

**MINUTES OF MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
HELD IN THE PARK BOARD OFFICE
ON MONDAY, MAY 15, 2000**

PRESENT:	Chair	- Duncan Wilson
	Vice-Chair	- Laura McDiarmid
	Commissioners	- Roslyn Cassells
		- Allan De Genova
		- Clarence Hansen
		- Christopher Richardson
	General Manager	- Susan Mundick
	Director of Planning & Operations	- Pieter Rutgers
	A/Director of Vancouver East District	- Ron Caswell
	Director of Queen Elizabeth District	- Liane McKenna
	Manager of Public Affairs	- Terri Clark
	Recorder	- Julie Casanova

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on Monday, May 1, 2000 were adopted as circulated.

City Council Report

The General Manager advised the Board that she had three items to report: 1) that City Council approved a four phase review and re-zoning process at the request of YMCA / Langara College, community-based consultation process will now begin. 2) There is a report before Council seeking authority for a covenant to be registered on the title of the property at 925 Shaughnessy Street which was recently purchased by the City. The covenant limits building a structure within 9 feet of the property line. The property was acquired for park purposes although it has not been designated a permanent park at this time. 3) Council will be considering the 2000 Capital Budget report for all City departments at the Standing Committee of Council on City Services and Budgets.

Burrardview Park - St. James Cottage Hospice Project

John Maxey, Project Manager for the re-development of Babies Cottage provided the Board with a brief chronological history of the project and introduced John Adkin, Awards Committee Member, Heritage Society of B.C. and Harry Biden, President, St. James Community Service Society.

John Adkin, Awards Committee Member Heritage Society of B.C. presented the Provincial Award for Heritage Conservation to the Board and thanked them for recognizing and preserving the heritage value of the Babies Cottage portion of the complex.

Harry Biden, President, St. James Community Service Society stated that people are very appreciative of the services of the hospice. He presented Commissioner Laura McDiarmid with a painting by Floyd Troman to express their appreciation for her involvement in this project.

Administrative Report - New Regular Positions

Board members received copies of a staff report dated May 4, 2000 recommending that the Board approve the establishment of one regular full-time Community Youth Worker at Renfrew Park Community Centre and one regular part-time Building Service Worker for Douglas Park Community Centre.

Rob Moretto, President, Renfrew Park Community Association stated that the Youth Worker position is strongly endorsed by his Board.

Andrea Little, Windermere Family Schools - Youth Coordinator stated that there was a need for a full-time Youth Worker, and asked the Board to support staff's recommendation.

Jitesh Rana, Board member, Collingwood Neighbourhood House, thanked the Board for considering a full-time Youth Worker position at Renfrew Park Community Centre. He felt the position funded by the Association was dependant on availability of funds, and was too unstable.

A number of youth who use Renfrew Park Community Centre appeared before the Board to emphasise the need for a youth worker.

Moved,

THAT the Board approve the establishment of one (1) regular full-time Community Youth Worker position for Renfrew Park Community Centre, and one (1) regular part-time Building Service Worker position for Douglas Park Community Centre, as described in Appendix I. The classification of these positions is subject to review by the General Manager of Human Resources.

- Carried Unanimously.

Dogs Off-Leash Program

Board members received copies of a staff report dated April 17, 2000 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A to D.

Jean Scribner, President, Douglas Park stated that a survey of the neighbourhood should have been done before designating an off-leash area. She is also worried about the liability issue. She asked the Board to provide enforcement where it is needed so that the off-leash program does not take away the park from other users.

A staff presentation was made by Bill Manning, Manager of Operations, Queen Elizabeth District. The off-leash program was created after many people requested that the Park Board establish off-leash areas for their dogs. The pilot project was conducted on four parks which eventually led to the establishment of off-leash areas in twenty nine parks. There was a number of complaints with one of the off-leash locations. Staff are recommending an alternate location in Vanier Park to respond to the concerns raised.

Elizabeth Gram, Kits Point Residents Association stated that no one was aware that this report was before the Board. She asked the Board to defer the matter so that their membership may have an opportunity to review the report. Ms. Gram stated that she was not aware of any request from the community to move the present off-leash area at Vanier Park

Ann Bonnycastle stated that dog owners ignoring the leash bylaw is creating a lot of problems. She presented a petition to the Board signed by people who were displeased with unleashed dogs running out of control and scaring children. She also referred to a letter from the Vancouver Richmond Health Board expressing concern with regard to the excess amount of faeces and the possibility of the spread of rabies. Ms. Bonnycastle stated that the leash bylaw must be enforced.

Glen Swain, Vancouver Dogs Owners Association stated that she was against recommendation C. Ms. Swain stated that dog owners should have been consulted first.

Korky Day stated that he supports staff recommendations and asked the Board to increase enforcement of the leash bylaw.

Colin Stark, a Park Board caretaker stated that there is a need for increased enforcement of the leash bylaw.

John Leith coach of minor baseball at Nanaimo Park stated that dogs were destroying the sports fields. Nanaimo Park is not an off-leash park. He asked for enforcement in the park and was against recommendation D as he felt that the dogs should not be allowed on the sports fields

at all as they cause too much damage.

Moved,

- A. THAT the Board support the Council report from the Community Services Group requesting funding to increase the enforcement capability of the City Pound.
- B. THAT the Board maintain the current twenty-nine (29) off-leash locations and consider changes on an annual basis with Community input.
- C. THAT the Board move the off-leash area in Vanier Park from the area west of the Maritime Museum to the area north of the boat launch.
- D. THAT the Board approve ongoing use of Balaclava Park as an off-leash location on the condition that no dogs be permitted on the designated sports fields during the months of April, May and June.

Board members discussed the matter and agreed that recommendation C be deferred. Staff are requested to strike a task force with the Vancouver Dog Owners Association, Kits Point Residents Association and appropriate community associations to address the concerns raised by the delegations.

A vote was taken on recommendations A, B and D and it was **Carried Unanimously**.

Moved,

THAT the Board consider, with community consultation, to designate Grandview Park as an off-leash park.

-DEFEATED(TIE VOTE)

(Commissioners De Genova, Hansen and Wilson contrary)

Host City for 2002 Communities in Bloom Awards Ceremony

Board members received copies of a staff report dated April 14, 2000 recommending that the Board support a bid to host the 2002 Communities in Bloom Awards Ceremony in

Vancouver and that the Board request City Council support the bid by providing a \$20,000 grant from the Standing Committee on Economic Development.

Moved,

- A. **THAT the Board support a bid to host the 2002 Communities in Bloom Awards Ceremony in Vancouver.**
- B. **THAT the Board request City Council support the bid by providing a \$20,000 grant from the Standing Committee on Economic Development.**

- Carried Unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS AND ENQUIRIES

Youth Week

Staff was commended for organizing Youth Week. It was a very well organized event and the youth were excited with the plans for the Skateboard Park at Hastings Park.

Letter from Ann Miller

There was an enquiry on whether the issues brought up by Ann Miller were addressed regarding Slocan Park. The General Manager advised the Board that staff have been in contact with Ms. Miller to resolve her concerns, and the General Manager will investigate safety issues regarding the storage of chemicals.

Notice of Motion

The following motion was put forward for the meeting of the Board to be held on

Monday, May 29, 2000:

Resolved,

THAT the Board formally register its strong disapproval of Commissioner Cassells' action in the e-mail to Ms. Nora Francis.

THAT Commissioner Cassells be requested to take remedial action by giving a clear indication that she does not regard the type of message which she sent to Ms. Nora Francis as appropriate for one in public service to address a resident taxpayer.

THAT Commissioner Cassells be urged to avoid such conduct in the future.

THAT it is the Board's belief that, when communicating with all persons, all Commissioners must display the highest level of respect, dignity and professionalism expected of elected officials.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Susan Mundick
General Manager

Commissioner Duncan Wilson
Chair