

**MINUTES OF MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
HELD IN THE PARK BOARD OFFICE
ON MONDAY, APRIL 22, 2002**

PRESENT:	Chair	- Clarence Hansen
	Vice-Chair	- Allan De Genova
	Commissioners	- Laura McDiarmid
		- Dianne Ledingham
		- Christopher Richardson
		- Duncan Wilson
	General Manager	- Susan Mundick
	Director of Planning & Operations	- Piet Rutgers
	Director of Stanley District	- Jim Lowden
	Director of Vancouver East District	- Lori Mackay
	Manager of Park Development	- Kate Davis-Johnson
	Manager of Communications	- Peter Cech
	Recorder	- Julie Casanova

Commissioner Cassells was absent due to illness.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Board held on Monday, April 08, 2002 were adopted as circulated.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair advised the Board that numerous calls were received from the public expressing their appreciation for the daffodils along the causeway. The Chair thanked staff and the anonymous donor for their efforts and contribution.

City Council Report

Council approved the global budget for the Park Board in the amount of \$46,952,800, including \$466,000 for added basic costs and a \$100,000 reduction target. A report will be provided to the Board at its May 6 meeting.

Council will be receiving a report on April 23, 2002 with regard to creating a sustainable city. This report was jointly prepared by Engineering, Planning and Park Board. A similar report will be provided to the Board.

The General Manager advised the Board that the Park Board corporate group Sun Run runners should be congratulated on their excellent performance. They were placed 8th among a group of 37 "Government" entries.

DELEGATIONS

Blair Qualey, Chair Vancouver Public Library, presented the One Book One Vancouver program. Vancouver is the first Canadian City with this program. The idea of the program is to have a reading club in the City of Vancouver. Mr. Qualey provided the Board members with a copy of The Jade Peony authored by Wayson Choy. Board members were invited to hear the author read selections from the book. The books were on loan and the Library would appreciate the book being returned to one of its branches in Vancouver.

Victory Square Park - Design Concept

Board members received copies of a staff report dated April 11, 2002 recommending that the Board approve the design concept for the redevelopment of Victory Square.

Staff along with the Heritage Consulting Team reviewed the design concept for Victory Square Park which addressed the needs of the Remembrance Day Committee, the neighbourhood and the heritage aspects of the park. The presence of a skateboard element in the park remains a contentious issue and will be resolved as the design development proceeds.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Richard Evans
- Constable Peter Alfred, Vancouver Police
- Constantine Pappas, Pappas Fur
- Lt. Col. Archie Steacy, Remembrance Day Observance Committee
- Ian MacRae, DERA
- Stan Langtry, Friends of Victory Square
- Rick Kozak, Chair, Fundraising Committee
- Munna Prasad
- Howe Lee, Chinese Canadian Veterans / Friends of Victory Square
- Joane Walter, Royal Canadian Legion / Friends of Victory Square
- Corey MacIntyre / Travis Cutler, Vancouver Skate Coalition
- Steve Travis, Chair, Friends of Victory Square
- Hon. Capt. Cameron Cathcart, B. C. Regiment Association

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

- in favour of staff's recommendation;
- significant step in regaining neighbourhood and war veterans memorial;
- park is now gradually being used by the public;
- area is in transition, more small business moving in;
- police are doing their best to recover the park,;
- the park can only be reclaimed if the park can be used;
- lighting project is significant help to improve the park;
- this park can be a good spot to add the skateboard feature;
- skateboard feature will increase healthy activity after dark;
- supports the lighting project and development of the park as a pedestrian link between Yaletown and Gastown;
- most unsafe memorial site in Canada;
- appreciate increased seating capacity for the Remembrance Day Ceremony;
- soldiers made supreme sacrifice for freedom;
- cenotaph is the touchstone of the park;
- plan to have Victory Square guard;
- plan programming on the park, such as tai chi;
- concerned with compatibility of skateboarding in the park due to safety issue;
- could be noisy for people who want to use the park for quiet time;
- skateboarding would be acceptable if skateboarders will stay confined to the skateboarding area;
- Victory Square is a jewel in the Downtown Eastside;
- will support anything that will help police do their job;
- working on fund-raising for the restoration of Victory Square;
- will continue to work on fund-raising activities such as sell benches and have a benefit concert by a well known artist;
- lighting must be toned down and be environmentally friendly;
- involved with revitalization of Chinatown and see the lighting of Victory Square as a vital part;
- cenotaph is important for the veterans;
- would like to see the park used by the young people;
- Royal Canadian Legion will assist in fund raising to make the cenotaph the best in Canada;
- still unable to find a park for skateboarding because of people's concerns;
- would like to be part of the community rather than be pushed to the end;
- only has two skateboard parks need more;
- not asking for a big area for skateboarding;

- would help police to get rid of the drug problem;
- skateboarding can become a positive part of the community not a negative;
- student body at Vancouver Community College are in support of the lighting of Victory Square;
- the College started the Community Policing Office for the safety of the students;

Moved by Commissioner De Genova,

THAT the Board approve the attached design concept for the redevelopment of Victory Square.

Board members discussed the matter and recognised the work put in by the community to make this project successful. Their fund raising concept of a concert in the park will raise awareness of the project. An amendment motion to establish a fund-raising task force was proposed.

Moved by Commissioner Wilson,

THAT the Board establish a Special Fund Raising Task Force for Victory Square with representation to include Commissioners, stakeholders and staff and that Commissioner De Genova be appointed as the liaison.

- Carried Unanimously.

The main motion as amended was put and it was Carried Unanimously.

Downtown South Park Phase 1 Construction Contract Award

Board members received copies of a staff report dated April 11, 2002 recommending that the Board approve the award of Tender to UCC Group Inc. to implement construction of Downtown South Park Phase 1.

Munna Prasad appeared before the Board and stated that although he was in support of the recommendation he would prefer the contract be given to a union shop.

Moved by Commissioner McDiarmid,

- A. THAT the Board approve the award of Tender T-2002-2, to UCC Group Inc for \$ 1,008,000 to implement construction of Downtown South Park Phase 1.**
- B. 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.

Eric Hamber Artificial Field - Consultant Contract

Board members received copies of a staff report dated April 12, 2002 recommending that the Board approve the award of the contract for consultant services for the Eric Hamber Artificial Field upgrade to Athletica Sport and Recreation Design Inc.

Munna Prasad appeared before the Board and stated that he supports the recommendation as the field will be heavily used.

Moved by Commissioner Ledingham,

- A. That the Board approve the award of the contract for consultant services for the Eric Hamber Artificial Field upgrade to Athletica Sport and Recreation Design, Inc. for the fee of \$33,000 and disbursements of \$2,000.**
- B. That no rights shall arise hereby, and none shall arise until the execution of the contemplated contract. The Board may rescind this resolution at any time up to the execution of the contemplated contract.**

- Carried Unanimously.

Anti Graffiti Strategy

Board members received copies of a staff report dated April 16, 2002 recommending that the Board endorse City Council's report outlining the City's anti graffiti strategy, including a request for a \$75,000 increase in 2002 and \$25,000 in 2003 Board budgets.

Staff reviewed the graffiti report and advised that graffiti has become a significant issue affecting both City and Park Board property. The report to Council outlines a multi pronged strategy to deal with this issue.

Munna Prasad appeared before the Board and stated that the Board should use staff rather than contract out for this program. He suggested that areas be provided where the graffiti artists could go to display their work. Graffiti is a city wide problem and the program should not be confined to particular areas.

Moved by Commissioner Wilson,

THAT the Board endorse the attached City Council report dated April 9, 2002, outlining the City's anti graffiti strategy, including a request for a \$75,000 increase in 2002 and \$25,000 in 2003 Board budgets.

- Carried Unanimously.

IN-CAMERA MEETING

Moved by Commissioner Richardson

THAT the Board later this evening go into a meeting which is closed to the public, pursuant to Section 165.2 of the Vancouver Charter, to discuss matters related to paragraph:

- 5. the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the Board considers that disclosure might reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the city.**

- Carried Unanimously.

Enquiries, Other Matters And New Business

Staff to check on a tree which fell on a bench on the east side of Kitsilano Beach pool.

There were workers at the new Mount Pleasant Community Centre site, staff to find out who they were.

The meeting adjourned at .10:15 p.m

Susan Mundick
General Manager

Commissioner Clarence Hansen
Chair