

**MINUTES OF MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2006**

PRESENT:	Chair	- Heather Holden
	Vice Chair	- Ian Robertson
	Commissioners	- Spencer Herbert
		- Korina Houghton
		- Loretta Woodcock
		- Martin Zlotnik
	Acting General Manager	- Piet Rutgers
	Director of Corporate Services	- Anita Ho
	Director of Queen Elizabeth District	- Liane McKenna
	Manager of Facility Development	- Rudy Roelofsen
	Manager of Communications	- Joyce Courtney
	Manager of Fundraising & Development	- Josie Riebe
	Manager of Revenue Services	- Philip Josephs
	Recorder	- Barbara Joughin

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on Monday, September 11, 2006 were amended to indicate that Commissioner Herbert moved the motion on the West End Community Centre – Lobby Improvements rather than Commissioner Zlotnik. The amended minutes were adopted as circulated.

DEDICATION CEREMONY

The Chair described a plaque unveiling and dedication ceremony at Lost Lagoon earlier this evening to honour the late Charles Franklin Moore's legacy gift to the Vancouver Park Board for the refurbishment of the Lost Lagoon Tennis Courts and for an endowment that will support tennis programming through community recreation centres for inner-city children. She introduced a member of the family. Catherine Moore, Mr. Moore's niece, thanked the Board for their efforts to honour her uncle's gift and said he loved Vancouver's parks and would be happy at how his gift will be used.

The Chair thanked the family for their generous gift to the people of Vancouver.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair reported that the opening of the redeveloped Falaise Wetland Park was celebrated on September 24, 2006. Two weeks ago, the Park Board received National Merit Awards from the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects for the Stanley Park Salmon Stream, George Wainborn Park, and Harbour Green Park Phase 2. She said this group infrequently gives national awards for design excellence, and acknowledged the

Park Board staff that were involved with the planning and implementation of these projects, especially Jim Lowden, Kate Davis-Johnson, Curtis Link and Debra Barnes. She noted that September 28th is the 118th anniversary of the official opening of Stanley Park and invited people to visit the park board website to read the interesting history of the park.

City Council Report

The City Planning and Environment Committee will review a report on Olympic Legacy Facilities: Funding Options.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Parks and Recreation Planning Committee: On September 5, the Committee discussed the potential of installing artificial turf fields at Trillium Park, and an expression of interest in having names associated with the commemorative donation at Ceperley Playground. Other items of interest that are not related to the Planning Committee were noted, including the annual Vancouver Garden Club neighbourhood competition and a Chinese delegation that was hosted today.

- Parks and Recreation Finance Committee: met prior to this meeting to discuss a proposal from the Jericho Arts Centre to improve their arts program, the 2007 operating budget, and a golf plan that outlined opportunities to improve service and increase revenues at golf courses.

STAFF REPORTS

Hillcrest Complex – Design Approval

Board members received copies of a staff report dated September 15, 2006 recommending that the Board approve the Development Permit Design for the Hillcrest Complex as illustrated in Appendix 1 of the report.

Staff advised the Board that the proposed development permit design for the Hillcrest Complex includes changes that reflect community, Olympic, and other input, and will be submitted for development permit approval on September 16, 2006.

Darryl Condon of Hughes, Condon, Marler: Architects presented key aspects of the project plans, including the unification of the Olympic Curling Venue and Percy Norman Pool into a single building, the siting and design of the facility, the proposed park and field design, and the pathway, parking and traffic design. LEED gold targets have been set for the project.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Lori Strong, Riley Park Community Association
- Richard Campbell, Better Environmentally Sound Transportation
- Geoff Catliff, Westside Senior Soccer
- Jeff Malgren, Vancouver Field Sports Federation
- Joyce Drogan
- Delany Dunn, Vancouver Canadians Baseball Club
- Peter Stanley, on behalf of Jake Kerr
- George Sze, Dolphins Swim Club
- Stan Jang
- Katey Grist, Westside Soccer
- Gayle Uthoff, Vancouver Aquatic Sports Group
- Keith Switzer, Vancouver Curling Club
- Evan Sahmet
- Laurie Robertson, Metro Women's Soccer League

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

- moving the day-to-day parking to Midlothian will reduce traffic on Ontario and encourage people to cycle;
- make pedestrian paths wide enough for bikes and pedestrians to share;
- provide dedicated changing rooms for female players;
- current configuration has two changing rooms which are always monopolized by men;
- expansion of pool is impacting field and run off space, not sure run off is sufficient for good play;
- not certain what impact the shadow of the building will have on field integrity;
- a facility like this is a huge asset to the community;
- great value in the complex that is being designed, urge board to support this;
- the Vancouver Canadians approve and support the conceptual plans;
- negotiations to finalize a long term lease for Nat Bailey Stadium have reached an acceptable compromise with regard to parking and access and on that basis are approving this plan;
- congratulations on a really nice design;
- although not designed to be a competitive pool, will bring competitive swimming to this level;
- will allow us to hold provincial level swim meets for the first time in 50 years;
- thank you for reducing vehicular activity on Ontario;
- there is a lot of cycle traffic on Ontario, would be better to not allow vehicular access on Ontario or to close it and make it a greenway;

- swap location of library and curling club to put the community facility on Ontario side and the city destination on Midlothian side;
- this plan doesn't make use of the nice view to the north;
- walkers and runners really appreciate the one km perimeter path;
- female players do not have access to changerooms and it is hard to ask men to give up one;
- families see the unfairness of men getting a changeroom while women go without;
- asking for dedicated female changerooms from 9-5 on Sundays and 11-5 on Saturdays;
- there are 1000 players that use the fields during the summer, 250 are women;
- lack of access for women to change facilities is especially difficult on rainy days;
- can't offer visiting teams the respect of a facility to get into dry clothes;
- there is a greater commitment for changerooms for ice hockey teams than for soccer teams;
- there is an opportunity to implement change now;
- encourage board to accept the plan for an eight lane pool and leisure pool;
- there is a lack of water space in Vancouver for the growth and advancement of water sports;
- Vancouver Curling Club supports this proposal;
- this complex fulfills a tremendous legacy for curling and for Vancouver, proud that curling is assisting in the process;
- seeing a lot of positive changes regarding parking;
- concerns about big parking lot adjacent to the Ontario Street bike route;
- Board should urge the city to make Ontario Street a true greenway;
- a motion approved by the Board in May 2005 requested the city to make a significant improvement to the Ontario Street greenway;
- maintain the mature trees;
- concerned about run off for soccer fields, the field with the most reduced run off is the women's field;
- women's soccer is a huge growth sport, there are more girls playing soccer now than boys;
- would like to see at least two changerooms designated for women, it is a safety and a security issue;
- not ok to have to use a men's changeroom and avert eyes when getting an ankle taped.

Board members discussed the need for adequate allocation of changerooms for women. Staff said that it is both a design and management issue and that options exist for sharing within the new facility. A Commissioner inquired about the status of the Ontario Street greenway and staff responded that City Engineering Department has not yet reported back to Council on how it can be improved. Although the area of the fields has not been reduced, members of the Board expressed concern about how the encroachment of the building has reduced the runoff area for adjacent fields.

Members of the Board said it is a good design and commended staff and the architect for the work that has been done.

Moved by Commissioner Robertson,

THAT the Board approve the Development Permit Design for the Hillcrest Complex as illustrated in Appendix 1 of this report.

- Carried Unanimously.

Olympic Legacy Facilities: Funding Options

Board members received copies of a staff report dated September 15, 2006 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A and B.

Staff presented a financing strategy to realize the Vancouver Olympic Centre complex, including its legacy conversion to a Community Centre, Community Ice Rink, Curling Club, Library and the adjacent Percy Norman Pool, as well as the replacement of the Killarney and Trout Lake rinks.

Staff advised the Board that the infrastructure renewal process has been accelerated by the 2010 Olympic Winter Games. Six buildings that are at the end of their lifecycle will be replaced through a funding package of \$105 million, of which \$43 million, or 41%, will be contributed by VANOC. The Park Board's contribution of \$21.46 million will come from reallocations within the 2006-08 Capital Plan, an advance for LEED Gold status, and bridge funding from the City.

Cost escalations in the construction industry have significantly affected all the projects, and in response, construction managers have been brought on to advise on design revisions. A funding strategy is proposed as the first step to address the shortfall \$25.76 million and reduce the amount of bridge financing.

The report also described an amendment to the existing arrangement with VANOC, which will see the City assume responsibility for the post 2010 conversion in return for a \$10 million payment by VANOC to the City now.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Geoff Catliff, Westside Senior Soccer
- Gayle Uthoff, Vancouver Aquatic Sports Group
- Chris Payne, Trout Lake Community Centre
- Lori Strong, Riley Park Community Association

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

- didn't get posting on this until very late, have been left out of the process;
- support staff's recommendation;
- any reduction in pool size will impact on long term use and growth of swimming;
- group has been putting together a fundraising strategy but are volunteers and new at it;
- Vancouver does not really have a strategy for seeking funds for facilities;
- would like to work with the city and it would be a benefit for a group to be put together to help work on this;
- very supportive of recommendations that staff have made;
- concerned about funding strategy but open to any thoughts on this;
- would like to see the development of the curling facility and the construction of the aquatic facility sooner rather than later.

Moved by Commissioner Robertson,

- A. THAT the Board endorse recommendations A through I as per the attached City Council report dated September 18, 2006.
- B. THAT staff report back on a fundraising strategy with the Board's community partners to reduce the amount of bridge financing.

A Commissioner requested that negotiations continue with VANOC for new funds to be brought forward.

Commissioner Woodcock put forward an amendment,

To add to Recommendation B that currently reads "that staff report back on a fundraising strategy with the Board's community partners" the words "including VANOC" between "community partners" and "to reduce the amount of bridge financing".

A Commissioner requested that senior government be included in the amendment as potential partners to be approached for new funds.

Commissioner Robertson put forward an amendment to the amendment,

To add “and provincial and federal governments” following “including VANOC”.

Carried Unanimously.

A Commissioner said that when the Board prepared its Aquatic Review in 2001, it was assumed that Empire Pool at the University of British Columbia (UBC) would be replaced. However, UBC has also encountered cost escalations and a potential partnership between the Park Board and UBC has been discussed that would accommodate their needs as well as present and future needs at Percy Norman Pool.

Commissioner Zlotnik put forward an amendment to the main motion,

To add as recommendation C, “That staff pursue immediately with UBC a partnership that would see UBC not replace Empire Pool. UBC would reallocate those funds to the Vancouver Park Board and relocate Canada’s national swimming facility to the Percy Norman complex”.

A Commissioner expressed concern about potential impacts on community users and on revenues from scheduling conflicts between community and university users.

Commissioner Woodcock put forward an amendment to the amendment,

To change “that staff pursue immediately” to “that staff report back on pursuing a concept”.

Carried Unanimously.

The amendment to add recommendation C was put as follows,

That staff report back on pursuing a concept with UBC regarding a partnership that would see UBC not replace Empire Pool. UBC would reallocate those funds to the Vancouver Park Board and relocate Canada’s national swimming facility to the Percy Norman complex.

Carried Unanimously

The main motion was put as follows,

- A. **THAT the Board endorse recommendations A through I as per the attached City Council report dated September 18, 2006;**
- B. **THAT staff report back on a fundraising strategy with the Board's community partners, VANOC, and the provincial and federal governments to reduce the amount of bridge financing;**
- C. **That staff report back on pursuing a concept with UBC regarding a partnership that would see UBC not replace Empire Pool. UBC would reallocate those funds to the Vancouver Park Board and relocate Canada's national swimming facility to the Percy Norman complex.**

Carried Unanimously

The Board said this is a good investment and thanked staff for their hard work in preparing the package.

2006 Operating Statement as at August 31, 2006

Board members received copies of a staff report dated September 14, 2006 recommending that the Board receive this report for information.

Anita Ho presented the operating statements for the first eight months of 2006. As of August 31, 2006, 66.6% of the year has passed and the Board has spent \$35,713,391 or 65.1% of the total budget. Revenues were \$25,903,250 (74.2%) and gross expenditures were \$61,616,641 (68.6%).

Staff reported that the expected shortfall in golf revenues will be offset by increased revenues for leases, parking and concessions. The Board is anticipated to meet its expenditure budget, although a continued increase in utility costs or poor weather could impact the budget. Close monitoring will continue and staff will report back to the Board with the result of the September operating statement. Currently, the Board is projecting to meet its budget at year end.

Moved by Commissioner Houghton,

That the Board receive this report for information.

Carried Unanimously

(Commissioner Woodcock absent)

Fundraising and Development Year-to-date Status Report

Board members received copies of a staff report dated September 15, 2006 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A to C.

Josie Riebe summarized the 2006 year-to-date accomplishments due to the fundraising efforts of the Park Board. In the first eight months of 2006, a total of \$600,000 was raised, \$400,000 by established programs and \$200,000 through new initiatives. Three major gifts designated funds for the refurbishment of a drinking fountain in Stanley Park and a tai chi pavilion in Queen Elizabeth Park.

Staff presented an action plan that recommends the development of a donor database, establishment of a named endowment fund, development of a policy for the use of funds, and funding for support staff to assist with administration, research and the coordination of fundraising activities. Staff requested that the Board approve the transfer of surplus funds from the Park Amenity Reserve to an interest bearing account in order to maximize revenues provided through donation programs.

The Board discussed the need to develop clear terms of reference for the allocation of funds from the Park Amenity Reserve.

Moved by Commissioner Houghton,

- A. THAT the Board receive the Fundraising & Development year-to-date Status Report for information;**
- B. THAT the Board approve the ongoing annual allocation of \$30,000 from the Park Amenity Reserve to establish a regular part-time administrative position to support the Fundraising and Development program; and**
- C. THAT the Board approve a transfer of surplus funds to an interest bearing account in order to generate income for park and recreation purposes as outlined in the report below.**

- Carried Unanimously.

MOTION

Commissioner Holden declared a conflict of interest in respect to the following item and left the meeting at this time.

Commissioner Houghton chaired the meeting.

Notice of the following motion was put forward on September 11, 2006.

Moved by Commissioner Spencer Herbert,

Whereas Mayor Sullivan has declared September Wild Salmon Month;

Whereas according to the Vancouver Aquarium the world's marine life is quickly being depleted, and an estimated 90% of all large fish are already gone from the world's oceans;

Whereas the Vancouver Park Board has restaurants, clubhouses, and concessions, 26 in total operating under its purview;

Whereas Park Board food services partners serve a wide variety of seafood from the popular fish and chips to more exotic menu items;

Whereas the Park Board Strategic Plan states the preservation and enhancement of the natural environment is a core responsibility and that the Park Board will develop sustainable policies and practices that achieve environmental objectives while meeting the needs of the community;

Whereas the Vancouver Aquarium operates Ocean Wise, a conservation program that is successfully working with restaurants and their customers in making environmentally sustainable seafood choices, at the level they are able to manage; and

Whereas a number of restaurants within Stanley Park are already enthusiastic Ocean Wise participants;

Therefore be it resolved that the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation seek a partnership with the Vancouver Aquarium's Ocean Wise conservation program through incorporating Ocean Wise provisions into future park board leases, or license agreements, ensuring Park Board run facilities are Ocean Wise and through encouraging our concessionaires, and restaurateurs to participate in the program before their licenses come up for renewal.

Delegations

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Eleanor Hadley
- Gerry Thorne, Georgia Strait Alliance / SPEC

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

- motion is in conflict with the mandate and bylaws of the Park Board, the City, and the Federal Government;
- it is out of order to put this on the agenda;
- fully support this very important initiative;
- difficult to impose terms on existing leases but hope that the Board will undertake at least an information program;
- primary concern is farmed fish on the BC Coast;
- partnership idea is excellent, please undertake a voluntary program with tenants and lessees to avoid farmed salmon.

A Commissioner said that the Ocean Wise Program helps food providers offer their customers the choice for sustainable seafood on their menus and the participation of the Park Board's facilities would show leadership to the wider business community.

A member of the Board said Ocean Wise is a good program and while providing the operators of Park Board food facilities with information about this voluntary program has merit, the Board should not tell its tenants how to run their businesses.

Commissioner Zlotnik put forward an amendment,

To delete the last paragraph and replace it with, "Therefore be it resolved that the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation staff write a letter to all relevant tenants informing them of the existence of the Ocean Wise Program".

The amendment was put and it was Carried.
(Commissioners Herbert and Woodcock contrary).

A Commissioner said the Board regularly sets conditions on its tenants when leases are negotiated or renewed and that this can be done with Board-run restaurants and concessions.

Commissioner Herbert put forward an amendment,

To add "that Park Board run facilities go Ocean Wise".

The Board discussed the value of sending such a letter from the Board to its own concessions and golf clubhouses.

Moved by Commissioner Robertson,

That the matter of involving Park Board facilities be referred back to staff for more investigation.

- Carried Unanimously

In the remaining discussion, the Board directed staff to bring the item to the Planning Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 pm.

Piet Rutgers
Acting General Manager

Commissioner Heather Holden
Chair