

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

DATE OF MEETING: October 5, 2005

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

Park Board Staff

Liane McKenna	Director of Queen Elizabeth District
Alan Duncan	Environmental Planner
Carol Sogawa	District Recreation Coordinator
Megan Stuart-Stubbs	Community Arts Programmer
Terry Walton	Manager of Recreation Services
Jim Lowden	Director of Stanley District
Laurie Anderson	Recorder of Minutes

Delegations

Jeanette Anderson	
Kelly Bunting	
Tim Louis	
Janos Mate	Whale Friends
Annelise Sorg	Coalition for No Whales in Captivity
Spencer Herbert	
Karl Losken	Animal Friends
Lea Johnson	
Anthony Marr	Heal Our Planet Earth
Stuart Mackinnon	Vancouver Green Party
Robert Light	

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm.

1. Rain or Shine Festival Update

Megan Stuart-Stubbs presented an update on this successful first-time event. Highlights included the umbrella theme, children's activities, craft tables and various performances. Ideas for next year include more advertising, more signage on and offsite, increased focus on Park Board activities, a smaller, centralized site layout, and greater attention given to food area planning.

2. Accessibility Review

Alan Duncan and Carol Sogawa presented an update based on a preliminary accessibility review of parks, waterfront and community gardens conducted in the summer of 2005. Results indicate that many parks and waterfront (including waterfront washrooms) still need improvements to be

accessible while all community gardens need upgrades. With the completed parks inventory, staff can now prioritize certain areas and come back to the Park Board with a plan to address accessibility issues. Staff reported that significant improvements have already been made to facilities as part of anticipated upgrades and building code improvements and newer buildings have a universal design focus. Staff reviewed measures to assist people with disabilities to develop their full potential and noted that program changes will be ongoing with a continuum of support continuing to provide opportunities for inclusion. Some of the activities that already promote inclusion and accessibility are adapted programs and equipment as well as supported children and youth programs.

Staff then briefly outlined the Accessible Inclusive Cities and Communities Project that led to the development of the Citywide “Inclusive City” Committee, which intends to audit what the City as an organization does and develop an action plan to attain a higher level of inclusion by 2010. As part of Park Board participation with this initiative, an ad hoc committee of staff from Planning and Research, Facilities Development, Park Development and Recreation/Access Services should be established to address accessibility, inclusion and universal design issues for all aspects of parks, facilities and programming. This committee would consult with the Advisory Committee on Disability Issues and other representative organizations. It would then report to the Board with preliminary findings and updates as well as to seek approval for required resources. Staff will also work with Human Resources on hiring challenged students as part of summer employment programs.

A member of the Advisory Committee on Disability Issues said she is glad this Inclusive City project is going ahead and looks forward to seeing the details from the committee about anticipated changes.

2. Delegation: Kelly Bunting – Request for Whale Referendum

Kelly Bunting spoke to express her concern about whales in captivity at the Vancouver Aquarium and asked that a referendum be held regarding this issue during the 2005 election. The following delegations also spoke in support of this request:

Tim Louis	
Janos Mate	Whale Friends
Annelise Sorg	No Whales in Captivity
Spencer Herbert	
Karl Losken	Animal Voices
Lea Johnson	
Anthony Marr	Heal Our Planet Earth
Stuart Mackinnon	Vancouver Green Party
Robert Light	

Summary of the discussion

Concerned citizens voiced their displeasure that there has not been a whale referendum during this Park Board’s tenure and requested that a referendum question on this issue be included in the 2005 election. There was acknowledgement that while a referendum would not be binding, it could put pressure on the Vancouver Aquarium to phase out cetaceans in captivity. There would

also be no legal risk to the Park Board in putting forward a motion to hold this referendum. Delegations said that a referendum would be a democratic way to ensure the citizens of Vancouver have an opportunity to express their views while a Committee member said that there is value in education and debate on this issue. A Commissioner said that perhaps now was not the time for a whale referendum, as the current lease with the Aquarium does not expire until 2015. It was suggested by a delegate that City Council could propose bylaws to prohibit the transportation of whales through Vancouver and to prohibit whales and dolphins in captivity effective 2015.

The group also discussed the confusion regarding the deadline for referenda question submissions, which a Commissioner said was based on information from staff.

Summary

Citizens asked Vancouver Park Board to pass a motion at its October 17, 2005 regular Board meeting asking City Council to have a referendum on this issue at the earliest possible date, either 2005 or 2008.

As there was no quorum at this meeting, there was no action taken nor next steps identified.

4. West End Integrated Neighbourhood Network Update

Deferred

5. Approval of September 14, 2005 Minutes

Deferred

6. Next Meeting

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m. The next Culture and Recreation meeting will be November 2, 2005 at 7pm.