouver Park Board, with Bid Committee and Chief Purchasing Officer (CPO) concurrence, the General Manager of the Park Board be authorized to execute the 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 contract by the General Manager of the Park Board.**

- Carried Unanimously.

The Board adopted the following reports by Unanimous Consent:

Stanley Park and English Bay Seawall Reconstruction – Contract Award

Special Event Permit - Market at Pigeon Park

Park Board Smoking Regulation and Ticket Offences Bylaws

Board members received copies of a staff report dated June 22, 2010 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A to C.

Staff advised the Board that the “Park Board Smoking Regulation By-law” and “Park Board Ticket Offences By-law” will come into effect on September 01, 2010. The Board will have the ability to amend the ticket offences by-law to incorporate other by-laws as it sees fit. Research was done into best practice from other cities that introduced similar by-laws and staff are being trained to take on the new responsibilities. The next step would be communication to raise awareness.

A Board member inquired into the success of the Multipurpose Ticket Information (MTI) system used during the Olympics. Staff advised that at the City level there was 98% compliance and at the Park Board level there was 100%.

A Board member inquired into why a graduated fine system was not used. Staff advised that the selected system is in line with the existing health fines. Courtesy and warning notes will be handed out before an actual fine is issued to individuals, in these instances personal information will be taken and kept on record.

Moved by Commissioner Hundal,

- A. THAT the Board approve the proposed Park Board Smoking Regulation Bylaw as provided in Appendix A;**
- B. THAT the Board approve the proposed Park Board Ticket Offences Bylaw as provided in Appendix B, in order to permit enforcement of Parks bylaws by way of a Municipal Ticket Information system;**
- C. THAT the General Manager instruct the Director of Legal Services to bring forward for enactment the proposed bylaws, generally in accordance with Appendices A and B.**

- Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Barnes,

THAT the Park Board Smoking Regulation By-law be given first reading.

- Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Hundal,

THAT the Park Board Smoking Regulation By-law be given second and third readings and the presiding officer and the General Manager be authorized to sign the by-law.

- Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Barnes,

THAT the Park Board Ticket Offences By-law be given first reading.

- Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Hundal,

THAT the Park Board Ticket Offences By-law be given second and third readings and the presiding officer and the General Manager be authorized to sign the by-law.

- Carried Unanimously.

Naming of Southeast False Creek Recreation Facility

Board members received copies of a staff report dated June 22, 2010 recommending that the Board approve “Creekside Recreation Centre” as the name of the new recreation facility in Southeast False Creek.

A Board member inquired into the naming process. Staff advised the Board that the naming policy relates to commemorative and sponsorship spaces but does not include community centres; therefore a team of staff was selected to work on the naming process with advice from a branding consultant. A Board member inquired into whether the existing naming policy could be amended to include community centres. Staff advised that a revision to the naming policy could be brought to the Board for approval.

Moved by Commissioner Hundal,

THAT the Board approve “Creekside Recreation Centre” as the name of the new recreation facility in Southeast False Creek.

Board members discussed the motion. A Board member recommended that the motion be amended to include the word “Community” in the name.

Moved by Commissioner Hundal,

THAT the Board approve “Creekside Community Recreation Centre” as the name of the new recreation facility in Southeast False Creek.

Board members discussed the amendment. A Board member stated that “community” is an important focus for the Board and should be included in the name. This inclusion would also make it easier to expand the scope of the facility in the future. A Board member stated that in this case the word “community” is understood and would be redundant, and also make the name very long.

The amendment to the motion was put forward and it was Carried (Commissioner Mackinnon and Commissioner Robertson contrary).

The main motion as amended was put forward and it was Carried (Commissioner Robertson contrary).

MOTION

Moved by Commissioner Mackinnon:

WHEREAS the noise level of the Park Board gas-powered leaf blowers is approx. 65 dbl, and the World Health Organization recognizes that continuous noise levels above 55 dbl are annoying to communities and can have negative health effects;

AND WHEREAS gas powered leaf blowers can create significant amounts of small particle dust, which can consist of pesticides, herbicides, animal fecal matter, and other assorted chemical fallout from our industrialized society, which when blown into the air, can become an airborne health hazard, contributing to respiratory problems, asthma, and immune disorders;

AND WHEREAS many cities and towns in North America have partial or full-time bans on gas-powered leaf blowers;

THEREFORE be it resolved that the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation replace the use of gas powered leaf blowers with more sustainable methods of clearing leaves.

A Board member advised the Board that this motion is in keeping with the Greenest City initiative. Although this may not be the most cost effective or easiest solution, it is a step towards making the Park Board a world leader in sustainability. The Board member further advised that the motion does not specify a time for implementation and is meant to prompt staff to find a more sustainable way to perform this task. Staff advised that the Park Board has over 3000 acres of park land and it is difficult to clean up leaves in the park. It would take three times as long to do this task manually. Battery operated machines do not have a long enough life span to cover large park areas and the use of electric powered leaf blowers are also harmful to the environment as they are powered by vehicles that have to remain running and therefore generate emissions.

A Board member inquired into the additional cost of raking leaves as opposed to using a gas blower. Staff advised that it would cost approximately \$2 million extra per year.

Several Board members stated that they would like to obtain more information from staff on this issue.

Moved by Commissioner Hundal,

THAT the motion be referred to the Planning and Environment Committee.

- Carried.

(Commissioner Mackinnon opposed).

Enquiries, Other Matters and New Business

A Board member inquired into the allocation of revenue generated during the Olympics and whether some of it could go towards summer programs. Staff advised the Board that there was an agreement with the facilities used during the Olympics for a portion of the funds generated to be allocated to them. The majority of the funds went to the Roundhouse Community Centre and False Creek Community Centre. Some of the remaining funds would be retained to cover any revenue shortfall the Board may incur up ahead.

A Board member inquired into a letter the Board requested to be sent to Council in support of the unification of McBride Park. Staff confirmed that a letter was sent to Council and would provide a copy of this to the Board.

A Board member inquired into a meeting that occurred on June 03 between the Community Centre Association Presidents, the Acting General Manager and the City Manager. Several Board members stated that they were not informed of the meeting or the outcome. A Board member requested the meeting minutes.

A Board member expressed excitement about the new Kensington Skate Park. The Board member mentioned that there was an inquiry from the Injury Prevention department at Vancouver General Hospital on the possibility of introducing mandatory helmet enforcement. Information on any research done on this in the past was requested from staff.

The Chair announced that on July 07 there would be groundbreaking at Fraserview Park.

The Board thanked the VanDusen Botanical Garden Association for hosting the Community Board meeting.

In-camera Session

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:

- (a) personal information about an identifiable individual who holds or is being considered for a position as an officer, employee or agent of the city or another position appointed by the city.

The meeting adjourned at 9:48 pm.

Peter Kuran
Acting General Manager

Commissioner Aaron Jasper
Chair