

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
HELD AT THE PARK BOARD OFFICE  
ON MONDAY, APRIL 18, 2011**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>- Aaron Jasper</b>
	<b>Vice-Chair</b>	<b>- Constance Barnes</b>
	<b>Commissioners</b>	<b>- Sarah Blyth</b>
		<b>- Raj Hundal</b>
		<b>- Stuart Mackinnon</b>
		<b>- Ian Robertson</b>
		<b>- Loretta Woodcock</b>
	<b>General Manager</b>	<b>- Malcolm Bromley</b>
	<b>Deputy General Manager</b>	<b>- Peter Kuran</b>
	<b>Acting Director of Corporate Services</b>	<b>- Meg Elliott</b>
	<b>Acting Director of Planning and Operations</b>	<b>- Danica Djurkovic</b>
	<b>Manager of Park Development</b>	<b>- Tiina Mack</b>
	<b>Manager of Revenue Services</b>	<b>- Gordon Barber</b>
	<b>Supervisor of Business Services</b>	<b>- Ken Maguire</b>
	<b>Manager of Communications</b>	<b>- Joyce Courtney</b>
	<b>Recorder</b>	<b>- Barinder Lalli</b>

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Board held on Monday, April 04, 2011 were adopted as circulated.

#### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

The Chair reported on several events that had taken place over the last few weeks including the Ross Park fruit tree planting ceremony, the YouthPolitik Program, the Cedar tree planting ceremony and Vaisakhi Day celebrations. Upcoming events include various Earth Day events throughout Vancouver and a media event at Sunset Nursery to celebrate innovative energy-saving strategies.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORT**

The next Services and Budgets Committee meeting will convene on April 26, 2011. The agenda has not been finalized.

The last Planning and Environment Committee meeting convened on April 7, 2011. On the agenda were a presentation from the 'Save Our Elms' Group regarding the Elm Trees on East 6<sup>th</sup> avenue, Indoor Tennis Feasibility Study and a Boathouse Patio Proposal.

## **City Council Report**

The General Manager advised the Board that at the next City Services and Budgets Committee meeting the annual financial report will be presented. The General Manger also advised that last week the second of four meetings with First Nations representatives took place and that on the weekend he spoke at the YMCA's strategic planning community session.

## **PRESENTATION**

The Chair acknowledged that the partnership between the Board and the Fire Fighters' Burn Fund is now in its 13<sup>th</sup> year and that this year the attendance exceeded 105, 000 visitors. A cheque for \$201, 093.91 was presented by the Board to Ray Boucher of the BC Professional Fire Fighters Burn Fund.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

### **Vancouver Aquarium Development Permit Revision**

Board members received copies of a staff report dated April 5, 2011 recommending that the Board approve the revised Development Permit design plans for the Aquarium expansion project as illustrated in the attached submission.

Staff advised that due to reduced access to capital funding the Vancouver Aquarium is proposing a revision to the development plan. Staff introduced John Nightingale, President and CEO of the Vancouver Aquarium and Mark Thompson, the project's architect from Musson Cattell Mackey Partnership to present to the Board.

There are three major differences in this permit revision from the original plan. The New Arctic Canada exhibit is removed from the proposal and will be relocated to the existing B.C. Wild Coast exhibit. The B.C. Wild Coast exhibit will be renovated to enlarge the pools for the animals and will be relocated to the existing Arctic Canada exhibit. Two linking pools will be added in-between those exhibits to create a continuous habitat. The front entry will be re-created with a relocated food service and gift shop.

In this revised plan there is a reduction on the overall footprint, a subsequent increase in green space, a reoriented arrivals plaza and some internal open space for the Aquarium.

A Board member advised that in the staff report it states that this plan was unanimously supported by the Planning and Environment Committee. However, because it was unanimously sent to the Board does not mean that the plan was unanimously supported by the Committee.

A Board member stated that the water wall will not be universally accessible and asked if it would be possible to add a ramp. The delegation replied that the upper quarter and the

bottom half are accessible and to make the entire wall accessible would take up a substantial amount of green space.

A Board member inquired about the size of the pool expansion and how many more animals the pool would be accommodating. The delegation replied that the pool would expand from 2 million gallons to 2.7 million gallons and would house the same set of species that the Aquarium has now. Another Board member asked the delegation if they were willing to make a commitment to the Board not incorporate more animals. The delegation replied that they cannot make that commitment as they do not know what will happen 10-20 years from now and added that the Aquarium is a leader in their policies regarding captive animals.

A Board member asked what the reduction of the footprint would be in percentages. The delegation replied that there is roughly a 13% increase in green space and an estimated 12% decrease on the footprint.

A Board member inquired whether there will be areas for bike storage. The delegation replied that there will be areas for bike storage.

A Board member asked that of the \$60 million allocated to this project how much is dedicated to the pools being built. The delegation replied that roughly 2/3 is dedicated to the pools and their life support systems.

A Board member asked who would be responsible for operating the Bistro. Staff replied that the Aquarium would be operating the food service with a fixed fee provided to the Park Board in lieu of property taxes and lost lease revenue. There is also an increase on the fee from internal food revenue of the Aquarium. A Board member asked if there will be language written into to the agreement to protect the Bistro as a café to keep it public. Staff replied that that those changes will be added to the agreement.

A Board member inquired about the timeline of this project. The delegation replied that they are hoping to complete the entire project in 8 to 9 years but the shortest timeframe would be 7 to 8 years because of issues related to money and housing the animals.

A Board member asked if the Aquarium has a long range plan to expand further beyond the 7 years. The delegation replied that there are no other long term plans for expansion because of public sensitivity and because they would not want to build something so big that it would not be financially manageable.

A Board member inquired whether noise from construction would impact the animals. The delegation replied that there was six month conversation about moving the animals so that they would not be impacted by noise and the phases of construction were developed keeping that in mind.

A Board member asked if the Park Board would receive commissions from the gift shop. Staff replied that there is currently no agreement regarding gift shop commissions and that there is not a change anticipated.

A Board member asked when the passes for Community Centres that were approved in 2006 would be distributed to them. The delegation replied that the agreement was for when the project would be completed and that it would be up to the Park Board to distribute them to the individual community centres. The Board member asked for clarity on when the passes would be distributed from staff. Staff replied that there is no real clarity in the Board report about when the passes would be distributed but that it was understood that it would be at the time of the project completion.

A Board member asked how many trees will be removed and how many will be planted to replace them. The delegation replied that 32 trees will be removed and that they will be replaced by 64 trees.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Lorrie Mckenzie
- Eleanor Hadley
- Joan Reekie

The following is a summary of comments made by the foregoing delegations:

- Has been a resident of Coal Harbour for the last year;
- The death of the young Beluga Whale in 2010 questions the reasoning behind keeping whales in captivity and the practice needs to stop;
- The aquarium should not be perceived as a museum;
- Making money is not a good reason to be cruel;
- Propose that Aquarium lead with technology not captivity;
- Went to the Aquarium after the death of the baby Beluga and the mother Beluga was sad and mourning.
- Shocked that the Park Board is allowing this expansion;
- If you take away the trees all you have is a pile of water;
- If you have a disaster there will be a lot of dead animals;
- This will just be a pile of monstrous cement;
- The Aquarium is not welcome in Stanley Park;
- Vancouver city people need to know how big this is going to be ;
- There should be a referendum or a plebiscite to approve this;
- It started as a nature park and now it is having an enormous expansion.
- There was a referendum held a long time ago on the Aquarium and the majority of people were against it;
- There are fences around the perimeter which are an eyesore and would like to know who gave permission for the fences to be put up;
- Does not understand why the Aquarium should be given parks land to expand;
- The concession fee was given up for \$150 000 which is basically a giveaway;
- The only part that is okay about the Aquarium right now is that you cannot see it unless you are looking for it. With this revised plan it is going to have these huge educational pieces on the outside which will turn into advertising;
- Say 'No' to the interpretation kiosks.
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The Board discussed the motion. A few Board members expressed support for the project. A Board member acknowledged that the Aquarium does a lot of great work however cannot support anything that puts whales in captivity. A Board member expressed concern about the loss of the freestanding restaurant but is satisfied with measures that staff have taken to mitigate that loss. A Board member stated that there was no time for public engagement with this project and did not believe that this would be the last expansion for the aquarium. A Board member advised that this is a very sensitive issue and felt that the previous Board engaged the public with this project.

Moved by Commissioner Hundal,

**THAT the Board approve the revised Development Permit design plans for the Aquarium expansion project as illustrated in the attached submission.**

- Carried

(Commissioner Mackinnon and Woodcock contrary)

The Chair called a short recess at 8:41pm.

The meeting reconvened at 8:50pm

### **Accomplishments Report 2010**

Board members receive copies of a staff report dated April 6, 2011 recommending that the Board receive this report for information.

Staff advised that the report illustrates the key accomplishments of 2010 which are divided into the Park Board's five goals which include greening the Park Board, engaging people, working together, managing resources and meeting future challenges.

Some of the key accomplishments of 2010 include transitioning 311 into three of the Park Board's community centers, initiating the Park Board's no smoking by-law, public involvement in community meetings and offering personal training services in our community centres..

A Board member inquired whether the smoking by-law chap-stick marketing plan was a success. Staff replied that it was one of many ways that the no-smoking ban was advertised and that it is hard to measure how successful that particular one was.

The following delegate requested to speak to the Board:

- Joan Reekie

The following is a summary of comments made by the foregoing delegate:

- You are congratulating yourselves on being penny-wise with water when you are not saving a lot of money on water;

- The aquarium salmon streams have very large pipes with very few salmon returning to spawn each year which is a huge waste of water;
- Saving money through lawn sprinklers is very minimal.

The Board discussed the motion. A Board member stated that since 2002 the City has gone a long way to becoming green which has put the City and the Park Board into a long term trajectory. A Board member advised that the Park Board is a huge reason that Vancouver is such a liveable city and thanked staff for the report.

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock,

**THAT the Board receive this report for information.**

- Carried Unanimously

### **Nelson Park Washroom**

Board members received copies of a staff report dated April 6, 2011 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A and B.

Staff advised that there is an opportunity to install a washroom at Nelson Park at little cost to the Park Board. The City has an arrangement with the contractor which has rights to advertising in exchange for an Automatic Public Toilet (APT). At the time of community consultation in 2006 a washroom was listed as a high priority for Nelson Park by the public. Staff added that sanitary, electrical and water supplies are available in the location.

A Board member asked how many APT units are in operation in the city. Staff replied that there are four in operation and that there are eight more that are slated to be installed. The Board member asked about the success of the toilets that have already been installed. Staff replied that they would have a discussion with the Engineering Department about an assessment of these toilets.

A Board member asked whether there will be soap and hot water available in the unit. Staff replied that water and soap will be available but will find out if there will be hot water available.

A Board member asked if the school in the area has been contacted about this washroom as a washroom in the park can lead to unsafe behaviour. Staff replied that the school was only engaged through public consultation which occurred in 2006 but since time has gone by they will be re-engaged. The Board member asked if the police were notified of the installation of this unit. Staff replied that they will get that information for the Board but added that this unit has an automatic feature which should deter that type of unsafe behaviour.

A Board member asked that since the contract is for 20 years if it would mean that there would be no advertising in the park for 20 years. Staff replied that that would be at the Park Board's discretion.

A Board member asked if this unit will be accessible. Staff replied that it would be accessible.

A Board member asked when the unit would be operational. Staff replied that October is the target completion date.

A Board member asked if the area will be lit. Staff replied that the area is lit as it is on the side of Nelson Park beside the street.

A Board member asked what the panel on the side of the unit would be used for. Staff replied that that would be at the Park Board's discretion.

The following delegation requested to speak to the Board:

- Brent Granby, Director, W.E.R.A

The following is a summary of comments made by the foregoing delegations:

- W.E.R.A. has advocated for this toilet for a long time;
- Nelson Park has been re-invigorated with the changes that have been made to it;
- There is a broad base of support for the washroom in the park;
- Happy that the unit is accessible;
- Suggestion that the panel on the side of the unit be used for community board postings;
- Would like to congratulate the Chair and the General Manager for the innovative approach that was used for getting this toilet for the community.

Moved by Commissioner Barnes,

- A. THAT the Board approve the installation of an Automatic Public Toilet (APT) unit through the Engineering Street Services Contract as described within this report
- B. THAT staff host a public open house about this toilet prior to its installation.

A Board member advised that it would be counterintuitive to approve the motion before the public open house and put forward an amendment.

Moved by Commissioner Mackinnon,

- A. THAT the motion be severed into its two constituent parts
- B. THAT Section A be deferred until after the public open house.

The Board discussed the amendment motion. A Board member advised that the amendment was about the process and that if a public toilet is approved then taxpayer money to fund an open house would be wasted. A Board member stated that the original open house had a lot of support and therefore would not be supporting this amendment. Another Board member advised that the motion is not about the installation of a toilet but that it is about the installation of this type of unit.

The amendment motion was put forward and it was DEFEATED. (Commissioner Barnes, Commissioner Blyth, Commissioner Hundal, Commissioner Jasper and Commissioner Woodcock contrary).

Moved by Commissioner Barnes,

- A. THAT the Board approve the installation of an Automatic Public Toilet (APT) unit through the Engineering Street Services Contract as described within this report**

- Carried Unanimously

Moved by Commissioner Barnes,

- B. THAT staff host a public open house about this toilet prior to its installation.**

- Carried

(Commissioner Blyth, Commissioner Mackinnon and Commissioner Robertson contrary)

### **Enquiries, Other Matters and New Business**

A Board member thanked staff for their detailed response to a question raised about reductions to park maintenance.

A Board member advised that Kerrisdale Community Centre Association have invited all Commissioners to tour their facility.

A Board member inquired about the possibility of adding dog on-leash signage at Andy Livingston Park. Staff replied that they spoke with residents about this issue and do not believe that signage will be enough in this park. The Park Board does not want to get residents in harms way but having them help by reporting these incidents would be one way of dealing with this issue.

**In-Camera**

Moved by Commissioner Barnes,

**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:**

**(g) litigation or potential litigation affecting the city.**

-Carried Unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 10:03 pm.

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Malcolm Bromley  
General Manager

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Commissioner Aaron Jasper  
Chair