

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
HELD AT THE PARK BOARD OFFICE  
ON MONDAY, JANUARY 30, 2012**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>- Constance Barnes</b>
	<b>Vice-Chair</b>	<b>- Aaron Jasper</b>
	<b>Commissioners</b>	<b>- Sarah Blyth</b>
		<b>- John Coupar</b>
		<b>- Melissa De Genova</b>
		<b>- Trevor Loke</b>
		<b>- Niki Sharma</b>
	<b>General Manager</b>	<b>- Malcolm Bromley</b>
	<b>Deputy General Manager</b>	<b>- Peter Kuran</b>
	<b>Director of Recreation</b>	<b>- Thomas Soulliere</b>
	<b>Acting Director of Planning and Operations</b>	<b>- Danica Djurkovic</b>
	<b>Manager of Park Plan</b>	<b>- Tiina Mack</b>
	<b>Engineering Assistant</b>	<b>- Rosaline Choy</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, January 16, 2012 were adopted as circulated.

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

The Chair reported on several community events that occurred over the past few weeks including the Tennis Canada news conference, the Elm tree project on East 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Chinese Lunar New Year.

**City Council Report**

The General Manager advised that Vancouver will be hosting the "Cities Summit" this week and that at Council the Vancouver Economic Commission Economic Action Strategy will be discussed.

## STAFF REPORTS

### Jericho Wharf Restoration

Board members received copies of a staff report dated January 17, 2012 recommending that the Board approve the final proposed concept plan for the Jericho Marginal Wharf site as shown in Figure C-4 of Appendix C.

Staff advised that over 1000 written comments have been received for this project through various means of public consultation. If the final concept plan is approved construction will begin in summer 2012 and be completed in fall 2012.

A Board member asked if there is washroom access at this site. Staff replied that there are no washrooms at this site, but that there are public washrooms available at the Jericho service yard and at the sailing centre.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Mike Cotter, Jericho Sailing Centre
- Terry Slack

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

- Jericho Sailing Centre is in favour of this motion;
- It is a tremendous contribution to park space and the new design enhances public access;
- It will rekindle historic traditions as people have been paddling from this shore for 3000 years;
- The new design enhances public safety.
- Staff have done a great job and it is good to have some habitat back.

The Board discussed the motion. The Board thanked the delegations and look forward to seeing the area fully restored.

Moved by Commissioner Loke,

**THAT the Board approve the final proposed concept plan for Jericho Marginal Wharf site as shown in Figure C-4 of Appendix C.**

- Carried Unanimously

**MOTION**

Moved by Commissioner De Genova,

Whereas there is a shortage of childcare spaces in Vancouver and the current Board has committed to address this issue by supporting the reinstatement of the Joint Council on childcare and providing space for childcare in Community Centres and Park Board facilities when possible;

Whereas the Greenest City Action Plan encourages and requires consideration for sustainability and the environment in all decisions; and research supports that the greenest building is often one that is already built;

Whereas the community and neighbourhood in the South Main Street and Riley Park area is consistently growing and the increasing population will have a great impact on the level of arts and culture, recreation facilities and child care space needed in the area;

Therefore be it resolved that the Board direct staff to initiate a six month moratorium on the demolition of Riley Park Community Centre, to allow the community and the Board time to consider options for future use.

A Board member stated that the Board should look at different options to join the community in a partnership to use some of this building, if not all of it as a result of a lack of childcare spaces in the area, the Greenest City Action Plan initiative and because the Little Mountain development was not part of the master plan when it was approved.

A Board member asked staff to elaborate on the key points of why the initial moratorium was not granted in the summer. Staff advised that the analysis conducted of the Rally for Riley business plan demonstrated that the plan was not financially sustainable. The proponents asked for more time to make a more robust plan however staff had no interest to retain resources at that location as investment in the building had ceased when the operation moved to the Hillcrest complex. There were two key issues that underlined the decision which were the capital dollars it would take to bring the building up to code and the Park Board commitment to honour the planning and consultation process.

A Board member asked staff how much capital investment will be required in order to make the facility functional. Staff advised the initial figure was 9.4 million dollars but a third party brought the final figure closer to 13.3 million dollars.

A Board member asked how well the neighbourhood is being served in terms of equity. Staff replied that although there is no universal standard to measure this, this neighbourhood has a large inventory of facilities and recreational areas.

A Board member asked whether the Little Mountain development was being considered when the master plan was created. Staff replied that it was not and added that they expect that new development will take care of new demand.

A Board member stated that a 2006 campaign to save Nat Bailey Stadium was launched as the capital costs were too high for the Park Board. 2.5 million dollars was put in by the Park Board and 2.5 million was put in by the proponents. The Board member added that the Park Board generates revenue from Nat Bailey Stadium each year and when the stadium reaches a certain total gross sales level that the Park Board gets an amount of that also. The Board member asked how much money that amounted to. Staff replied that they did not have the figure with them, but that they would find out. Staff added that it should be noted that it is professional sports team that uses the stadium, not a community not for profit group.

A Board member asked for the history of Board decisions related to the Riley Park/Hillcrest project. Staff advised that the master plan was approved by the Board in 2005, the concept design was approved in 2006 and the capital plan for funding was approved in 2011.

A Board member asked whether the Hillcrest Community Centre is a destination centre. Staff advised that anytime anyone creates a community centre of that scale people will certainly travel to it.

A Board member asked why the building was not re-purposed. Staff advised that it was decided as part of the consultation process.

A Board member asked how the Board would undo what has been done if the moratorium is granted. Staff advised that there would have to be amendments to existing permits as well as an elaborate consultation process.

A Board member asked for verification that community amenity contributions do not come directly to the Park Board. Staff advised that the Park Board is part of the process with other city departments.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Allan Buium, RPSC, Chair of Steering Committee
- Norm Dooley, Riley Park South Cambie Community Visions
- Lisa Schwabe
- Ed Shum
- Bryan Panchuk, Vancouver Inline Hockey League
- Daryl Rock
- Stephanie Frolek
- Caroline Schmidt, Vancouver Minor Hockey
- DJ Lawrence
- Ned Jacobs, Riley Park South Cambie Visions Implementation Committee
- Bruce Turner
- Ken Bregman, Riley Park Neighbourhood Homeowner

- Ani Gugasyan, Riley Park Community Centre
- Surrinder Bring
- Stephanie Maingot
- Christel Nierobisch, Seed to Sky Vancouver Garden Club
- Maureen Wicken, Riley Park Figure Skating Club
- Randy Chatterjee, Village Vancouver
- Marion Waterston, President, Riley Park Community Association
- Jesse Johl
- Joe Carangi
- Costa Liapis
- Shamir Bhatia

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

- The master plan needs to change as it was prepared before a number of developments were planned for the Cambie corridor;
- Hillcrest cannot accommodate the number of people moving to the area;
- Would like clarification on why the overflow parking lot at Nat Bailey stadium is not being used;
- There is a huge need to re-purpose Riley Park and supplement what is being offered at Hillcrest;
- The private sector can assist with providing the money for this project;
- Hope that the Park Board will take a non-partisan thought when the decision is made.
- There are four principles that motivated our group and those are response to densification, response to change, rooted in community needs and links to city policies;
- There are monster scale projects slated for this community;
- Parts of the facility can be sacrificed;
- A strong emphasis on childcare could generate sufficient economic activity.
- There is a lack of seniors space in this area;
- Hillcrest Centre is completely booked and it is hard to register for classes;
- This building is needed for the amenity shortage in the community.
- Seniors need more room in a place that is warm and it is easy to relax.
- Would like to do a youth hockey league at this facility as there is no where to play in winter;
- It is very difficult to get rink times as there is a big demand but very little space.
- There is a lack of accessibility in Vancouver.
- Spent many hours on the original consultation process and hope that the promises will be kept;
- Keeping the centre will increase the traffic in the area.
- Challenged on a daily basis to find ice;
- The ice allotment from the Park Board is not enough and we are forced to send our young hockey players to Burnaby and Richmond.
- The cost of renovating this community centre is a third of what the bike lanes cost the taxpayers of this city;

- Green space is important to all of us in the Riley Park neighbourhood and saving this community centre will take away very little green space;
- There has been a lot of development in this neighbourhood which is bringing in more people including the re-zoning of land to include laneway housing which does not bring in community amenity contributions.
- Riley Park is a well served area and does not need another recreation facility;
- There are many other areas in Vancouver that are underserved and need a facility more than this neighbourhood;
- Programs for seniors and childcare can be included in the Little Mountain development;
- A private partner would turn the area into a commercial zone.
- Riley Park is a well-built building and the upgrades required are not super essential;
- There are enough issues in this neighbourhood to put a pause on demolition.
- It is very difficult to find childcare in this city and it would be easier to find a five carat diamond in the street before licensed childcare.
- Please keep an open mind to the exciting possibilities this facility could bring;
- This neighbourhood needs a cultural hub like the Roundhouse Community Centre;
- Would like to share six letters of support for this moratorium from different potential private partners.
- Have fifty members who are actively involved in garnering interest for community gardening and would like space at the Riley Park facility to share knowledge on the topic.
- Riley Park is one story tall, so it is hard to understand how it will cost so much money to make is seismically sound;
- Hillcrest was not built to be a community centre, it is a city wide place;
- We are not asking for money, we are asking for time and the commitment to consider a resource.
- It took many people and much time to achieve the approved master plan for no net loss of green space;
- The community has already spoken and more amenities means more traffic;
- There is nothing lacking in this neighbourhood, we gained a lot.
- Riley Park is an old building, but why tear something down when we may need it again;
- No one from our group has asked the Park Board for money, we are only asking for time;
- Help us help you and let us work collaboratively with the Park Board on this.
- It is understandable that the Park Board wants to honour the process however everyone is looking at this in the negative rather than what is best for the area;
- This is an opportunity and if the Park Board does not want to give six months, than just give 3 months.
- Hillcrest is a good facility but it is hard to get into programs and the parking lot is always full;
- Kids are trying to get lessons but the window to sign up is very small;
- It was never a problem to register for programs at the Riley Park facility.
- This plan does not require Park Board or City funding;
- There is no consideration for the arts at Hillcrest;

- When asbestos is in the air, then it is dangerous, but once remediation has been done than the area is safe;
- We are asking for the pause button on this demolition.

The Board discussed the motion. A Board member advised that the master plan that was put forward six years ago is no longer relevant and needs to be changed. This community needs more space for childcare, ice, recreation and arts and culture and it can be created through this facility. A few Board members stated that there is not enough variance from the original plan that was presented last summer to change the decision that was made.

The motion was put forward and it was DEFEATED

(Commissioners Barnes, Blyth, Loke, Jasper and Sharma opposed)

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

A Board member asked for an update on whether the Curtis Brick fountain in Grandview Park could remain running throughout the year. Staff replied that they would look into it.

A Board member asked for an update on the Bloedel agreement with the VanDusen Association. Staff replied that the agreement is currently in the hands of association and that staff will follow up with the association.

### **In-Camera**

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:

- (e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the Board considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the city;

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 pm.

---

Malcolm Bromley  
General Manager

---

Commissioner Constance Barnes  
Chair