

MINUTES OF MEETING

OF THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
HELD IN THE PARK BOARD OFFICE
ON MONDAY, MAY 13, 1996

PRESENT:	Chair	- David Chesman
	Vice-Chair	- Alan Fetherstonhaugh
	Commissioners	- Malcolm Ashford
		- Allan DeGenova
		- Alan Fetherstonhaugh
		- Tim Louis
		- Donna Morgan
		- Duncan Wilson
	General Manager	- Vic Kondrosky
	Director of Operations	- Liane McKenna
	Director of Recreation	- Allan Argent
	Public Information Officer	- Carol DeFina
	Recording Secretary	- Barbara Stampfl

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Board, held on Monday, May 06, 1996, were adopted as circulated.

PRESENTATION

The Chair reported that Penny Parry will be leaving her position as Children and Youth Advocate for the City of Vancouver on May 31, 1996. He noted that Penny has held this position since 1991 and has played a very important role in the development of the Park Board's blueprint of youth service. She has provided on-going training and support for the youth workers and assisted staff in working with community associations in the development of youth services. On behalf of the Board, the Chair thanked Ms. Parry and presented her with the Park Board's book entitled "The First 100 Years".

Ms. Parry thanked the Board and stated that it was an honour to work with the youth workers in the Park Board. She expressed appreciation to the Board for moving the Civic Youth Strategy along and making it possible.

RECREATION SERVICES

Civic Youth Strategy

Board members received copies of a staff report dated May 1, 1996 recommending that the Board endorse the recommendation in the attached City Council Progress Report on the Civic Youth Strategy.

Moved by Commissioner Wilson,

THAT the Board endorse the recommendation in the attached City Council Progress Report on the Civic Youth Strategy.

Ms. Penny Parry, Children and Youth Advocate, appeared before the Board to highlight the Civic Youth Strategy and the Board's role in implementing the Strategy.

Ms. Eng Sangsevang and Ms. Lillia Tsui, who worked on the Civic Youth Strategy as youth delegates and on the Strathcona Youth Council, appeared before the Board to support the recommendation regarding the Civic Youth Strategy. They referred to events involving youth during Youth Week which provided an opportunity to work with adults and to be involved in their community. They outlined their involvement in the Youth Action Forum which was organized and run by youth while the Civic Youth Strategy helped them to network with other youth organizations and provide a support base. They outlined the objectives of the Civic Youth Strategy which give youth a voice, place, strength and provides a support base.

The Chair thanked and congratulated the delegation for their involvement in the Civic Youth Strategy.

Commissioner Wilson gave an example of the importance of youth services involvement during the recent West End Community Centre's Volunteer dinner.

Moved by Commissioner Wilson,

THAT the Board endorse the recommendation in the attached City Council Progress Report on the Civic Youth Strategy.
- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

PLANNING/ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES/OPERATIONS

Queen Elizabeth Park Quarry Gardens - Wedding Photo Permit Fee

Board members received copies of a staff report dated May 1, 1996 recommending that beginning July 1, 1996, a Wedding Photo permit fee of \$100.00 be charged to groups wishing to use Queen Elizabeth Park Quarry Gardens for wedding photos.

Moved by Commissioner DeGenova,

THAT staff consult with the professional photographers on the means to control the damage in Queen Elizabeth Park.
and,
THAT a permit fee be established for controlled access to Queen Elizabeth Park.

Mr. Sam Magnuson, professional wedding photographer, had numerous questions for the Board regarding the sites chosen, time frame, what constitutes a wedding party, penalties, enforcement, etc. He questioned why a permit fee was proposed without prior consultation with

the professional photographers. He also listed his concerns that this would be discriminatory by singling out wedding parties and suggested that a turnstile be installed at the entrance to the garden so that everyone pays equally.

Mr. Robert Coates, speaking on behalf of the members of the Professional Photographers of B.C., questioned the Park Board's motive and what it wants to achieve with this. He wondered if it was to increase revenue or discourage use of the park. He asked who would be targeted and pointed out that wedding parties sometimes use amateur photographers. He also questioned policing, site lines, timeframe, etc. and stated that the professional photographers would like to have a voice in this before it is implemented.

Ms. Lee Sanger, President, Professional Photographers of B.C., stated that the main concerns had been expressed by the previous two speakers. She questioned policing and how the public will be made aware of this. She also felt it was prejudicial in targeting one segment of the park's users. The site areas need to be looked at and there is the fear that alternate sites in and around Vancouver will become inundated with other photographers who may not be as careful with the surroundings.

The Chair pointed out that the main concern here is damage to Queen Elizabeth Park and the motion speaks to consulting with the photographers with regard to this.

Commissioner Ashford, as a previous owner of photography companies, found that going into busy areas makes everyone uncomfortable and wedding parties do not want to stand in line. He agreed that it would be good for the professional photographers to work with the Board in controlling this situation.

Commissioner Fetherstonhaugh stated that the status quo is not acceptable and there is a problem with the number of people using the park that needs to be solved.

The Chair stated that he was not inclined to put in a turnstile at Queen Elizabeth Park. He hoped that the Board could work with the professional photographers to solve the problem.

Commissioner Louis felt that this proposal is unworkable and it is unfair to charge for use of the park. He pointed out that there is no charge to rugby players even though damage is done to playing fields. The problem here is congestion and he felt that consultation with the users would be the best way to deal with this.

Commissioner Morgan was concerned that there is no way of reaching amateur or non-professional photographers.

Commissioner DeGenova enquired how much the permit fee is for the Tai Chi groups using Queen Elizabeth Park and does this use result in damage to the park.

The Director of Recreation Services stated that he did not have

that information but would provide it to the Board.

The Director of Environment & Operations advised the Board that the Tai Chi groups use the hard surface area along the plaza and there have been problems with garbage, etc. A variety of spaces are allocated for them and the permit process has helped tremendously to control it. She added that damage is also created by the large tour bus groups coming to the park and the intention is to look at the heaviest used areas and have staff there to monitor the situation.

Commissioner Fetherstonhaugh stated that the Park Board has a duty to control problems in the park. He also felt that the average taxpayer should not have to pay for this, it should be those who use it.

Commissioner Morgan stated that the Board has to look at issues in the park first and possibly not just weddings. There are other photo opportunities, bus tours, etc. and it is difficult to identify who is causing the damage. This requires wider consultation and she felt that bus tour operators and wedding consultants should be included. She also requested that the motion be severed and the two issues voted on separately. The Chair accepted severing the motion.

Moved by Commissioner Morgan,

THAT the first part of the motion be amended to include "tour bus operators and wedding consultants".

- CARRIED

(Commissioner DeGenova opposed)

The motion, as amended, was put as follows:

THAT staff consult with the professional photographers, tour bus operators and wedding consultants on the means to control the damage in Queen Elizabeth Park.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

THAT a permit fee be established for controlled access to Queen Elizabeth Park.

Commissioner Fetherstonhaugh stated that he would not support a motion to establish a permit fee before consulting with these groups.

Commissioners Louis and Morgan agreed that there is a problem with regard to damage to the park but felt that consultation should be done first. They preferred a public consultation process that is open ended rather than having individuals come to the Board to say they do not agree with the permit fee instead of talking about solving the problems. The best solution would be decided after this consultation and one solution may still be user fees.

The Chair clarified that defeating this motion would not preclude the establishment of a permit fee but the Board wished to not call

specific attention to it at this time.

A Vote was taken on the motion and it was DEFEATED Unanimously.

Changeable Copy Signs

Board members received copies of a staff report dated May 9, 1996 recommending that the Board agree to consult with City Council prior to pursuing the installation of an electronic automatic changeable copy sign and any third party advertising thereon in a public park.

Moved by Commissioner DeGenova,

THAT the Board agree to consult with City Council prior to pursuing the installation of an electronic automatic changeable copy sign and any third party advertising thereon in a public park.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

NEW BUSINESS

Volunteer Award

Moved by Commissioner Morgan,

THAT the annual Park Board Volunteer dinner include a Youth Volunteer Award component.

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

REMINDERS

Commissioner Wilson advised the Board of a meeting regarding accessible golf at G.F. Strong Centre on Tuesday evening, May 14, 1996.

The Chair informed the Board of a Community Centre Capital Plan sub-committee meeting to be held on Thursday, May 16 at the office of Commissioner Louis, with Commissioners Louis, Chesman and two Association Presidents.

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Approval of Warrants
Warrant #18 in the amount of \$306,305.96.

V. Kondrosky
General Manager

Commissioner David Chesman
Chair

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