

**Minutes of Meeting
Planning and Environment Committee**

DATE OF MEETING: June 3, 2003

ATTENDEES:

Park Board Commissioners

Commissioner Eva Riccius, Chair
Commissioner Heather Deal
Commissioner Suzanne Anton
Commissioner Lyndsay Poaps
Commissioner Anita Romaniuk

Park Board Staff

Susan Mundick General Manager
Piet Rutgers Director of Planning and Operations
Mark Vulliamy Manager of Research and Planning
Alyson Thorpe Planning and Operations (Recording Secretary)

Delegations

Marilyn Bell Parkland is Sustainable and Supportable
Lisa Thompson Millennium Sport Facility Society
Michael Sanderson Millennium Sport Facility Society
Keith Jacobson Killarney Community Centre Society
Robert Haines Kitsilano War Memorial Community
 Association
Steve Bouchard Ray-Cam Cooperative Association
Alan Beaton Roundhouse Community Association
Walter Schultz Sunset Community Association
Ian Haywood-Farmer West End Community Association
 and VanDusen Gardens Association
Jim Lehto Douglas Park resident
Cory McIntyre TLCC/VSPC
Kath Klassen Strathcona resident
Bob Sarti Strathcona Parks Planning Committee
Susan Kurbis Strathcona resident
Oswaldo Godoy Multicultural Soccer Association
Muggs Sigurgeirson Carnegie Community Centre Association
Colin Metcalfe Vancouver Field Sport Association
Gavin Ross Mt. Pleasant Community Centre Association
Angela Monn Strathcona resident

SUBJECT: Planning and Environment Committee Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m.

Commissioner Eva Riccius welcomed all to the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee and the Commissioners introduced themselves.

The Agenda was presented as follows:

1. Financial Growth
2. Artificial Turf Proposed Planning Process

1. Financing Growth

Commissioner Riccius said the purpose was to get input from stakeholders and the public with regard to the recommendations the Park Board will make to City Council.

Piet Rutgers gave an introduction and presented slides detailing the recommendations (as per attached Appendix A) that are to be discussed by Council on June 10, 2003.

The Board heard from **Marilyn Bell, Lisa Thompson and Michael Sanderson, Keith Jacobson, Robert Haines, Steve Bouchard, Alan Beaton, Walter Schultz, Ian Haywood-Farmer, Jim Lehto, and Cory McIntyre**. The issues discussed were:

- clarification of C-9: Will DCL be used on the site it is collected from or used city-wide?
- support for buying land on the East side for parks
- minor change in the wording of B4 so as not to exclude the Millennium Sports Facility
- the CAC funds be spent in the community that is affected by the development
- CAC boundaries be drawn so that they are relevant to the development
- support for less restriction and more flexibility with regard to spending citywide DCL's
- a request for an increase in the amount allocated to childcare. Note: DCL's are for capital projects, not for ongoing expenses.
- an increase the DCL commercial rate
- If none of the recommendations are implemented, what happens?
- the average DCL in the Greater Vancouver Regional District is closer to \$7.50, Surrey is \$10.00, recommendation that the proposed increase be \$6.00
- it is essential that single family residential construction start contributing to community amenities
- VanDusen Issue - do we delay project and save the \$80,000 DCL as it is a city owned building, or can there be a short term stop gap measure until the charter is changed
- disagreement with B9. If there are eligible locations, money should be borrowed

- B12 agreement - uniform DCL
- C1 deletion of case by case basis, recommend a standard rate based on land acquisition
- C9 agree with CAC but have the flexibility to move around the city
- B9 support for not borrowing
- Will skateboard parks be included in park development?

After a lengthy discussion the Committee decided to recommend to the Park Board:

- approve G1, that is to keep current eligible facilities;
- amend the wording of B1 to say at least \$5.00;
- find a short term solution for the VanDusen and Millennium Sports city-owned Facilities with regard to B4;
- oppose the pay-as-you-go policy detailed in B9 and maintain a borrowing facility;
- make an amendment to C9 to increase the flexibility of CACs to be used city-wide;
- and endorse the other recommendations.

2. Artificial Turf Proposed Planning Process

Mark Vulliamy gave a presentation regarding the process to be followed prior to construction of synthetic turf playing fields at multiple sites in the city of Vancouver. A hand-out was circulated listing the sites and their ratings on various criteria. Phase I was proposed with investigation of two sites on the east side, two on the west side and a double field in the central area of the city.

Commissioner Poaps inquired into the rating of Killarney. Commissioner Anton expressed concern regarding the 2005 opening date. Commissioner Deal requested a city-wide consultation process with 6 neighbourhoods, not just the 3 that were identified. Commissioner Romaniuk agreed with a city-wide process and noted that it seemed the south side sites had been dropped. Commissioner Anton pointed out that the southeast section of the city was the missing piece.

The Board heard from **Kath Klassen, Bob Sarti, Susan Kurbis, Oswaldo Godoy, Muggs Sigurgeirson, Colin Metcalfe, Gavin Ross, and Cory McIntyre**. The issues discussed were:

- Many Strathcona Park residents oppose the construction of an artificial turf field at the Trillium site; they feel they have already been through the process twice and do not wish to go through it again. As there is already a City Works Yard being built there, it would be constant construction.
- The APRA report recommended playing fields; however, this was not requested by the Strathcona community.
- It was suggested that the Board ask which community would accept an artificial turf field..
- The neighbourhoods were not included in the developing of the list of proposed sites and the Strathcona residents object to being on the fast track.

- The issue was raised that there are insufficient fields to play on in Vancouver, it is necessary to go to Burnaby. Since there are already not enough fields for the men of the Multicultural Soccer Association, it has not been possible to organize a women's league or children's league.
- Strathcona neighbourhood is already meeting the need of sports fields. It was suggested that the playing fields be placed in an area where there were no playing fields at all.
- A process that contains predetermined terms is not what the Strathcona Community wants.
- There is a desperate need for playing fields in the City; the sports community feel they have been waiting a long time for sufficient fields.
- The issue of natural grass being superior to artificial turf was presented. Most soccer players would not want to play soccer on artificial turf.
- The Strathcona site has trees and wildlife, it is not the same as the rest of the fields.
- Is there a chance for a BMX facility?

Commissioner Anton submitted that the Board was not deciding on the merits of an individual site at this point, it was deciding on a public process to follow. Also that the debate was not unique to the Strathcona neighbourhood.. Commission Riccius reiterated that the process is a place to start a conversation, to bring the broader questions to the city of Vancouver residents. Commissioner Poaps pointed out to the Strathcona residents that it is important to work with sports groups and to identify what sectors of the city are deficient in facilities. The Commissioners were unanimous in there decision regarding a global city-wide process. Commissioner Poaps suggested visuals of the lighting be made available. Commissioner Deal suggested that it be made clear where the six choices came from.

Staff to report back with a suggested city-wide process.

CONCLUSION

Commissioner Riccius thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and putting forth their ideas and comments.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 p.m.