

**Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Parks and Recreation
Services & Budgets Committee Meeting
Held at the Vancouver Park Board Office on
Tuesday, June 15, 2010**

ATTENDEES: Park Board Commissioners

Aaron Jasper, Vice Chair
Ian Robertson
Constance Barnes

Park Board Staff

Meg Elliott	Acting Director, Corporate Services
Peter Kuran	Acting General Manager
Thomas Soulliere	Co-Acting Director of Stanley District Manager, Arboriculture and Horticulture
Bill Manning	Stanley District Co-ordinator
Bruce MacWilliam	Recorder
Hart Nijjar	

Commissioner Woodcock was absent.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm, with the following agenda:

1. Approval of Minutes of May 18, 2010
2. Bylaw Update
3. May 2010 Operating Statement
4. 2011 Budget Process

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Services and Budgets Committee held on Tuesday, May 18, 2010 were adopted as circulated.

2. Bylaw Update

Staff provided an update on bylaws, outlining recent amendments to bylaws, enforcement strategies, and the timeline associated with proposed amendments.

In 2009, the most common compliance issues were dogs off leash, alcohol and/or drug use, parking/vehicle related violations, and unpermitted vending/advertising. The current enforcement approach is education related relying on the communication training Park Rangers receive.

During the 2010 Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver a pilot program was launched whereby Park Rangers partnered with other city bylaw enforcement offices to ensure compliance with bylaws during the Winter Games period. Rangers were able to ticket outlined bylaw offences if necessary using the Municipal Ticket Information (MTI) system, but were able to obtain 100% compliance through verbal enforcement alone largely due to their ability to ticket offenders on the spot. Best practice research indicates that other municipalities have also had success with a similar system of bylaw ticketing. Specifically, Calgary has a strong bylaw enforcement program with high compliance based on the presence of an effective ticketing system.

Two Vancouver Service Review (VSR) projects that will likely have an impact on future enforcement and administration: these are focused on bylaw adjudication, and permits and licences software. Bylaw adjudication will create a localized adjudication process for municipal offences, helping to ease the current backlog of these types of cases in the provincial courts. New permits and licences software will aid in creating a streamlined system rather than having various city enforcement agencies using different types of software.

Two amendments will be recommended to the Board at the July 5 meeting, pending Committee endorsement. Firstly, the Smoking Regulation Bylaw making all parks, beaches, and facilities in parks smoke-free effective September 1, 2010. City Council approved an amendment to the Health Bylaw at the June 10 Council meeting, allowing the Smoking Regulation Bylaw to be passed by the Board. The bylaw is based on the Vancouver Health Bylaw and follows in the steps of many other municipalities. The proposed fine for non-compliance will be \$250, similar to the fee for non-compliance of the Health Bylaw. Second, the Park Board Ticket Offences Bylaw, similar to the pilot project during the 2010 Winter Games, will enable Park Rangers to issue tickets for bylaw offences. The Park Board will have to provide direction on which bylaw offences they would like to see enforced.

The goal of enforcement is to encourage the public to comply with bylaws and is not viewed as a revenue generating tool. Enforcement of bylaws will be furthered through a variety of tools such as web and print communications, signage, and the MTI system. The Park Board will coordinate with City of Vancouver Animal Control and Metro Vancouver regarding training and enforcement strategies, given that each already has an MTI system in place. In terms of process adjustments, the Park Board will use the same software as Animal Control for issuing and tracking complaints and will work with the VSR regarding any future changes.

Discussion:

A member of the Committee noted that part of the reason Calgary has had such success with bylaw compliance is that one office enforces all bylaws rather than having multiple offices and questioned whether the Park Board would use the same approach. Staff replied this is a direction that the City may be looking at in the future, but for the time-

being Park Board staff would seek to collaborate with colleagues at the City wherever possible.

A member of the Committee observed that in previous years, signage has not always been located in the more appropriate areas and recommended putting signage regarding the proposed bylaws in more popular locations such as parking lots.

A member of the Committee requested that the smoke-free logo be placed on the upcoming edition of the Stanley Park Map & Guide.

The Committee endorsed the proposed amendments and confirmed its support that all bylaws be included in the proposed Ticket Offenses Bylaw.

3. May 2010 Operating Statement

Staff presented information on the May 2010 Operating Statement. Generally, things have improved compared to May 2009 as actual revenue has increased by \$1,300,000, actual expenses have decreased by \$1,200,000, and net expenses have decreased by \$2,500,000.

In terms of revenue, most programs were able to bring in more actual revenue compared to May 2009. The largest increases were in recreation, with an increase of \$1,016,000 compared to last year, largely due to the opening of rinks that were closed for renovations last year. Concessions, destination parks, and parking faced a decrease in revenue, partially due to the recent wet weather. Further, parking rate increases necessary for the introduction of the new transit levy of 21% effective January 1, 2010 may have contributed to parking revenue decreases, but as there will be no further increase in rates related to tax changes in 2010, it is hoped that revenue will not drop off any further.

Gross expenses were also down in May 2010 compared to last year. Although many programs faced an increase in gross expenses, the savings generated by other programs were significant enough to result in an overall decrease of gross expenses in May 2010 as compared to May 2009. Specifically, golf and pitch & putts had \$1,006,000 less in gross expenses to date due to having paid off the golf course loan payment in 2009 and infrastructure maintenance had \$1,125,000 less in gross expenses as fewer repairs have been required year to date in 2010 compared to the same period in 2009. Overall, the Park Board has saved \$1,200,000 in expenses, but \$1,000,000 of these savings can not be used by the Park Board per the Global Budget Agreement as they were realized in the areas of utilities and city equipment.

In comparing programs which generate net revenues to the Board's 2009 experience, net revenue from parking, and concessions are down, while net revenues from marinas, golf/pitch and putts and restaurants/leases have increased. When making a similar comparison for programs which incur net expenses, expenses have increased for reserve funds/support services, neighbourhood park/beach maintenance, street tree/nursery operations between 1 & 10% while there have been substantial savings in net expenses

for infrastructure maintenance, sanitation/janitorial expenses and for recreation services (between 10 and 22%).

In summary, actual revenues were up year to date for May 2010 as compared to May 2009, while gross expenses and net expenses were down. These changes resulted from a return to the normal pattern of expenses in 2010 (the first quarter of 2009 had unusual snow and repair issues) and reduced reserve transfers for golf of \$1 million related to the retirement of the golf course loan (by the end of 2010 these transfer reductions will account for savings of \$2 million compared to 2009). Issues which may impact the 2010 budget are the HST (which will be implemented July 1), the start-up of Hillcrest Pool and Southeast False Creek Community Centre, plans for the Bloedel Conservatory and Stanley Park Farmyard, impacts from the rollout of city-wide shared services, and facility closures for renovations at Renfrew and Trout Lake.

Discussion

A member of the Committee inquired about the status of the marina strategy. Staff noted that the Board has dedicated \$100,000 to improvements in the current Capital Plan, some of which was allocated for work on Burrard Marina last year, and some of which will be allocated for work on Heather Marina this year. A member of the Committee asked that information on what improvements have been made to the marinas be passed on to Committee members.

4. 2011 Budget Process

Staff provided an update on the 2011 Budget timeline. Preliminary estimates for the 2011 Budget will be completed by August 31 and Council/Board staff briefings will be held in September. The Board will then hold a public consultation process regarding fees and charges, and 2011 Budget priorities from September to October. A preliminary 2011 Budget Report will be presented to Council on October 19 and proposed 2011 fees and charges will go before the Board on November 15 for approval. The City will undertake a consultation process throughout November, the results of which will be presented to Council for deliberation on November 30. Public meetings will be held during the first half of December, with the final 2011 Budget Report going before Council on December 14 for approval. The Board will be presented the 2011 Budget for approval in January 2011.

Discussion

A member of the Committee recommended that staff keep up to date on what rates other municipalities are using for fees and charges so that the Park Board can ensure it maintains a competitive rate.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Meg Elliott
Acting Director, Corporate Services

Commissioner Aaron Jasper
Vice Chair