

MINUTES OF MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
HELD IN THE PARK BOARD OFFICE
ON MONDAY, JULY 28, 1997

PRESENT: Chair	- Duncan Wilson
Vice-Chair	- Alan Fetherstonhaugh
Commissioners	- David Chesman
	- Laura McDiarmid
	- Patrick Warren
	- Gabriel Yong
General Manager	- Vic Kondrosky
Director, Administrative & Revenue Services	- Philip Josephs
Director of Finance	- Doug Holden
A/Director of Planning	- Rudy Roelefson
Director of Recreation	- Allan Argent
Manager - Public Affairs	- Terri Clark
Coordinator, Special Needs	- Booth Palmer
A/Recording Secretary	-Stan Roberts

The Chair informed the Board that Commissioner DeGenova was absent due to family matters.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Board held on Monday, July 7, 1997 and the minutes of the special meeting held on Monday, July 21, 1997 were approved as circulated.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Tunnel Watch

Commissioner Wilson informed the Board that there was no new information about the First Narrows Crossing at this time. A detailed update will be provided at the September Board meeting.

PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Vancouver Aquarium Request to Place a Temporary Trailer in Stanley Park

The Board received copies of a staff report dated July 25, 1997 recommending that the location for a temporary trailer be approved for a period of up to 5 years. The report also notes that the Board is on record as being opposed to further expansions of the Vancouver Aquarium Lease area.

Moved by Commissioner Fetherstonhaugh,

THAT the Board approve that the location for a temporary trailer be approved, as illustrated on the attached plan, for a period of up to 5 years.

The Board heard from delegates, Marie Dickens and Jeff Marliave of the Vancouver Aquarium, who stated that the trailer was needed to accommodate staff (that has already been hired) since offices inside the Aquarium are over-crowded. They noted that the last office expansion was in 1979. Since it is impossible to build on the roof without major structural change, the only option is to expand

outside the building and Park Board staff suggested the north-east corner as the least obtrusive. Commissioner Chesman asked for assurance that the trailer was indeed temporary. The delegates said it was designed from the outset to be temporary and would never be considered permanent.

The next delegation, Clive Justice, Friends of Stanley Park, noted that in the staff report it was also proposed that a new "VIP and tour group" entry be allowed and that he would be addressing both proposals. The staff report does not go far enough to address the impact the proposals will have on the image and function of the park as a public green space. Mr. Justice suggested that, given the Aquarium's history, the trailer will undoubtedly be permanent. He expressed concern over the impact of the trailer on emergency fire exits and on the stream restoration project in the area, and he wondered why the Aquarium didn't rent offices downtown if it needed more space. The Friends of Stanley Park request the proposals be put off so that staff can study them further, and they demand that the west gate entry be discontinued when the one-year trial is up.

Delegate, Eleanor Hadley, claims this Board is not diligent in protecting the park from encroachment by the Aquarium. She suggested decisions are made by the Board before public meetings are held. Commissioner Wilson explained that the Education Centre proposed had not been agreed to yet and that a public process would be implemented before a decision is made.

Annelise Sorg, representing No Whales in Captivity, said her main concern over the proposals was how they would affect fire safety; the Aquarium is already crowded and the Fire Marshall says there is no official limit to the number of people allowed in the building. The new entry would bring even more people into the building. Commissioner Chesman asked staff if the proposal conforms to fire regulations and was assured by General Manager, Vic Kondrosky, that the Fire Marshal has approved the plan. Ms Sorg asked that a written copy of this approval be obtained.

During debate Commissioner Fetherstonhaugh suggested that the Board is actually discriminating against the Aquarium: the proposal would normally be handled by staff and that it was being heard only because the Aquarium is controversial and that therefore the Board is willing to "go the extra mile".

Commissioner Chesman said he understood Mr. Justice when he suggested that the Aquarium is snatching up land at will and he outlined the history of past Park Boards to communicate that land in Stanley Park is a public trust and is not the Aquarium' s for the taking. He also reminded Ms Hadley of initiatives by this Board to protect Stanley Park as a pedestrian and people-friendly place (eg. what was done with the Zoo and the Aquarium) and its aggressive stand during the current debate over the tunnel.

Moved by Commissioner Chesman,

THAT the motion be amended to add that approval for the location of a temporary trailer not create any legal rights.

-Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Chesman,

THAT the motion be amended to also include that such approval will be cancellable at the Board's discretion.

-Carried

(Commissioner Fetherstonhaugh contrary)

The main motion, as amended, was put as follows:

THAT the Board approve that the location for a temporary trailer be approved, as illustrated on the attached plan for a period of up to 5 years; such approval will not create any legal rights and such approval will be cancellable at the Board's discretion.

-Carried Unanimously

Seaforth Park

Board members received the minutes of a design workshop held on July 17, 1997 and a staff report dated July 21, 1997 recommending that the Board approve the concept plan for Seaforth Park.

Moved by Commissioner Fetherstonhaugh,

THAT the Board approve the concept plan for Seaforth Park as presented at the Board meeting.

Nancy Mclean, Park Development Manager, gave a presentation that emphasized the desire of the community to see an informal park developed on the site with places to sit, buffering from the traffic, more planting without blocking views and improved drainage. Responding to a question from Commissioner Wilson she said that the plantings could be extended to boulevards, islands and medians thereby integrating the park into the surrounding area.

The first delegate, Helmut Krutz, said he had 281 petitioners opposing the proposal. He said he opposes the re-development because there are already enough places in the area for people to eat, the park is beautiful the way it is, there is already enough developed green space in the area and that mounds in the park would create a security hazard. He said all that is needed is a little improved drainage and a few benches. Commissioner Wilson asked Terri Clark to ensure that the Board receives copies of the petition presented by Mr. Krutz.

The next delegate, Michael Geary, representing the Cypress Street Area Council, spoke in favour of the proposal. He said it would calm traffic, improve drainage, and lower noise from traffic. He expressed satisfaction with the quality of public

consultation and he congratulated the Board and staff on how they conducted the consultation process. In response to safety concerns he said there were sidewalks that could be used as alternatives to walking through the park.

Hugh Tangye, a local resident, said that while the plan increased the utility of the park, he still has safety concerns. The crime rate is high in the area and the berms and plantings would reduce visibility and change the perception of the area as an open space.

Commissioner Chesman suggested that increasing the utility of the park would bring more people and thereby lower the crime rate. Mr. Tangye said the changes would increase some use but decrease others, ie: pass-through traffic would be reduced.

Commissioner Chesman recalled that the Board had in the past rejected a request to turn the park into a parking lot and he expressed satisfaction in supporting the proposal to turn the park into something more than a "drive-by" park.

Moved by Commissioner Fetherstonhaugh,

THAT the motion be amended by adding that staff meet with the planning and engineering departments at City Hall to facilitate more plantings on the medians of Burrard and Cornwall Streets.

-Carried Unanimously

The main motion, as amended, was put as follows:

THAT the Board approve the concept plan for Seaforth Park as presented at the Board meeting and that staff meet with the planning and engineering

departments at City Hall to facilitate more plantings on the medians of Burrard and Cornwall Streets.

-Carried Unanimously

COMMUNITY SERVICES & BUDGETS COMMITTEE

Food Service Consulting Services for the Redevelopment of the Aquarium Plaza and Adjacent Food Service Areas

Commissioner Chesman left the room in order to avoid a potential conflict of interest.

Board members received copies of a staff report dated July 17, 1997 recommending that the Fessel International Hospitality Consultants be awarded a contract in the amount of \$57,500 plus G.S.T. to provide a Food Service Master Plan for the redevelopment of the Aquarium Plaza and adjacent areas; and that the Aquarium contribute 40% of the contract fee.

Moved by Commissioner Yong,

1) THAT Fessel International Hospitality Consultants, be awarded a contract in the amount of \$57,500 plus G.S.T. to provide a Food Service Master Plan for the redevelopment of the Aquarium Plaza and adjacent areas.

2) THAT the Aquarium contribute 40% of the contract fee.

3) THAT no legal rights shall arise hereby, and none shall arise until execution

of the contemplated contract. The Board may rescind this resolution at any time up to the execution of the contemplated contract.

Philip Josephs, Director of Administrative and Revenue Services, said the objective of the proposal is to do a master plan of food services in the area covering the Lower Zoo, to Lumberman' s Arch, the former Upper Zoo, as far as Brockton and including the Pavilion area. Six consultants were contacted, two submitted proposals and Fessel was recommended. The Aquarium has been involved with the plan from the beginning.

Delegate Annelise Sorg asked why no one is questioning that the Aquarium is selling food when it cuts into the revenue of the other concessions in the area. Revenue should be going to the Park Board. She said there are already too many people in the Aquarium area and more food services would make the situation worse. And a restaurant would make getting rid of the whales more difficult.

The next delegate, Eleanor Hadley, suggested it was the Park Board' s own fault that the zoo area is antiquated and that the Board was promoting a money making scheme for the Aquarium.

Commissioner Yong said the proposal would tell the Board the best way to provide food services to the public using the park. In the long run, hiring consultants will save money by providing the best facilities possible.

Commissioner Wilson pointed out that the plan was devised by the Park Board originally, not the Aquarium, and that by including the Aquarium it has saved money. He emphasized that Park Board must provide good food services in order to subsidize other important park programs.

The motion was put as follows:

Moved by Commissioner Yong,

1) That Fessel Consultants be awarded a contract in the amount of \$57,500 plus G.S.T. to provide a Food Service Master Plan for the redevelopment of the Aquarium Plaza and adjacent areas.

2) THAT the Aquarium contribute 40% of the contract fee.

3) THAT no legal rights shall arise hereby, and none shall arise until execution of the contemplated contract. The Board may rescind this resolution at any time up to the execution of the contemplated contract.

-Carried Unanimously

Commissioner Chesman returned to the meeting.

Coordinated Youth Services Pilot Projects: Recommendations from the Evaluation Report

The Board received a report from staff dated July 7, 1997, outlining the policy on Youth Services and recommending the report be received for information.

Moved by Commissioner Yong,

THAT the report be received for information.

Booth Palmer, Coordinator, Special Needs, told the Board staff had an agreement with the Community Associations to review the pilot projects before implementing

any extension of the services. The Vancouver Foundation also wanted the projects reviewed. The firm of Wallbank-Macfarlane-Tindale conducted the survey. It found that the program has had a positive effect on the level and quality of participation in recreation services and came up with various recommendations for improvement.

Allan Argent, Director of Recreation Services, said some of the recommendations have been realized already. The one that can't be accomplished is the establishment of a Youth Practices Leader because of lack of resources; it is also the most important recommendation.

Commissioner Warren arrived at this time.

Commissioner McDiarmid asked whether the need for immigrant services has been addressed. Commissioner Yong responded that multicultural needs have been addressed in some parts of the city where immigrant residency is high.

Delegate Toni Kapos of the Youth Advisory Committee stressed the importance of the Youth Practices Leader and noted that funding for youth workers is running out. He praised the current workers and stressed the need for money now so that the position may be continued without interruption. Responding to Commissioner Yong he said there was no funding available from the Provincial Government.

Adrienne Montani, Child Advocate, City of Vancouver, praised the preventative aspect of the Youth Services Program. She emphasized the need to hire a Youth Practices Worker to maintain the high standards of the program. She said the Youth Services Program is a good link to Provincial government efforts to create multi-disciplinary teams in the neighbourhoods through the Ministry of Children and Families. She pointed out the need for Youth Workers to work with First Nations and gay and lesbian youth.

Commissioner Chesman complimented Greg Eng on his work with the program.

Commissioner McDiarmid asked about the absence of programs for gay and lesbian youth. Ms Montani said all such programs are recent and volunteer run. As well, only one program for First Nations youth has paid workers and these are temporary positions. She emphasized the need for choice in services for youth.

Commissioner Yong asked about efforts to coordinate youth services in the city. Ms. Montani mentioned the Coalition of Youth Service and coordination by the Park Board program.

Delegate Eric Kowalski of the Vancouver Coalition of First Line Children and Youth Service Providers, reiterated the position of the other delegates that the program is essential and that the Youth Practices Worker is vital. He praised the current Youth Services Advisor and he said there is no money available elsewhere to fund the position.

Commissioner Fetherstonhaugh cautioned the Board in using uncertain Corporate Sponsorship money to fund a position that should be permanent.

Moved by Commissioner Chesman,

THAT the motion be amended by adding:

1. \$22,000 of 1997 Corporate Sponsorship dollars be allocated to the position of Youth Practices Leader and that staff locate the remaining money, if any is necessary, to fund the positions through the balance of 1997. 1998 funding will be located in the operating budget and;

2. Staff investigate the creation and funding of two new Youth Service Worker positions with responsibility for First Nations youth and gay and lesbian youth and report back to the Board within three months.

-Carried Unanimously

The main motion, as amended, was put as follows:

THAT the Board receive the staff report for information; and,

1) THAT \$22,000 of 1997 Corporate Sponsorship dollars be allocated to the position of Youth Practices Leader and that staff locate the remaining money, if any is necessary, to fund the positions through the balance of 1997. 1998 funding will be located in the operating budget and;

2) THAT staff investigate the creation and funding of two new Youth Service Worker positions with responsibility for First Nations youth and gay and lesbian youth and report back to the Board within three months.

-Carried Unanimously

Vancouver Youth Hostel Liquor License Extension

The Board received a staff report dated July 24, 1997 recommending that the Board consider the request of Hostelling International to extend their Class B liquor license.

Moved by Commissioner Yong,

THAT the Board consider the request of Hostelling International to extend their Class "B" liquor license.

Delegate David Blackmore, General Manager of the Vancouver Youth Hostel, said he had letters of support from the West Point Grey Homeowner' s Association and the West Point Grey Community Centre and the support of the police. He said there have been no complaints about the patrons of the establishment.

Commissioner McDiarmid asked about problems of inebriated people leaving the premises and about underage drinkers. Mr. Blackmore assured the Board that drink limits are strictly enforced and that they do not serve minors.

Commissioner Yong and Fetherstonhaugh asked about people still arriving at the Hostel after 11PM to order dinner and Mr. Blackmore said it was a necessary service since the Hostel is a long way from other services. He stressed that food must be ordered if drinks are served.

Commissioner Chesman said he thought more community input is needed to ensure the neighbourhood understands the implications of the extension.

Commissioner Warren commented that if the Community Association is in favour there should be no problem approving the extension.

Commissioner McDiarmid questioned whether the Association was truly representative of the community. Commissioner Wilson asked if the facility was open to the public and was assured that only those resident at the Hostel may eat there. The Board and staff discussed whether it was necessary for the Hostel to survey the community again.

Moved by Commissioner Yong,

THAT the motion be amended by adding that Hostelling International be asked to conduct a survey in the community with the result of 60% support for their proposal to extend their Class B Liquor license.

-Carried

(Commissioners Duncan Wilson and Patrick Warren contrary)

The main motion, as amended, was put as follows:

THAT the Board consider the request of Hostelling International to extend their Class B liquor license subject to Hostelling International conducting a survey in the community with the result of 60% support for their proposal to extend their Class B liquor license.

-Carried

(Commissioner Fetherstonhaugh contrary)

Chair' s Report

Board members received copies of the minutes of the public meeting held at Robson Square Media Centre on Monday, July 21, 1997 regarding Dogs in Parks.

Commissioner Fetherstonhaugh said he saw no need for any change to the leash laws and he suggested most of the public does not favour any change. Parks are for people. No one is willing to admit it's their dog that is the problem. The idea that dogs are equal to people is offensive to most people. Not every dog owner is responsible and even responsible owners may not be able to control their dogs or pick up after them when they're off-leash.

Commissioner Chesman said we need to be sure parks are safe for people. But he said the Board must look for a way to safely accommodate both people and dogs off-leash in the park. Even a good dog can inadvertently harm people. He called for staff to investigate a means by which dogs off-leash in parks are safe, for example, a readily accessible certification program, the cost of which should be born by those who have offended. He also suggested a legal opinion is needed to determine the Board's liability if someone is hurt by a dog off-leash. He concluded by saying that if an accommodation could not be found the Board must favour people over dogs.

Commissioner McDiarmid suggested including in the motion the direction to look at models in other jurisdictions to get the best possible solution to the dog problem.

Commissioner Warren questioned the desirability of focusing on certification. It may not be possible to implement. He suggested a solution may be as simple as by-law officers asking owners to call their dogs: if they do not come then they are obviously not suited to be off-leash. He agreed that safety was the most important thing and he said he would like to see in the motion a requirement for an environmental assessment of whatever off-leash area is proposed.

Commissioner Wilson said he would like to see certification explored. He said he was in favour of off-leash times rather than exclusively off-leash zones. He prefers off-leash areas in forested trails rather than beaches such as Sunset. He called for a direction to staff to develop a list of areas excluded for health, safety and environmental reasons.

Commissioner McDiarmid suggested looking at off-leash areas that are already used by default such as Vanier Park.

Commissioner Fetherstonhaugh reminded the Board that there are problems with jurisdiction when looking at a certification program. He added that Calgary is a very different city from Vancouver and is not a realistic model to use.

Commissioner Wilson said the Board should work closely with the Domestic Animals Committee and that it has a duty to ensure the Pound is well funded and that dogs are all licensed. He said it would be nice to have a program to initiate by next Spring.

Commissioner Fetherstonhaugh expressed concern over the cost of any new programs to accommodate dogs in the parks. Commissioner Chesman responded by saying that dog owners represent a large constituency whose needs have to be addressed.

Moved by Commissioner Chesman,

That staff investigate, through pilot projects if necessary, the creation or adoption of the following for Board consideration in November 1997:

- 1. An accessible, low-to-no cost process of evaluating or identifying dogs as safe to people and wildlife while off-leash in city parks, the cost of enforcement of such process to be supported by substantial fines for breach of the process;**
- 2. Off-leash areas and/or times in certain or all city parks, having considered**

environmental concerns as the fundamental criteria for same;

3. That staff investigate other city' s ways and means of dealing with the environmental and safety issues associated with dogs in city parks;

4. That staff obtain a legal opinion concerning Park Board liability for damages from off-leash dogs in city parks;

5. That Park Board work toward a solution with all relevant agencies, governmental and non-governmental, including the City' s Domestic Animals Committee.

-Carried

(Commissioner Fetherstonhaugh contrary)

The Board voted unanimously to extend the meeting to 11:30 p.m.

PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Stanley Park Service Centre Reconsolidation

Commissioner Chesman left the room in order to avoid a potential conflict of interest.

The Board received a staff report dated July 10, 1997 recommending that the Board retain Tusar Architecture Inc. to provide working drawings and specifications for the reconsolidation of the Service Centre and to provide construction supervision for the police, horticulture and sanitation buildings.

Moved by Commissioner Fetherstonhaugh,

THAT the Board retain Tusar Architecture Inc. to provide working drawings and specifications for the reconsolidation of the Stanley Park Service Centre and to provide construction supervision for the police, horticulture and sanitation buildings for a cost not exceeding \$92,420 plus GST and dispersements.

-Carried

(Commissioner McDiarmid contrary)

COMMUNITY SERVICES & BUDGETS COMMITTEE

HNR Inc. Lease for the Food Service at the Aquatic Centre

The Board received a staff report dated July 16, 1997 recommending that the Board approve recommendations 1 to 4 in the staff report.

Moved by Commissioner Yong,

1) THAT HNR Inc. be granted a lease for a five year period from September 19, 1997 to September 18, 2002.

2) THAT the rent remain at ten (10%) percent of the first \$100,000, and fifteen (15%) percent over \$100,000 of annual gross revenues, for the new lease period.

3) THAT a payment in lieu of property taxes be phased in and charged at the rate of .50 cents/sq. ft. for the first year, of .75 cents/sq. ft. for the second year, \$1.00/sq. ft. for the third year, \$1.25/sq. ft. for the fourth year and \$1.50/sq. ft. for the fifth year.

4) THAT no legal rights shall arise hereby and none shall arise thereafter until the execution of the contemplated documents.

-Carried Unanimously

Commissioner Chesman returned to the meeting.

PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Boardwalk at Everett Crowley Park

The Board received a staff report dated July 24, 1997 requesting that the Board receive the report for information.

Moved by Commissioner Chesman,

That the Board receive for information the staff report dated July 24, 1997.

-Carried Unanimously

COMMUNITY SERVICES & BUDGETS COMMITTEE

Contract Awards

The Board received a report dated July 17, 1997 recommending that the General Manager be authorized to award contracts in excess of \$50,000 during the Board' s summer break period from July 29 to September 15, 1997, if required, and in accordance with the conditions as outlined in this report.

Moved By Commissioner Yong,

THAT the General Manager be authorized to award contracts in excess of \$50,000 during the Board' s summer break period from July 29 to September 15, 1997, if required, and in accordance with the conditions as outlined in this report.

-Carried Unanimously

Installation of a Concession Building in Memorial West Park

The Board received a staff report dated July 23, 1997 recommending that the report be received for information.

Moved By Commissioner Yong,

THAT the Board receive for information the staff report dated July 23, 1997.

-Carried Unanimously

Park Board Signing Authority

The Board received a staff report dated July 24, 1997 recommending that the signing authority for the Park Board be designated as indicated in the report by replacing the retiring General Manager' s signature with that of an Acting General Manager.

Moved by Commissioner Yong,

THAT the signing authority for the Park Board be designated as indicated in the report by replacing the retiring General Manager' s signature with that of an Acting General Manager.

-Carried Unanimously

Reminders

Commissioner Wilson reminded the Board of the 1997 Gay Pride Parade and urged all Board members to participate.

Information Items

1. Approval of Warrants

Warrant 326 in the amount of \$461,137.79, Warrant #27 in the amount of \$52,714.45, Warrant #28 in the amount of \$799,708.98 - \$797,489.35 (Cdn) \$2,220.63 (US) Warrant #31 in the amount of \$464,376.80 - \$464, 180.64 (Cdn), \$196.16 (US).

2. Financial Statements - Operating and Capital Accounts

Staff information report dated July 11, 1997 was mailed to Board members.