

**Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Parks and Recreation  
Services & Budgets Committee Meeting  
Held at the Vancouver Park Board Office on  
Tuesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

**ATTENDEES: Park Board Commissioners**

Loretta Woodcock, Chair  
Ian Robertson  
Constance Barnes

**Park Board Staff**

|                |                                     |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Meg Elliott    | Acting Director, Corporate Services |
| Peter Kuran    | Deputy General Manager              |
| Barinder Lalli | Recorder                            |

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

1. Approval of Minutes of September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010
2. Vancouver Field Sports Federation
3. Budget 2011 Update
4. Third Quarter Statement

Delegations:

- Craig Woods, Vancouver Field Sports Federation

**1. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Services and Budgets Committee held on Tuesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010 were adopted as circulated.

**2. Vancouver Field Sports Federation**

Staff introduced Craig Woods from the Vancouver Field Sports Federation. The Field Sports Plan is due for a renewal and the Vancouver Field Sports Federation would like to assist in the cost of hiring a consultant to determine the updates that are required. Field Sports are a very accessible and affordable way for people to achieve their fitness goals. There are approximately 50,000 field users and the Park Board has received \$545,000 in user fees. The Field Sports Federation has contacted all members and is waiting to hear back from a few, such as softball and baseball, to determine the amount that can be contributed. The Vancouver Field Sports Federation would like to see the relationship with the Park Board expand and create a synergy between Community Centres and fields.

### Discussion

A member of the Committee asked what the commitment from the Park Board to field sports was in 2001. The delegation replied that there was a goal to build six fields, which has happened, but that six was not determined to be the total needed.

A member of the Committee asked how the Park Board will know when it is oversubscribed on fields. Another member of the Committee replied that the Park Board still has a very high demand for sports fields so it has not reached that point yet.

A member of the Committee inquired whether grass or artificial turf is more expensive. The delegation replied that grass is more expensive to maintain than artificial turf but repair costs are much lower for grass. Staff added that artificial turf receives four times more usage than grass.

A member of the Committee asked what is done with the money that comes from field users for artificial turf. Staff replied that it is used for maintenance of the field and if it is not used within the year it goes into a reserve fund for future years. The Committee requested more information on the reserve fund.

The Committee directed staff to investigate the cost and timing to refresh the Field Sports Plan and report back to the Board at the November 29<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Commissioner Barnes left the meeting at this time.

### **3. Budget 2011 Update**

Staff presented an update on the 2011 City Budget. The preliminary budget report to Council was presented today. There was an initial gap of \$60.2 million which was reduced by \$39.6 million leaving a funding shortfall of \$20.6 million. Council's next step is to go through its public process while staff review options to close the \$20.6 million gap and bring back suggestions via the interim operating budget report on November 30<sup>th</sup>. The final 2011 Operating Budget will then be presented to Council on December 14<sup>th</sup>. The next step at the Park Board is to continue with its fees and charges survey and review the feedback. Then the fees and charges will be approved at the November 15<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. The next steps for the operating budget will depend on Council's process and timeline, with the Board having final approval of the 2011 Operating Budget after Council approval on December 14, 2010 (at a Board meeting in January 2011).

### Discussion

A member of the Committee asked when the steps to close the \$20.6 million deficit will become public. Staff replied that this should form part of the interim report to Council on November 30<sup>th</sup>.

A member of the Committee commented that the City of Vancouver's pamphlet is misleading because it puts the Park Boards operating Budget at \$100 million and it does not take account of the 40% that is taken from revenues. Staff replied that there might be reporting anomalies that may not make the net funding for the Park Board clear, but that in the context of the City's entire budget, this figure does reflect spending on Park and Recreation services, but not spending funded from taxes.

#### 4. **Third Quarter Statement**

Staff presented the third quarter statement. There have been increases in revenue but also increases in expenses this year compared to last year. The general trend is good however the Park Board's net revenue programs are down as they are largely weather dependent services. Parking fees have risen dramatically as a result of the Transit tax increase which has impacted the net parking revenue collected by the Board. Stanley Park and VanDusen Botanical Gardens are only at half their revenues because they have large events coming up at the end of the year.

The donation fund has risen significantly this year to bring the total to nearly \$1 million dollars compared to the half a million dollars that was raised last year. Recreation revenue is up as several of the Board's new facilities are open (2 rinks were closed for renovation in 2009 and Hillcrest Pool and Creekside Community Centre are now open). Only 86% of the budget for concessions has been spent this year compared to 95% spent last year, reflecting the weather impacts felt in early June and September. To the end of September, there is a \$700,000 surplus due to utility savings but the impacts of the Vancouver Services Review still need to be assessed before an accurate prediction of spending to year end can be made. If revenues and expenses follow a similar pattern to 2009, staff estimate a \$1 million surplus at year end due to savings in utility costs.

#### Discussion

A member of the Committee asked for an update on the donation fund. Staff replied that there will be an update on that in the report to the Board.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

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Meg Elliott  
Acting Director, Corporate Services

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Commissioner Loretta Woodcock  
Chair