

**MINUTES OF MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
HELD AT KILLARNEY COMMUNITY CENTRE
ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2010**

PRESENT:	Chair	- Aaron Jasper
	Vice Chair	- Sarah Blyth
	Commissioners	- Constance Barnes
		- Raj Hundal
		- Stuart Mackinnon
		- Ian Robertson
		- Loretta Woodcock
	General Manager	- Malcolm Bromley
	Acting Director of Planning and Operations	- Danica Djurkovic
	Acting Director of Corporate Services	- Meg Elliott
	Acting Director of Vancouver East District	- Terry Walton
	Acting Director of Queen Elizabeth District	- Diane Murphy
	Manager of Operations and Arboriculture	- Bill Manning
	Manager of Communications	- Joyce Courtney
	Recorder	- Shala Hay

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Board held on Monday, November 01, 2010 were adopted as circulated.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair reported on several community events that occurred over the past weeks: Diwali Celebrations which included a proclamation at city hall; winter farmers market opening at Nat Bailey Stadium; celebration of a new First Nations carvings at Oppenheimer Park; One Billionth Tree Planting event in Stanley Park by Brinkman & Associates; Fruit Tree Planting ceremony at Falaise Park; and Remembrance Day observances across the City.

COMMITTEE REPORT

The Planning & Environment Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. The next meeting will convene on December 02, 2010.

The next Services & Budgets Committee meeting will convene on November 16, on the agenda are: 2011 Operating Budget -Update on City Process; and October Financial Statements.

City Council Report

The General Manager advised the Board that at its next regular meeting Council will receive a presentation on the Urban Health Initiative.

OPEN QUESTION PERIOD

The following is a summary of comments put forward by members of the public.

Gordon, a Vancouver photographer, inquired into the criteria used by the Park Board to issue artist permits in City parks. At a recent visit to Stanley Park he saw a group of artists outside the Vancouver Aquarium who were mainly drawing caricatures and wondered about the relevance of this to art and culture in Vancouver. He inquired whether there is a policy governing the types of artists permitted to render their services in the parks, and thinks that the public should have a say in the allocation of park spaces. Gordon requested that such groups be removed from the park. Staff advised that they will look into the policy and get back to him.

Kristen Morgan, whose children attended the Kids Street Clubhouse after-school care program that was recently cut, requested an explanation for cancelling the program as the Chair had said in an interview that the program was not going to be cut. Kristen feels like the parents were falsely reassured that the service would continue. She inquired, if childcare is not part of the Park Board's mandate, why are these programs included in new facilities. She advised that the program was cut in an area that does not have enough childcare. The Chair advised that the Park Board funded the programmer who oversaw the program and their role involved other responsibilities in addition to this; the program, however, was operated by Champlain Heights Community Association, not the Board. The Board did not cut the service, funding was discontinued for the staff that was assigned to the program. The Association was responsible for finding an operator to run the program, but to date they have been unsuccessful. Kristen inquired into why a temporary solution was not found. The Chair further advised that the Association was approached by the Board to determine, if the Board was able to provide financial assistance, whether the Association would be willing to continue running the program, and they declined. The Board together with the Association are still trying to find an operator.

Stephen Rybak inquired into what happens when a petition is delivered to the Park Board. In July 2010 a petition was submitted to the Park Board in support of a designated off leash area in West Memorial Park. While this petition was sitting with the Board, public consultation was conducted and the item has since been pending to be brought before the Planning and Environment Committee. Stephen inquired as to when this item would be coming before the Committee. Staff advised that he would be informed when this item is scheduled to come before the Planning and Environment Committee.

A parent whose children attended the Kids Street Clubhouse after-school care program advised that she suspects many of the children who are affected by the cut to the program are now unsafe. She advised that the main reason why an operator can not be found is because the program was cut during an economic crisis and due to minimal profits it is difficult to find an operator. She also thinks the time frame given for a response by prospective organizations is too short. She does not see the point in issuing the same Request For Proposal when it was unsuccessful in the past and there is no reason why the response would be any different. She requested that the Board allocate some funding towards the program. Commissioner Barnes advised that she was recently appointed as liaison to the Joint Council on Childcare and would be working with staff and the Association to address this situation.

Brandon Roberts, a resident of Killarney expressed, his disappointment with escalating golf fees, the current fee is \$85 per year, which is unaffordable to the average person. Last year the men's club lost 60 members due to high fees. Most residents are unable to afford these fees and the Park Board is now catering to higher income earners from other neighbourhoods. Staff advised that they do their best to ensure the fees remain affordable in comparison to other facilities and nearby municipalities. The Park Board is committed to ensuring that golf continues to flourish in Vancouver, it is a major revenue contributor for the Board and staff would like to continue to work with the Men's Club to ensure prices are not a barrier.

Burt Masia commented that there are more seniors in South East Vancouver than the whole westside yet there are seven seniors centres in the westside and none in South East Vancouver. Burt further commented that the Park Board had agreed that, if the seniors' society came up with funding, they would be allowed to construct a seniors centre adjacent to Killarney Community Centre. But the Society is now being pushed around between the City and the Provincial government and is not getting anywhere. The Society would like the Park Board to become a champion for this cause.

Keith Jacobson, Killarney Community Centre Association, commented that he recently attended a meeting at City Hall regarding housing construction near Norquay Park. The recommended average population served by a single community centre is about 24,000; however Killarney Community Centre serves about 54,000 which is more than double the recommended amount. The density of the City is increasing but the community centres are not being expanded to serve this larger population and they are being subjected to continuous budget cuts. Keith requested that the Board become an advocate for the City and champion for the expansion of facilities so that they can continue to serve this growing population.

Karen Groden, whose children attended the Kids Street Clubhouse after-school care program, thinks this discussion in being conducted in a political forum which is upsetting. As a single parent with two kids who works about 60 hours a week, being given just a week's notice that you will have no childcare is very upsetting. The decision to cut the program has adversely affected the lives of 50 kids. Karen provided letters from several families who were affected by the daycare closure. Karen thinks the Board needs to take more responsibility for this situation.

Patricia Badir, President, Strathcona Community Centre Association advised the Board that community centres are directly impacted by the decisions made by the Province and the City. As public services are increasingly being cut, community centres are being asked to do a lot more. Any cut made by the Park Board affects the ability of the community centre associations to provide their services. Last year intercity community centres were asked to absorb a 4% salary increase for staff and as a result Strathcona was forced to close on Sundays throughout the summer, which greatly affected the community. Patricia requested that the Board become a strong advocate for community centres over the next couple weeks as the budget is being developed.

Chris Burns, whose children attended the Kids Street Clubhouse after-school care program, commented that she is not sure whether the Park Board is fully aware of the options available for running the program. If the programmer spent a relatively small portion of time on the program, why is it not possible to hire part time staff, especially since the program has been funding itself? She does not understand why the program would be cut to save \$60,000, especially in an area that is one of the most vulnerable for kids.

Megan Haggerty, informed the Board that she lives close to Adanac Park where a community garden was just approved by the Board. The establishment of the garden was a surprise for her and many of her neighbours, as they were unaware of the proposal. Megan does not understand how the Board could have approved this proposal with a mere seven responses out of the 150 flyers that were distributed to the community. She obtained 15 signatures from residents in support of removing the garden and made a request to the Board to remove the garden. Megan commented that the majority of residents in favour of the garden live in a nearby coop; however it is residents who are directly adjacent to the garden that are most affected, as they have to put up with rodents and the smell of manure.

Greg Connelly informed the Board that he also lives close to Adanac Park and it took him just two hours to consult with residents of the 80 houses that are closest to the Park, the majority of which stated that they were not consulted on the community garden proposal. Greg commented that this is public land and the Society has been seeking City funding for the garden through grants, which is not the purpose of such a society. The garden is the size of three city (house) lots and Greg is concerned as to why this garden was approved with such a low response rate from the community.

Gary Wedeking, commented that the Park Board does not seem to have a standard procedure for receiving petitions. Gary submitted a petition in 2009 with about 800 signatures, which he said was not passed along to the Board. Gary raised concerns about the Park Board's consultation process. In spring 2009 a letter was written to the Board about the public consultation process regarding Jericho Wharf, a process which he believes was handled badly. Gary was disappointed that the environmental report that he had also recommended was not made public.

Rick Evans commented that in the 90's the Park Board encouraged community centres to participate in childcare and out of school care, but now the Board is saying that this is not part of its mandate. Rick contacted the Board in 2004 regarding the way in which Champlain Community Centre was being programmed and again in 2009. He commented that the budget shortfall has been accruing over the years, while over a 10 year period the number of exempt managers in the Park Board has been increasing, which has resulted in higher salaries costs. He thinks the Board did not need to cut the programmer position.

Lorna Gibbs asked the Board to confirm that Champlain Community Association was asked whether they would be willing to continue to operate the program, if the Board was able to provide some financial assistance, and they had declined. A Board member who was present at the meeting confirmed that the Association did decline the offer.

Paul Smith informed the Board that he had written letters and emails to the media regarding Jericho Wharf, stating that some of what was said by Board members to the media was deceptive. Paul questioned whether the Wharf is actually owned by the Park Board and stated that there are procedures that need to be taken before a decision is made on whether the Wharf should be demolished.

Raymond Greenwood, West Point Grey Community Centre, requested that the Board go before Council to fight for funding for parks and to convince the Mayor and Council that parks are an important part of Vancouver and require better funding. He also requested that public consultation be done much sooner as there is not enough lead time before the budget goes before Council. Raymond also mentioned that special events fees charged by the Board are way too high. The Board recently charged \$670 for a one hour shoot at the Inuksuk. He thinks these exorbitant fees will destroy special events in the City.

STAFF REPORTS

Jericho Marginal Wharf

Board members received copies of a staff report dated November 04, 2010 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A and B.

Staff advised the Board that demolition of the Wharf is recommended as a matter of public safety and environmental concern. Staff provided an overview of the process that was taken to arrive at the recommendations presented to the Board.

A Board member inquired as to whether the new plan for the site would include aspects to commemorate the history of the Wharf. Staff advised that there will be interpretative signs at the site and there is a keen interest in repeating some of the programs that are currently held.

A Board member inquired into the timeline for demolishing the structure and conducting public consultation on the new concept design. Staff advised that public consultation can commence soon, as they would be building on the concept design that was already developed. The demolition should be completed by next summer.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Michael Rouse
- Joan Bunn, Committee to Save Jericho Wharf
- Rosamond Norbury
- Dawn Hanna, Jericho Stewardship Group
- Penny Perry, Point Grey Foreshore Society
- Maureen Jack-La Croix, Be the Change Earth Alliance
- Mike Cotter, Jericho Sailing Centre
- Gary Wedeking

The following comments were put forward by the foregoing delegations:

- Thinks Jericho wharf is a treasure
- The railing is beautiful and the space has unique qualities
- Finds the recommendation to demolish the Wharf saddening
- Thinks with a \$2 million budget the Wharf could certainly be upgraded
- This recommendation is a breach of public trust as proper consultation has not been conducted
- Would like the Board to hold back on a decision until they receive public feedback
- A fair public consultation process is needed
- The Wharf was fenced off a month after the Board agreed to conduct public consultation, although there is no proof that it is a threat to public safety
- The public consultation process was supposed to include community workshops and online surveys and questionnaires but none of this occurred
- There were just two meetings in 18 months and only eight groups were invited
- Suggests that the recommendation be amended to state “that staff work with the community to come up with the best solution for the site” before the decision on whether to demolish the Wharf is made
- Thinks the creosote issue is a red herring
- Thinks the Wharf is a beautiful place with a good vantage point of the City
- Jericho park is a rare gem in the City and an amazing place to experience nature
- Jericho is home to many species due to its biodiversity
- In 2004 the Jericho Stewardship Group partnered with the Park Board to help address the habitat destruction in this location and they see the demolition of the Wharf as an opportunity to re-establish the rich biodiversity of the park
- Jericho’s heritage value does not lie in the concrete and creosote structure but in the rich habitat of the area and the history of the First Nations people that dwelled in this area
- Jericho Beach is one of the last remaining natural beaches in Vancouver
- Thinks the Wharf should be demolished
- Supports the previous plan approved by the Board to demolish the Wharf and will support a similar plan

- Thinks the Wharf has the ability to accommodate a large number of people without destroying nature; similar cities have used such legacies (army facilities) for public events
- There is a need to educate the public and the Wharf offers great value and can serve to bring people back to nature
- Thinks the board needs to listen to the advice of the elders of the City and the wharf is worth keeping
- Since 1969 Jericho Sailing Centre has been working with the Park Board to restore Jericho Park
- The pier is in disrepair and will be in need of restoration in the near future
- Removal of the Wharf and the return of the site to its original state will support the City's Green initiative
- This decision will significantly affect the future of Jericho Park for future generations
- The Wharf is the kind of structure that brings the park alive the way no signage can ever commemorate
- There is a special reason to preserve the legacy, as due to its military heritage the park has been preserved and the Park Board is not taking its responsibility as an advocate seriously enough
- Thinks the DFO letter is not an environmental assessment and this letter also recommends that an environmental report be done

The Board thanked the delegations for their comments.

Board members discussed the report. Several Board members acknowledged that this is a difficult decision that is bound to upset some members of the public no matter what decision is made. Several Board members expressed their concern about the environmental and safety hazards posed by the Wharf. A Board member mentioned that there is a need to also acknowledge the heritage of the First Nations people who used this once natural habitat. A Board member commented that there is no justification for keeping the structure considering the fact that it is environmentally unsound.

Moved by Commissioner Barnes,

- A. THAT the Jericho Marginal Wharf be demolished for reasons of public safety and ecological restoration;**
- B. THAT staff work with stakeholders to prepare a revised concept plan for this area to be brought back to the Board for approval.**

- Carried Unanimously.

2011 Fees and Charges

Board members received copies of a staff report dated November 02, 2010 recommending that the Board approve the 2011 Fees and Charges as detailed in the Appendix.

Staff advised the Board that according to Council's policy, fees and charges for City services should be established on a cost recovery basis, and at market levels in circumstances where they are provided in competition with the private sector. This policy has guided the establishment of the 2011 fees and charges. Staff proposed a 4% increase in most areas to accommodate inflation. The areas where the proposed change is below or above the 4% increase were discussed, these include low-cost session pricing and adjustments to the age categories for children used for pool admission pricing.

Board members discussed the report. A Board member mentioned that with the revised fees more families may now qualify for Leisure Access cards and inquired into how eligibility is determined. Staff advised the Board that individuals who meet the criteria of the National Low Income Cutoff (LICO) system, or are on Income Assistance through the Ministry of Human Resources or Immigration Social Services qualify for Access cards. In cases where an individual does not meet any of these criteria, staff will try to assist them as much as possible. Staff further advised that in future measures will be implemented to ensure the anonymity of applicants.

Moved by Commissioner Hundal,

THAT the Board approve the 2011 Fees and Charges as detailed in Appendix I.

Board members discussed the motion. A Board member raised concern about the impact of the change to age-based categories on young families and advised that this change would make it more difficult for families to be active. The Board member suggested an amendment to the motion.

Moved by Commissioner Mackinnon,

THAT page 2 of Appendix I be revised so that the Age Definition of a Pre-School Child remain at "5 years and under" and of a Child remain at "6 - 12 years inclusive".

Board members discussed the amendment. A Board member inquired into the implications of this recommendation. Staff advised that the exact budget impact would have to be analyzed and a means of compensating for this would have to be found to balance the budget.

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

Another Board member proposed an amendment to the main motion.

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock,

THAT page 2 of Appendix I be revised so that the Age Definition of a Pre-School Child is adjusted to “4 years and under” and of a Child be adjusted to “5 - 12 years inclusive” for a one year trial period.

The amendment to the motion was put forward and it was DEFEATED (Commissioner Barnes, Mackinnon and Woodcock contrary).

The main motion was put forward and it was CARRIED (Commissioner Barnes, Mackinnon and Woodcock contrary).

2011 Board Meeting Dates

Board members received copies of the draft 2011 Board Meeting Dates for approval.

Board members discussed the dates.

Moved by Commissioner Hundal,

THAT the 2011 Board meeting dates be approved as submitted.

-Carried Unanimously.

Advisory Committee Liaison Appointment

The Chair advised that the Park Board was requested to appoint a liaison to the Vancouver Public Library Board and nominations were requested. Two Board members were nominated: Commissioner Mackinnon and Commissioner Woodcock. Both Commissioners accepted their nominations. Board members voted by way of ballot and Commissioner Woodcock was appointed as liaison.

Enquiries, Other Matters and New Business

A Board member advised that they received reports from the public that volunteers have taken it upon themselves to feed the swans at Lost Lagoon in Stanley Park and inquired whether this is the Park Board’s responsibility. Staff advised that they would look into this and get back to the Board.

The meeting adjourned at 10:46. pm.

Malcolm Bromley
General Manager

Commissioner Aaron Jasper
Chair