

**MINUTES OF MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
HELD AT THE PARK BOARD OFFICE
ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2005**

PRESENT:	Chair	- Eva Riccius
	Vice Chair	- Lyndsay Poaps
	Commissioners	- Suzanne Anton
		- Heather Deal
		- Allan De Genova
		- Anita Romaniuk
		- Loretta Woodcock
	General Manager	- Susan Mundick
	Director of Planning and Operations	- Piet Rutgers
	Director of Queen Elizabeth District	- Liane McKenna
	Director of Stanley District	- Jim Lowden
	Manager of Operations, Queen Elizabeth District	- Bill Manning
	Research Planner	- Michel Desrochers
	Manager of Communications	- Joyce Courtney
	Recorder	- Julie Casanova

In-Camera Meeting

Moved by Commissioner Poaps,

THAT the Board 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:

(g) litigation or potential litigation affecting the city.

- Carried Unanimously.

**In-Camera Session adjourned at 6:50 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting Reconvened at 7:00 p.m.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Board held on Monday, October 17, 2005 were adopted as circulated.

The minutes of the special meeting of the Board held on Monday, October 24, 2005 were adopted as circulated.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair advised that members of the Board participated in the following events:

- opening of the new Millennium Sports Facility;
- opening of the redeveloped Kingcrest Park;
- opening of the Sculpture Biennale;
- the Tree Tales contest at Queen Elizabeth Park.

Culture and Recreation Committee: no meeting in the month of November.

Planning and Environment Committee: no meeting in the month of November.

Finance Committee: no meeting in the month of November, public are invited to respond to 2006 budget information on our website.

Council Report

Council will be receiving the following reports:

- Olympic Handover and Countdown Celebrations, February 2006 and Community Tourism Program
- Adoption of the Arbutus Ridge/Kerrisdale/Shaugnessy and Riley Park/South Cambie Community Visions

PRESENTATION

Go Play! Campaign

Staff reviewed the background and the development of marketing and promotional tools to launch the Go Play! Campaign. This campaign which encourages residents to become active and use our facilities will continue to 2006.

STAFF REPORTS

Aquatic Services Renewal Plan Update

Board members received copies of a staff report dated October 20, 2005 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A to C.

Staff provided an update on the Aquatic Services Plan as requested by the Board at its meeting on September 19, 2005 by responding to each of the resolutions.

Margery Duda, Mount Pleasant Pool Committee appeared before the Board and stated that she was concerned that the report did not address a plan to operate the Mount Pleasant pool beyond 2007.

Moved by Commissioner Romaniuk,

- A. THAT the Mount Pleasant and Sunset Outdoor Pools continue to be operated through the 2006 and 2007 summer seasons, as long as no extraordinary additional costs are incurred in doing so;
- B. THAT continued operation of one or both of the pools for the 2008 season and beyond be reviewed with reference to the following considerations:
 - the state of readiness of the new Mount Pleasant and Sunset Community Centres;
 - the cost and benefits associated with re-development of either pool once the community centres have been relocated;
 - the outcome of a public consultation process in the Sunset Community;
 - the availability of externally-derived capital funds, possibly matchable with allocation to the re-development project(s) in the 2009 – 2011 Capital Plan cycle;
 - the impact on overall patronage by the renewed pools at Killarney and Renfrew;
 - the distribution of public pools throughout the city.
- C. THAT staff be directed to report back to the Board, with recommendations arising from this review, on or before March 2007.

Board members felt that staff recommendation B did not address the question regarding keeping the Mount Pleasant and Sunset Pools open beyond 2008. A member of the Board proposed an amendment to the motion.

Moved by Commissioner Romaniuk,

THAT recommendation B and C be deleted and replaced with the following including a new D:

- B. That the Board plan for the continued operation of one or both of the pools for the 2008 season and beyond, taking into consideration the following:
 - the state of readiness of the new Mount Pleasant and Sunset Community Centres

- the outcome of a public consultation process in the Sunset Community;
 - the distribution of public outdoor pools throughout the city
 - the commitment by the Mount Pleasant community to immediately begin fundraising towards building a new outdoor pool in the current location, with the assistance of Park Board staff in providing financial and technical information to support the fundraising efforts, with the proviso that any financial contribution from the Park Board would not likely be available until the 2009-11 Capital Plan at the earliest
 - the availability of operating funds to keep the existing Mount Pleasant pool operating after the community centre has been re-located, until such time as funding can be secured to build a new outdoor pool, or the existing pool becomes inoperable
 - should the consultation process in the Sunset Community identify retaining an outdoor pool in that location as a priority, the availability of operating funds to extend the life of the current pool, and identification of capital funding to build a replacement pool.
- C. That staff be directed to meet with representatives of the Mount Pleasant community to consult on fundraising for a new outdoor pool, with the initial meeting to take place no later than January 31, 2006.
- D. That staff be directed to report back to the Board with recommendations with respect to the considerations in Part B, on or before March, 2007.

Board members discussed the amendment motion and stated that the motion needed to be specific in its direction to staff regarding the retention of a pool at Mount Pleasant. An amendment to the amendment was proposed.

Moved by Commissioner Poaps,

THAT recommendation B in the amendment be replaced with the following:

B. THAT the Mount Pleasant outdoor pool be retained at the Mount Pleasant site.

THAT recommendation B will now be changed to recommendation C and change recommendation C to D.

- Carried Unanimously.

Amendment Recommendation C was put forward as follows:

- C. That the board plan for the continued operation of one or both of the pools for the 2008 season and beyond, taking into consideration the following:**
- the state of readiness of the new Mount Pleasant and Sunset Community Centres;
 - the outcome of a public consultation process in the Sunset Community;
 - the distribution of public outdoor pools throughout the city;
 - the commitment by the Mount Pleasant community to immediately begin fundraising towards building a new outdoor pool in the current location, with the assistance of Park Board staff in providing financial and technical information to support the fundraising efforts, with the proviso that any financial contribution from the Park Board would not likely be available until the 2009-11 Capital Plan at the earliest;
 - the availability of operating funds to keep the existing Mount Pleasant pool operating after the community centre has been re-located, until such time as funding can be secured to build a new outdoor pool, or the existing pool becomes inoperable;
 - should the consultation process in the Sunset Community identify retaining an outdoor pool in that location as a priority, the availability of operating funds to extend the life of the current pool, and identification of capital funding to build a replacement pool.

- Carried.

(Commissioner Anton contrary)

Amendment Recommendation D was put forward as follows:

- D. THAT staff be directed to meet with representatives of the Mount Pleasant community to consult on fundraising for a new outdoor pool, with the initial meeting to take place no later than January 31, 2006.**

- Carried Unanimously.

Amendment Recommendation E was put forward as follows:

- E. THAT staff be directed to report back to the Board with recommendations with respect to the consideration in Part C, on or before March, 2007.**

- Carried Unanimously.

The main motion as amended was put forward:

- A. THAT the Mount Pleasant and Sunset Outdoor Pools continue to be operated through the 2006 and 2007 summer seasons, as long as no extraordinary additional costs are incurred in doing so;**
- B. THAT the Mount Pleasant outdoor pool be retained at the Mount Pleasant site;**
- C. That the Board plan for the continued operation of one or both of the pools for the 2008 season and beyond, taking into consideration the following:**
- the state of readiness of the new Mount Pleasant and Sunset Community Centres;**
 - the outcome of a public consultation process in the Sunset Community;**
 - the distribution of public outdoor pools throughout the city;**
 - the commitment by the Mount Pleasant community to immediately begin fundraising towards building a new outdoor pool in the current location, with the assistance of Park Board staff in providing financial and technical information to support the fundraising efforts, with the proviso that any financial contribution from the Park Board would not likely be available until the 2009-11 Capital Plan at the earliest;**
 - the availability of operating funds to keep the existing Mount Pleasant pool operating after the community centre has been re-located, until such time as funding can be secured to build a new outdoor pool, or the existing pool becomes inoperable;**
 - should the consultation process in the Sunset Community identify retaining an outdoor pool in that location as a priority, the availability of operating funds to extend the life of the current pool, and identification of capital funding to build a replacement pool.**

- D. THAT staff be directed to meet with representatives of the Mount Pleasant community to consult on fundraising for a new outdoor pool, with the initial meeting to take place no later than January 31, 2006.**
- E. THAT staff be directed to report back to the Board with recommendations with respect to the consideration in Part C, on or before March, 2007.**

- Carried Unanimously.

Skateboard Strategy for Vancouver

Board members received copies of a staff report dated October 20, 2005 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A and B.

Staff presented the skateboard strategy with recommendations on an action plan for establishing new skateparks.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Diane Guenther
- Calen Sinclair
- Julia Davis
- Geoff Dermer
- Cory McIntyre

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

- need to have community take ownership of the skateparks;
- Burnaby has a more progressive approach to skateparks;
- would like to see skatebowls not just street style parks;
- Park Board staff have done an excellent job;
- developed a program for girls to learn to skate;
- would like to have a safe location for girls learn skateboarding;
- plaza is very nice, but no place for a family to relax;
- need skateparks where families can come;
- would like to have an indoor facility and an area by the beach for a skatepark;
- there should be supervision in a skatepark;
- the skateboard strategy report is very good, however, the funding is low;
- thanked the Board and staff for this initiative.

Board members thanked the staff for the skateboard strategy report and the Vancouver Skatepark Coalition for their effort in helping the community recognize this sport.

Moved by Commissioner Poaps,

- A) **THAT the Board approve in principle the Skateboard Strategy for Vancouver, attached as appendix A.**
- B) **THAT the identification and selection of candidate sites for new skateboard facilities and the setting of skateboarding priorities for the 2006-2008 Capital Plan be referred to the public for consultation.**

- Carried Unanimously.

Improvements to the Dog Off Leash Program

Board members received copies of a staff report dated October 18, 2005 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A and B.

Staff advised the Board that there have been requests to expand the Dog Off Leash program and particularly in the downtown peninsula. Based on past experiences and using the criteria adopted to determine an off leash park, several sites have been determined as possible off leash sites.

Commissioner Riccius left the meeting at 9:15 pm. Commissioner Poaps chaired the meeting from this point.

Margaret Newton, VANDOG, stated that there were not enough off leash parks in the downtown core. She does not support sites recommended by staff. She suggested that the Board should work on a dog park strategy.

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock,

- A. **THAT the Board direct staff to seek public input into changing the Dog off leash hours at Coopers and Portside Parks to all day 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.**
- B. **THAT the Board direct staff to seek public input into creating proposed new dog off leash areas in Stanley Park, Devonian Harbour Park and Creekside Park.**

Board members discussed the issue and stated that they would like to continually explore the possibility of more space for off leash areas in downtown. Board members also recognised the need for an overall dog strategy for the City of Vancouver. An amendment to the motion was proposed.

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock,

THAT the Board direct staff to come back with a dog strategy to address density issues in the downtown peninsula and the West End and to report back with within six months.

- DEFEATED.

(Commissioner Anton, Deal and De Genova contrary)

Moved by Commissioner Anton,

THAT staff report back with recommendations for the development of an overall dog strategy for the City of Vancouver.

-Carried Unanimously.

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

Motion

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock,

Whereas whales and dolphins are highly intelligent animals with complex social lives;

Whereas public opinion on whales and dolphins in aquaria has changed over recent decades as we have learned more about cetacean physiology and social patterns;

Whereas animal activists in Vancouver have repeatedly advocated for former park boards to hold plebiscites in order to give the residents of Vancouver the opportunity to express their opinion on the ethics of keeping cetaceans such as whales and dolphins in captivity in Stanley Park;

Whereas it is recognized that the Vancouver Aquarium Marine Science Centre is an autonomous, well run, world class facility situated in Stanley Park, with staff who provide the best care possible to the mammals under their supervision;

Whereas on October 6, 2005 the Vancouver Aquarium publicly unveiled new conceptual designs that include expanded whale and dolphin facilities, to be completed by 2010;

Be it resolved that the Park Board recommend to City Council that a city wide plebiscite be held during the 2008 civic election on the question of whales and dolphins being kept in captivity in Stanley Park, with a goal of testing public opinion in the interests of long term planning for the next lease renewal with the Vancouver Aquarium, in 2015;

Be it further resolved that the plebiscite ask the following yes or no question "Are you in favour of phasing out the containment of whales and dolphins in Stanley Park?"

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Dr. George Wrightson
- Dan Rollins, Chair, Vancouver Aquarium
- Brooke Wade, Director, Vancouver Aquarium
- Dr. David Huff, Veterinarian, Vancouver Aquarium
- Dr. John Nightingale, Vancouver Aquarium
- Rebeka Breder

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

- the Aquarium is an internationally known organization;
- fortunate to have a place like the Aquarium to rehabilitate marine life;
- support for the Aquarium has gone up, there are 19,000 family memberships;
- important for the Aquarium to fulfill the role of conservation;
- do not support capture of animals from the wild;
- the Aquarium has been called upon in rescue operations;
- the vision for the Aquarium does not call for expansion of the footprint;
- they are in need of new equipment as the present equipment is fifty years old;
- appreciate the work of the Aquarium in conservation and education;
- strongly opposed to captivity of dolphins and whales unless they are for rehabilitation.

Board members discussed the Aquarium's role in marine life conservation and education. A member of the Board felt that it was important for the public to decide what they want to see in the park and a plebiscite question will put closure on the issue of whether whales and dolphins should be allowed in Stanley Park. Some members of the Board stated that the Aquarium has a licence agreement with the Board as to what they could or could not do and they are bound by this legal agreement.

The motion was put forward and it was Carried.
(Commissioners Anton and De Genova contrary)

Sequoia Grill and Seasons in the Park – Rent Review

Board members received copies of a staff report dated October 19, 2005 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A to G.

Moved by Commissioner Romaniuk,

- A. THAT the rent for the Sequoia Grill for the term January 1, 2005 – December 31, 2009 be set at 6% for the first \$3,500,000 of gross revenue (including liquor) and 4% for gross revenue beyond \$3,500,000;**
- B. THAT the rent for Seasons in the Park for the term March 1, 2005 – February 28, 2010 be set at 6% for the first \$4,500,000 of gross revenue (including liquor) and 4% for gross revenue beyond \$4,500,000;**
- C. THAT a payment in lieu of property taxes of \$5.89/sq ft be set at both restaurants from the start of the new terms and the rate be reviewed each year effective January 1, 2006 to reflect any changes in property tax assessments for businesses in Vancouver;**
- D. THAT an allowance of \$291.65 per month be credited to Sequoia Grill for maintaining the landscaping surrounding the building within the area outlined on the plan (Appendix A of this report);**
- E. THAT an additional five year option be given to Sequoia Enterprises Inc. for both restaurants;**
- F. THAT no legal rights shall arise and no consents, permissions or licences are granted hereby and none shall arise or be granted hereafter unless and until all contemplated legal documentation has been executed and delivered by all parties;**
- G. THAT once the form of all legal documentation has been approved by the General Manager and the Director of Legal Services for the City of Vancouver, that the General Manager be authorized to execute and deliver such documentation on behalf of the Board.**

- Carried Unanimously.

Facility Development Coordinator Position

Board members received copies of a staff report dated October 19, 2005 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A and B.

Moved by Commissioner Anton,

- A. THAT the Board approve the establishment of an additional regular full time Facility Development Coordinator for the period 2006-2008, subject to the capital works plebiscites in the November municipal election being approved;**
- B. THAT funding for this position be derived from the 2006-2008 Capital Plan project management and overhead account.**

- Carried Unanimously.

Motion

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock,

WHEREAS since the Fall of 2003 the Park Board has been going through an extensive public consultation process to determine appropriate locations throughout the city for installation of turf sport fields;

WHEREAS the Park Board is in need of sites for lit synthetic turf playing fields;

WHEREAS since the Summer of 2002 there has been a planning process for East Fraserlands to develop a concept plan for a residential community and public amenities;

WHEREAS the East Fraserlands Subcommittee was formed to solicit Victoria/Fraserview/Killarney community input for the East Fraserlands development proposal and design plans;

WHEREAS on October 12, 2005 the East Fraserlands Urban Design Workshop indicated one unlit playing field adjacent to a future school;

WHEREAS the East Fraserlands Subcommittee voiced a desire for a lit synthetic turf playing field in addition to the school playing field;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Park Board staff investigate the possibility of adding a second field with lights in the East Fraserlands site prior to the formal submission of an ODP application.

Commissioner De Genova left the room on a possible conflict of interest.

Board members discussed the motion and a member of the Board stated that it was important for staff to know that a lit synthetic field is a necessary component to the park facilities in East Fraserlands. An amendment to the motion was proposed.

Moved by Commissioner Anton,

THAT it is the direction of the Board that a lit synthetic field is a necessary component to the park facilities in East Fraserlands.

- DEFEATED.

(Commissioners Poaps, Romaniuk and Woodcock contrary)

Board members agreed that it was important to get the second field, however, they have confidence with staff's role in planning for amenities in this park.

Moved by Commissioner Anton,

THAT the Board ask staff to investigate the possibility of adding a synthetic field with lights.

- Carried.

(Commissioner Romaniuk contrary)

The motion was put forward and it was Carried as amended.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 p.m.

Susan Mundick
General Manager

Commissioner Eva Riccius
Chair