

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

DATE OF MEETING: April 6, 2005

ATTENDEES: Park Board Commissioners
Commissioner Heather Deal
Commissioner Suzanne Anton

Park Board Staff

Liane McKenna Director of Queen Elizabeth District
Terry Walton Manager of Recreation Services, Stanley District
Greg Eng
Susan Gordon
Daisy Chin
Booth Palmer
Barbara Joughin Recorder of Minutes

Delegations

Dr. Syd Butler Brock House Writers
Alberta Armstrong Brock House Writers
Ann Phelps Sea Vancouver Festival Society
Randall Plitt Sea Vancouver Festival Society
Krisztina Kassey Office of Cultural Affairs, City of Vancouver

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm. There were not enough members of the Committee present at the meeting to make a quorum, and the Chair advised delegations that no recommendations would be made from the Culture and Recreation Committee to the Board at this meeting.

1. Approval of March 2, 2005 Minutes:

The minutes of the Culture and Recreation Committee meeting of March 2, 2005 were not reviewed as the meeting did not have a quorum present.

2. Writing Project for Jericho Park:

Susan Gordon introduced Dr. Syd Butler and Alberta Armstrong from the Brock House Senior Citizens Activity Centre (Brock House).

Delegations:

Dr. Butler presented a proposal from Brock House for the Rest and Read Project, and explained that authors from their Life Writing course would like to share their stories with the public. For one or two weeks in July, the Brock House writers want to attach a laminated, one-page short

story to each of the 45 benches in Jericho Park, with a length of stainless steel wire. Brock House is located immediately adjacent to Jericho Park. A brief description of the project will also be posted on the benches. Alberta Armstrong told the Committee that poetry and writing events are popular, and this is a good opportunity for seniors to have a positive and visible role in their community. The delegations asked the Park Board to assist with copying and lamination of the stories, and with event promotion.

Susan Gordon told the Committee that the proposal has been reviewed by Queen Elizabeth District staff and that they are supportive of the concept. Liane McKenna said that no physical damage to the benches is expected from attaching the laminated stories, and letters will be sent to advise bench donors in Jericho Park about the project. A member of the Board expressed concern about potential risks associated with the length of wire used to attach the stories to the bench, and staff said that it could be shortened. The group discussed the length of the show (1-2 weeks, or one month), and agreed that the project will require ongoing monitoring for vandalism and community responsiveness. The group also agreed that the Park Board may assist with event promotion through its communications office. Staff raised a question about project accessibility due to special event set up and fencing in Jericho Park during several weeks in July.

Summary:

The Committee thanked the delegation for the proposal and requested that staff work with Brock House on the timing and duration of the project and risk management concerns about the length of the wire. The results of the project, including public and donor response and impacts of vandalism, will be evaluated and reported following the show.

3. Special Event in False Creek:

Daisy Chin introduced Ann Phelps and Randall Plitt from the Sea Vancouver Festival Society.

Delegations:

Ann Phelps told the Committee that the Sea Vancouver Festival will celebrate Vancouver's connection to the sea from July 6 -10, 2005, and presented a preliminary project overview. She listed the following goals of the event: to be a major national and international annual event; to provide inclusive, creative, original programming; and to provide accessible events (affordable, free events and sites). The project overview included information about: event programming (food, theatrical, sports, gala concerts, finale): primary sites (Creekside Park, Plaza of Nations, Granville Island, Vanier/Hadden and Kits Beach Parks): and secondary sites (Jericho Park pier, tall ship docking areas, and shuttle ferry docks). She said that the coordinating group has attempted to preserve public access to parks by minimizing gated areas, and that most tickets for gated events are priced in the \$15-20 range. Randall Plitt explained that ticket sales will be based on site and ship capacity such that only a portion of actual attendance capacity will be sold, in order to reduce crowding, line ups and disappointment. Attendance management strategies include displaying several vessels located at different sites, pre-selling tickets, and controlling gate access.

Commissioner Deal expressed concern that event planning decisions to use parks for programming were made prior to Park Board approval of the use of park space. She was also concerned about the extent of gating and admission fees in two major parks during a peak summer period, and asked for more information about the parks involved in the event. Staff noted that Sea Festival is a significant civic event with Council support, and that while efforts have been made to minimize potential impacts as much as possible, admission fees remain a necessary part of the event's overall budget and require gates.

The following parks are central to the special event:

Creekside Park	flat water racing (non-motorized); small stage; display of small wooden boats; community boat show
Vanier/Hadden /Kits Beach	a history and culture theme; housing tall ships at dock; carving / First Nations; "First Contact" program; HMS Pinafore
Jericho Park	ship on dock

Terry Walton noted that the Hadden/Kits Beach Park area is of significant concern and that the event transportation plan is key to mitigating the impact of the event on the area. The delegation reported that there have been initial discussions with the Kits Point Residents Association and with the City, Bard on the Beach, and HR MacMillan Space Centre, and that a larger informational meeting will be held for stakeholders. Risk management staff are analysing potential problems. A member of the Committee requested that fencing around open areas be minimized, especially at the Vanier/Hadden/Kits Beach site, and that the event coordinators consider ticket giveaways to neighbours. A member of the Board requested that there be abundant parking for bicycles, and the delegation said that a campaign to encourage people to bike and use transit will be implemented.

Next Steps:

- The Chair of the Committee requested that a copy of the Powerpoint presentation about the Sea Vancouver event be sent to the Board.
- Ann Phelps invited the Committee to the event launch on April 27/05 at 11 am @ Edgewater Casino.
- A staff report on the Sea Vancouver Festival will come directly to the Board in May 2005.

4. Get Out Youth Legacy:

The Committee received an update on Vancouver's Youth Legacy program from Susan Gordon, Booth Palmer, and Krisztina Kassey. As a result of consultations with youth, the program name was changed from the Olympic Youth Legacy to the Get Out Youth Legacy. Staff reported on Phase 1 (October 2004-March 2005) process, products and results, and introduced Phase 2 (May 2005-March 2006) action plans and next steps. A member of the Board asked who was overseeing the program and staff explained that it is a joint initiative of three departments – the Office of Cultural Affairs, Social Planning, and the Park Board.

Staff highlighted the extent of community involvement and the deep integration of youth as key components of the program. The group talked about the Ideas Factory, an exciting part of the

program led by Steven Dang and Associates that has evolved from the Participatory Action Research (PAR) component of the original Olympic Youth Legacy. Youth Action Teams (YATs) are self identified youth who develop projects that act as a vehicle to engage youth. Other aspects of community involvement include a diverse Advisory Committee, a training component, and a website.

Krizstina Kassey described the granting process and noted that the volume of proposals was a strain on department staff and resources. Of the \$388,000 requested in the last funding round, Council approved \$100,000, with \$33,000 for grants for youth and \$66,000 for Community Partnership grants. Booth Palmer described how the program budget of \$200,000 per year for three years is allocated. Depending on the direction of Council, about half goes to grants. This year, \$39,000 is allocated to the program, \$39,000 to YATs, and \$22,000 to coordination.

The Committee received a summary of Get Out recreation programs. Booth Palmer summarized the results of Phase 1 and said that the findings will be reported in detail in the April 25th Board report. Staff noted that the involvement of a key group of young people and an informed, enthusiastic staff person (with the capacity to communicate, support, and provide a link to organization) are common threads in successful projects. Significant changes for Phase 2 include:

- a focus on healthy physical activity, and inclusion of physical activity as well as arts and culture projects in grant guidelines.
- increase grant timeline to 10 months.
- increase support and resources for youth development (ie YATS).

A member of the Board asked how she could see what the program is doing. Staff described different options, including the website (heygetout.ca), a video that will be developed through YPPP (Youth Pregnancy and Parenting Project), and different project documents and photos, and said that more detail about the program will be available in the report to the Board on April 25, 2005.

Next Steps:

A report will be brought to the Board on April 25, 2005, and a request will be made to Council on April 28, 2005.

5. Skateboarding at Sunset Beach Parking Lot:

In the absence of the delegation who requested this item, the Committee did not discuss skateboarding at Sunset Beach Parking Lot.

6. Next Meeting:

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm. The next Culture and Recreation Committee meeting will be on May 4, 2005. Possible agenda items include:

- Leisure Access Program Review
- Update on June 18, 2005 Rain or Shine Festival in Stanley Park