

**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Culture and Recreation Committee, Vancouver Park Board**  
**2099 Beach Avenue, Vancouver**

**DATE OF MEETING:** June 9, 2004

**ATTENDEES: Park Board Commissioners**  
Commissioner Lyndsay Poaps  
Commissioner Heather Deal  
Commissioner Anita Romaniuk  
Commissioner Loretta Woodcock

**Park Board Staff**

Liane McKenna	Director of Queen Elizabeth District
Lori MacKay	Director of Vancouver East District
Diane Murphy	Manager of Recreation Services
Terry Walton	Manager of Recreation Services
Philip Josephs	Manager of Revenue Services
Barbara Joughin	Recorder of Minutes

**Delegations**

Nancy Hall	CirKids
Rick Downe	CirKids

**Guests**

Gord Plottel	Co-Chair Joint Operating Agreement Task Force
Ingrid Alderson	Joint Operating Agreement Task Force; President Roundhouse Community Centre Association

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 p.m.

**1. CirKids Presentation**

Nancy Hall introduced the CirKids program to the Committee. Founded in 1984, CirKids is a performing arts school for kids 5 - 18 years old, now located in the Garden Auditorium at Hastings Park. Its goal is to develop self confidence through progressive mastery of circus skills. It is a non-competitive performance training program that teaches values of excellence, teamwork, and community service. The organization is currently focusing on outreach and partnership development in order to meet several goals:

- establish a performing arts school at Hastings Park
- expand bursary program
- increase community partnerships
- develop capacity as an Olympic training site

A member of the Committee asked the delegation if they had any concerns about pending changes at Hastings Park. The delegation told the Committee that they have been able to do much more with their program since moving to Hastings Park, and want to stay in this location. They noted that their program draws people into the park and the group agreed that this is a positive factor. In addition, a lack of disabled access creates limitations to their program, and there are other non-code compliance issues with the building itself.

The delegation invited the Committee members to attend their performance at the July 1 celebration event in Hastings Park. Commissioner Poaps thanked the delegation for informing the Committee about what they are doing.

## **2. Joint Operating Agreement:**

Staff provided the Committee with a summary of the activities carried out by the Joint Operating Agreement Task Force since their April 7, 2004 presentation to the Culture and Recreation Committee. There has been very positive feedback on the format of the “Renewing the Partnership” report, and although consultation session results have not yet been compiled, they show very thoughtful comments and rich data. Staff reiterated that this process will not yield individual agreements, and advised the Committee that implementation will be phased in slowly, following the Board’s decision and agreement review and development by Legal Services.

The Culture and Recreation Committee members were asked to give feedback on the process and its results. The following is a summary of comments made by the Committee members:

- S create a consistent fiscal year
- S define core Park Board contributions; develop eligibility criteria for subsidies
- S concern about the implications of independent model for staff and the impact on interview protocol; possibility of staff resistance, insecurity; question about transferability
- S concern about staff workload of negotiating 23 agreements with Community Centres (CC’s)
- S consider how internal Park Board structures may change with new agreements
- S like including the option of continuing with existing model but with clear agreement definition and the addition of an expiry date
- S conservation will be encouraged if CC’s are independently responsible for facility maintenance expenses that are currently subsidized by the Park Board
- S standardized training and standardized criteria for governance will help encourage community representation
- S be sensitive to the awareness and comfort level of all stakeholder groups
- S allay people’s fears of change and loss

Staff and Committee members discussed issues related to:

- human resource management - maintaining collective agreements; ensuring proper policies and procedures are in place
- independent CC Associations - demonstrated ability for operational independence; the continuing elected Park Board role of protecting public interest
- contract management - the importance of improved agreement definition; term options; including a review process and an expiry date in the contract

Commissioner Poaps thanked the Task Force delegation for their commitment and good work.

### Action:

1. Staff will provide the Committee with a summary of the feedback and comments that were collected during the outreach phase.
2. Staff will bring recommendations back to the Culture and Recreation Committee before presenting the final report to the Board.

## **3. Canada Day 2005 - Car Free Day in Stanley Park:**

Terry Walton introduced the idea of a car-free day in Stanley Park that would provide an opportunity for a public experience of Stanley Park without automobile traffic, and encourage

and promote public use of alternative forms of transportation in Stanley Park. Terry described a 2002 residents survey that showed general support for the concept from Vancouver residents, and identified key issues and barriers to participation and success.

Staff outlined several different factors to consider for a successful car-free event. The key barrier is difficult non-vehicle access to and within Stanley Park. The importance of providing easy alternative modes of travel to get to the park was acknowledged, and different opportunities for partnerships were suggested. A key challenge will be encouraging people to visit the park on a car-free day, and the group agreed that the event must incorporate a celebration or special event element that will draw people into the park without their vehicles. The Committee explored different ideas and the related issues of staging a special event program in the park, and agreed that a total rather than a partial park closure was the goal. Staff highlighted the need to address and minimize potential negative impacts on visitation to the commercial facilities in the park, who rely on automobile access for their customer base. There is also an associated loss in parking revenues, which can be up to \$20,000/day in summer.

Action:

Staff will explore program and partnership opportunities, and bring a proposal to the Culture and Recreation Committee.

**4. 8 Planets Plus 1 - Special Event Proposal:**

Terry Walton told the Committee about a touring light show that features eleven very large (500 lbs each; 36' - 52' diameter) inflatable plastic globes, representing the planets and the solar system. Starting in spring 2004, the exhibition is touring to 10 cities in the world, including: London, Paris, Shanghai, Naples, St. Petersburg, and New York. Each globe sits on a 34 square ft x 10 ft high illuminated stage. The spheres are lit from within, and are illuminated for 24 hrs/day during the 10 day exhibition. The show is protected by 24 hour security provided by the promoter. It is a free event, but the \$10,000 / planet is paid for by sponsorships. The promoter is asking the Park Board for permission to install:

- the "Sun" globe in Vanier Park during an astronomy conference October 2 - 9, 2004
- the whole system in Coal Harbour Park for 10 days in September 2005

Staff expressed concern about the size of the individual spheres and potential local residents' response to living with large illuminated view blockers for 10 days. The Committee responded very positively to the concept in general but questioned the project's energy consumption and educational values and components.

Action:

Staff will discuss concerns about the project's potential impacts, alternate locations, energy consumption, and educational values with the promoter.

**5. Approval of May 5, 2004 Minutes:**

The minutes of the May 5, 2004 Culture and Recreation Committee meeting were adopted as presented (moved by C. Deal, seconded by C. Poaps, all in favour).

**6. Next Meeting:**

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 pm. The next Culture and Recreation Committee meeting is scheduled for July 7, 2004, at 7:00 pm, at Killarney Community Centre.