

**Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Parks and Recreation
Services & Budgets Committee Meeting
Held at the Vancouver Park Board Office on
Tuesday, April 20, 2010**

ATTENDEES:

Park Board Commissioners

Loretta Woodcock, Chair
Constance Barnes
Ian Robertson

Park Board Staff

Meg Elliott	Senior Business Analyst
Peter Kuran	Acting General Manager
Philip Josephs	Co-Acting Director of Stanley District
Hart Nijjar	Recorder

Delegations:

- James Cronk, President, Theatre Under the Stars

Commissioner Jasper was absent.

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm, with the following agenda:

1. Approval of Minutes of March 16th, 2010
2. Theatre Under the Stars New Lease
3. March 2010 Operating Statement

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Services and Budgets Committee held on Tuesday, March 16, 2010 were adopted as circulated.

2. Theatre Under the Stars New Lease

Staff presented information on the proposed new licence agreement with Theatre Under the Stars (TUTS) for the use of Malkin Bowl. Malkin Bowl was first used as an outdoor band shell in 1934 for summer and afternoon concerts. In 1940, TUTS was formed by individuals from local theatre as a non-profit society, and since 1985, the Board has had some form of agreement with TUTS to use the Bowl for summer productions. The most recent agreement between TUTS and the Board expired in 2009.

Past agreements have allowed for use of the Bowl during the summer months, but the objective of the proposed agreement is to utilize Malkin Bowl year-round, with the Bowl being available for rental by theatre groups when it is not being used for TUTS productions. A list of desired capital improvements has been composed by TUTS and staff and includes the following: the addition of a stage door; new insulation; a new heating system; and if funds are available: renovated dressing rooms, washrooms, and stage infrastructure. Funding for these improvements has been secured through three sources: \$300,000 from the Board's 2010 Capital Plan; \$300,000 from the Federal Infrastructure Grant, and money from rent that will be paid to the Board by TUTS as part of the new agreement, outlined below.

The terms of agreement would allow TUTS to use Malkin Bowl for a period of five years from 2010 to 2015 year round with a five year renewal option from 2015 to 2020. TUTS will pay the Board \$1 from each ticket sold for a TUTS performance and \$1.00 from each ticket sold for Live Nation or other similar concert events in 2010, with the amount from Live Nation and other concert events increasing to \$2.00 per ticket sold from 2011 to 2014. In 2009, 24,000 people attended TUTS performances while 17,000 individuals attended Live Nation or other similar concert events. Based on these numbers the Board should receive over \$40,000 in rent in 2010 and close to \$60,000 in rent from 2011 to 2014. No fee will be collected from any non-profit organizations or schools using the Bowl and a rent review will be conducted after the first five years.

TUTS will be responsible for subletting and all operational costs such as repairs and maintenance, utilities, security, and parking management.

Staff introduced James Cronk, President of Theatre Under the Stars who provided information about his organization and the proposed agreement. The organization is focused on developing young local talent through mentorship of younger cast members by professional actors and a musical theatre camp, which was launched last year. Most revenue comes from ticket sales, but TUTS is working to find more funding through corporate sponsorships and grants. The organization is developing a more professional image to aid in fundraising efforts.

Discussion

A member of the Committee enquired about alcohol and food sales. Mr. Cronk replied that this year TUTS will attempt to secure a regular liquor licence for the sale of beer and wine. In addition, the catering service will continue to provide theatre fare such as popcorn, hot dogs, sushi, and burgers.

A member of the Committee asked Mr. Cronk about the maximum capacity at Malkin Bowl. Mr. Cronk replied that up to 1,900 people can view shows. A member of the Committee asked what safety procedures are in place in case of emergency. Mr. Cronk noted that the venue has fire inspections and senior staff have first aid training. Emergency issues that have arisen in the past have been dealt with successfully.

The Committee endorsed the new licence agreement, which will be presented to the Board for final approval on May 17.

3. March 2010 Operating Statement

Staff presented the Committee with information on the March 2010 Operating Statement. Staff compared actual revenue and expenses in March 2010 to March 2009 as well as the net difference between the two months. Overall, the Park Board generated \$1,100,000 more in actual revenue and had \$100,000 less in actual expenses, resulting in \$1,200,000 less in net expenses for March 2010 as compared to March 2009.

In terms of actual revenue by program, the Park Board generated \$1,091,000 more compared to 2009. All programs were able to generate more actual revenue, with recreation seeing the biggest increase, generating \$440,000 more in actual revenue than last year, due in part to the opening of rinks that were not available in 2009. The milder winter in 2010 also helped the Board generate more revenue.

Actual program expenses have also improved compared to last year. The Park Board had \$139,000 less in actual expenses in March 2010 compared to March 2009. Although most programs had an increase in actual expenses, neighbourhood parks, street trees, nursery, building maintenance, and sanitation saw a \$713,000 decrease in expenses partially due to a lack of weather related expenses, resulting in a positive overall picture. However not all money saved can be used by the Park Board as the portion of the savings realized from utility and city equipment savings must go back to the City.

The Park Board had \$1,230,000 less in net program expenses in March 2010 as compared to March 2009. Many programs had less net expenses, with neighbourhood parks, street trees, nursery, building maintenance, and sanitation having the largest decrease in expenses, spending \$717,000 less in net expenses compared to last year. However, some programs faced an increase in net expenses including pitch and putts, destination parks, and parking.

In conclusion, in March 2010, revenues were up, gross expenses were down, and net expenses were down. Staff reminded the Committee of upcoming financial stressors that will impact revenue, such as the implementation of HST, the revenue risk associated with new facilities opening this summer, and the closure of the Bloedel Conservatory and the Farmyard.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Meg Elliott
Senior Business Analyst

Commissioner Loretta Woodcock
Chair