

**MINUTES OF MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
HELD AT THE PARK BOARD OFFICE
ON MONDAY, MARCH 08, 2004**

PRESENT:	Chair	- Anita Romaniuk
	Vice-Chair	- Loretta Woodcock
	Commissioners	- Suzanne Anton
		- Allan De Genova
		- Eva Riccius
	General Manager	- Susan Mundick
	Director of Planning & Operations	- Piet Rutgers
	Director of Vancouver East District	- Lori MacKay
	Director of Stanley District	- Jim Lowden
	Director of Corporate Services	- Anita Ho
	Manager of Recreation Services - Stanley District	- Terry Walton
	Manager of Recreation Services - Queen Elizabeth District	- Diane Murphy
	Manager of Communications	- Joyce Courtney
	Recorder	- Julie Casanova

The Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 5:45 P.M.

Moved by Commissioner De Genova.,

THAT the Board later this evening go into a meeting which is closed to the public, pursuant to Section 165.2 (1) of the *Vancouver Charter*, to discuss matters related to paragraph:

(e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if hte Council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the city;

(g) litigation or potential litigation affecting the city;

- Carried Unanimously.

In-Camera Session

The Board reconvened the regular Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

At the commencement of the meeting, a member of the Board called a point of order with regard to the adjournment of the previous meeting of the Board held on Monday, March 8, 2004 and stated that the previous meeting was not concluded and tonight's meeting is a continuation of that meeting. The Chair ruled against the point of order and proceeded with the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Board held on Monday, February 23, 2004 were adopted as circulated.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Board participated in the following events:

- meeting with Mr. Berger to discuss the role of the Park Board;
- ideas fair and stakeholders' meeting regarding Hastings Park / PNE;
- sod turning for the new Millennium Sport Facility;
- opening of the renovated False Creek Community Centre;

Commissioner Anton wished to be recorded that she did not attend the meeting with Mr. Berger.

Finance Committee : discussed the 2004 operating budget and ice rink fees at the last meeting. The next meeting will be on Monday, March 15, 2004 and items on the agenda are ethical purchasing and 2004 operating budget.

Planning and Environment Committee: discussed the issue of having fare boxes on the Stanley Park Shuttle to collect donations for the Stanley Park Ecology Society and concluded that it was not feasible at this time and generated some other interesting ideas for fundraising. The committee heard from representatives of the VanDusen Botanical Gardens with regard to their long term plan and Evergreen presented their plans for native planting in the city. The next meeting on April 6 may be changed due to a conflict. Check the website for updates.

Culture and Recreation Committee : meeting on March 3 was cancelled.

City Council Report : Council will be receiving a report on the 2004 Operating Budget at its meeting on Tuesday, March 9 and Reports Deferred to the 2004 Operating Budget report with regard to Pesticide Use on Private Property Program will be on the City Services and Budgets Committee on Thursday, March 11. The Planning and Environment Committee of Council will be discussing the South East False Creek Proposal on Thursday, March 11.

The Chair announced that the next regular meeting of the Board on Monday, March 22 will be held at West Point Grey Community Centre.

STAFF REPORTS

False Creek Community Centre

Board members received copies of a staff report dated February 26, 2004 recommending that the Board approve the additional renovation work and the return of surplus funding to the funding partners as detailed in this report.

Staff advised the Board that the renovation project at False Creek Community Centre was near completion. Staff has now brought a report back on the disposition of surplus funding for this project as per the Board's request. There was a request from the Community Association for further improvements with the surplus funds. After reviewing the requests it was determined that improvements to the Captain Richards room and the installation of security cameras will be completed as part of the project. The remaining funds will be returned as follows: The Park Board allocation was returned to the Major Maintenance capital account. The City funds would be returned to the City's CAC account and the Association will not be billed for their share of unspent funds.

Patrick Couling, President, False Creek Community Centre Association appeared before the Board and stated that CAC money should be reserved for child care as previously intended and should not go back into general revenue. The Association would like to replace the windows and would like the Board to assist them by allocating funds for the replacement. They would also like to replace the upstairs floor and to secure the front desk area which is vulnerable to theft and is a safety hazard for staff.

Board members congratulated staff on the newly renovated centre and for coming under budget, with cost escalation on construction projects, every dollar counts. They agreed that the Captain Richards room needed to be completed, however the Association was advised that replacement of the windows would be included as one of the items on the energy efficiency project. Staff was asked to examine the security situation and identify a remedy.

Moved by Commissioner Riccius,

THAT the Board approve the additional renovation work and the return of surplus funding to the funding partners as detailed in this report.

- Carried Unanimously.

Ice Allocation Policy - Financial Sustainability

Board members received copies of a staff report dated March 2, 2004 recommending that the Board approve the changes to Ice Rink Fees and Charges Schedule as listed in the report.

Staff presented the Ice Allocation Task Force's analysis on the current financial and ice allocation policies. The analysis was conducted by reviewing the fees and charges schedule for rinks, best financial practices from other cities and identifying and evaluating possible revenue generation options. The Task Force's recommendations focused on the Board's principles behind the fees and charges and economic access policies.

Kim Hogan and Helsa Nothof, Rink Task Force members stated that the task force recognized the need for a fee increase and to review the programs offered by the Park Board and the community centre associations. The facilities would need to be upgraded to be competitive with newer rinks.

Moved by Commissioner Riccius,

THAT the Board approve the changes to Ice Rink Fees and Charges Schedule:

- A. Increase the minor sport rate by 15% over a two year period - 10% plus inflationary increase for 2004/2005 and a 5% plus inflationary increase for 2005/2006.**
- B. Introduce a new children/youth rate at 50% of the adult rate for private youth rentals, sport camps and minor sport ice rentals which are beyond the sport's entitlement as per the Allocation Policy.**
- C. Eliminate the discounted rates for adult participants; charge user groups the applicable adult rental rate or minor sport rental rate.**
- D. Roll back by one hour the designation for prime time to start at 5:30 p.m. weeknights and 7:30 a.m. weekends over a three year period starting with a ½ hour roll back in 2004, followed by another ½ hour roll back in 2006.**

Board members thanked the Rink Task Force for their work in putting together the recommendations. The Board is reluctant to raise user fees, however, it seems that the rinks are already being subsidised by over a million dollars. The Board was assured that provisions would be made to accommodate those who are unable to afford the increased fees. A member of the Board requested that the motion be amended to request staff to report back on the impact of the increased fees.

Moved by Commissioner Riccius,

THAT staff bring a report back to the Board at the end of the 2004/05 season on the rate of ice rink use and the impact of increased fees.

- Carried Unanimously.

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

2004 Operating Budget

Board members received copies of a staff report dated March 1, 2004 recommending that the Board receive for information the City 2004 Operating Budget interim Estimates Report which includes the proposed 2004 Park Board Basic and Added Basic Budgets.

Staff advised the Board that Council will be reviewing the 2004 Operating Budget - Interim Estimates at its meeting on Tuesday, March 9, 2004. Council is being asked to approve various recommendations, one of them is to approve the global budget for Park Board.

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock,

THAT the Board receive for information the City 2004 Operating Budget Interim Estimates Report, which includes the proposed 2004 Park Board Basic and Added Basic Budgets.

Board members discussed the various options being presented to Council and indicated that Council should be advised of the Board's preference.

Moved by Commissioner Riccius,

THAT the Board recommend to Council to accept Recommendations A and B(i) as the first preference and B (ii) as the second preference, as stated in the Administrative Report dated February 20, 2004.

- Carried.

(Commissioners Anton and De Genova contrary)

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

Audubon Sanctuary Certification for Fraserview, Langara and McCleery Golf Courses

Board members received copies of a staff report dated February 23, 2004 recommending that the report be received for information.

Staff advised the Board that the strategic plan identifies Environmental Stewardship as a key area, staff have been involved in the process of having Vancouver's three major municipal golf courses recognized as certified properties by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary system of Canada. The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary system of Canada is a national, non-profit, environmental organization, dedicated to enhancing and protecting wildlife and their habitats, and promoting environmental quality through education, research and stewardship action. In order to become fully certified, golf courses are required to plan, implement and document efforts in the following six environmental quality areas, Resource Inventory and Environmental Plan, Wildlife and Habitat Management, Integrated Pest Management, Water Conservation, Water Quality Management and Outreach and Education.

Board members thanked staff from all three golf course who were present at the meeting for the hard work and dedication to achieve this certification. Board members hoped that this will be an example for other private and municipal golf courses to follow.

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock,

THAT the Board receive the report dated February 23, 2004 with regard to the Audubon Sanctuary Certification for Fraserview, Langara and McCleery Golf Courses for information.

- Carried Unanimously.

Child Care Protocol

Board members received copies of a staff report dated February 26, 2004 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A to C.

Staff outlined the joint approach by the City of Vancouver, the School Board and Park Board to set out a framework for childhood education and care services. The Child Care Protocol provides guidance and direction toward the goal of improved policy coordination and integration. The Joint Council on Child Care will develop and implement strategies to assist in the maintenance and expansion of licensed public child care in Vancouver.

Board members discussed the matter and stated that child care was an important issue and the protocol will be beneficial to the children. There was a concern that childcare facilities may be built on park space. Staff advised the Board that the child care policies and guidelines adopted by the Board will govern the implementation of the child care protocol. Staff was requested to attach the Board policy as an appendix to the staff report.

Moved by Commissioner Riccius,

- A. **THAT the Board approve and adopt the attached Protocol, (APPENDIX I) and instruct staff to work with the City of Vancouver and the Vancouver School Board to carry out the actions set out in the protocol;**
- B. **THAT the Board appoint one Park Board Commissioner to the Joint Council on Child Care;**
- C. **THAT the Board advise the operators of all childcare services located on parks and in community centres, about the Child Care Protocol.**

- Carried Unanimously.

Enquiries, Other Matters And New Business

Hastings Park Visioning Process : Staff advised the Board that following the Steering Committee on Wednesday, March 10, a date will be set to brief the Board on the Hastings Park Visioning Process.

Water Conservation : A member of the Board requested to add Water Conservation to the agenda of an upcoming Planning and Environment Committee meeting.

Running Track : There was a request for the Planning and Environment Committee to hear a delegation with regard to the development of a running track.

37th and Oak Parksite : There is a lot of interest to use the parksite at 37th and Oak by various groups. The Chair of the Planning and Environment Committee suggested that all request be sent to her and a meeting will be set to hear from everyone.

East Fraserlands : There will be a staff briefing on the East Fraserlands on Monday, March 29, 2004.

Special Board Meeting : There will be a Special Meeting on Tuesday, March 30, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. in the Park Board Office.

Motions

Moved by Commissioner Riccius,

WHEREAS the Park Board has advocated strongly for the creation of public waterfront access at the Eburne Lands; and,

WHEREAS the City's Greenways Plan seeks to create a continuous Fraser River Trail at or near the waterfront consistent with the Greater Vancouver Regional District's Recreational Greenways Plan; and,

WHEREAS the Marpole area is park deficient; and,

WHEREAS the City's Financing Growth Strategy identifies close to \$200 million of future parkland acquisition to keep pace with population growth over the next two decades; and,

WHEREAS TransLink has agreed to provide \$1,041,250 in lieu of park provision;

Be it resolved that

The Park Board request City Council to place these funds in a reserve account for uses that include the acquisition and/or development of parkland in Marpole and/or along the Fraser River.

And a member of the Board expressed concern that having the option of a park along the Fraser River was too vague and that it should be specific that a park site be found in the Marpole area.

The motion was put and it was Carried.
(Commissioner Anton contrary)

Moved by Commissioner Anton,

Whereas

Electoral reform in the City of Vancouver has the potential of having a profound effect on the relationship between the Vancouver Park Board and its community partners, such as the community associations;

Electoral reform furthermore has the potential of having a profound effect on the relationship between the Vancouver Park Board and the citizens of Vancouver;

This Board is committed to openness and transparency;

On February 20, 2004 this Board conducted a private meeting between Mr. Berger of the Electoral Reform Commission, his counsel and board members and staff;

Any advice given by Mr. Berger and his counsel should be heard by both the community partners of the Park Board and by members of the public;

Good information is necessary for an informed debate;

Therefore it is resolved that

This Board request that Mr. Berger come to or arrange a public meeting to which the community partners of the Park Board and members of the public are invited so that those partners and citizens may have the information necessary for them to enter into an informed debate on the subject of electoral reform and the Vancouver Park Board.

A member of the Board suggested that there is a lack of debate on electoral reform in the community. The Board should have invited members of the community associations to the meeting. The public needs to know how this could impact the way the Park Board does its business.

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock,

THAT the sentence from “*request that Mr. Berger come to or arrange a public meeting to which the community partners of the Park Board and members of the public are invited*” be deleted and replaced with “*encourage its community partners to participate in the public meetings*”

- Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Anton,

THAT this Board request that Mr. Berger come to or arrange a public meeting to which the community partners of the Park Board and members of the public are invited so that those partners and citizens may have the information necessary for them to enter into an informed debate on the subject of electoral reform and the Vancouver Park Board.

- DEFEATED.

(Commissioners De Genova, Riccius, Romaniuk and Woodcock contrary)

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock,

THAT the following three Whereas be deleted.

Whereas:

on February 20, 2004 this Board conducted a private meeting between Mr. Berger of the Electoral Reform Commission, his counsel and board members and staff;

any advice given by Mr. Berger and his counsel should be heard by both the community partners of the Park Board and by members of the public;

good information is necessary for an informed debate.

- Carried.

(Commissioner Anton contrary)

The amended motion was put as follows:

Whereas

Electoral reform in the City of Vancouver has the potential of having a profound effect on the relationship between the Vancouver Park Board and its community partners, such as the community associations;

Electoral reform furthermore has the potential of having a profound effect on the relationship between the Vancouver Park Board and the citizens of Vancouver;

This Board is committed to openness and transparency;

Be It Resolved that :

THAT this Board encourage its community partners to participate in the public meetings so that those partners and citizens may have the information necessary for them to enter into an informed debate on the subject of electoral reform and the Vancouver Park Board.

- Carried.

(Commissioner Anton contrary)

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

Susan Mundick
General Manager

Commissioner Anita Romaniuk
Chair