

Minutes of Meeting
Planning Committee, Vancouver Park Board

DATE OF MEETING: May 2, 2006

ATTENDEES: Park Board Commissioners
Commissioner Korina Houghton, Chair
Commissioner Spencer Herbert

Park Board Staff

Piet Rutgers	Director of Planning and Operations
Joyce Courtney	Manager of Communications
Bob Trydal	Manager of Operations, Stanley District
Mark Vulliamy	Manager of Research and Planning
Barbara Joughin	Committee Secretary

Delegations

Don Larson	Crab – Water for Life Society
Paul Wilting	Greater Vancouver Regional District

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm, with the following Agenda:

1. Approval of Minutes of April 18, 2006 Meeting
2. Park Naming – Osler and 72nd
3. GVRD Sewer Right of Way

1. Approval of Minutes of April 18, 2006 meeting

The minutes of the April 18, 2006 meeting were approved as presented.

2. Park Naming – Osler Street and 72nd Avenue

Joyce Courtney described the new park that will be developed in Marpole at 72nd Avenue between Selkirk and Osler Streets, and asked the Committee for direction on the park naming process and its timing. At open houses held on June 1 and August 11, 2005, residents of the area shared their ideas for the development of the park and indicated a preference for a park design that references the Japanese history in the area. In past park development and naming processes, staff prepared recommendations for the Board. However, in recent years, a number of park namings sought public feedback and followed full park naming processes.

Staff suggested possible names for the new park site at Osler and 72nd Avenue, including the names of adjacent streets and several Japanese words, and asked the Committee to consider them against the naming guidelines. Suggested names include: Osler Park, Selkirk Park, Senzai Park (Japanese for garden, trees, flowers), Gyosan Park (Japanese for fishing village), and Moegi Park (Japanese for green).

Delegation

Don Larson, a long time resident of Marpole, said that the park site should be named after a living person who has lived in the community and has tried to preserve its legacy, and suggested Joy Kogawa, a well-known writer, peace activist and recipient of the Order of Canada. He said that naming a park in her honour would be a good way to acknowledge her accomplishments and to redress a black mark in Canadian history in a meaningful way.

Discussion

- The Committee thanked staff for suggesting possible names and agreed that it is appropriate to consider naming the park to commemorate the historical Japanese community in the area in some way.
- Staff recommended that inquiries be made about Joy Kogawa's interest in having a park named in her honour.
- It was noted that the Land Conservancy may purchase the Kogawa property, and if the property is preserved and named Joy Kogawa House, confusion could result from naming a park similarly.
- The group talked about the timeline for naming the park and staff noted that it is not necessary to choose a name immediately. The park is scheduled for completion later this year, and a member of the Committee suggested that the naming process could be publicized and two or three names put forward for review at a Planning Committee meeting in the fall.
- Members of the Committee inquired about the costs of a public park naming process, and expressed interest in soliciting stakeholder input at a minimum cost. There are expenses for a sign in the park, advertising, and staff time to promote and coordinate the process.

Next Steps

Staff will:

- Inquire about Joy Kogawa's interest in having a park named in her honour
- Review potential names for the Kogawa property if it is purchased by the Land Conservancy
- Research possible names for the new park
- Notify stakeholders of the naming process
- Bring suggested names to the Planning Committee for review in the fall

3. GVRD Sewer Right of Way

Mark Vulliamy explained that the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) is requesting that the Park Board grant statutory rights-of-way over park land containing their utilities in Sunset, Vanier and Queen Elizabeth Parks. The Capilano Main #5 is a 72" water main that moves drinking water from Capilano Lake to Kersland and Little Mountain Reservoirs. The GVRD proposes to extend this pipe from Selkirk Street to Little Mountain, coordinating the installation of the new water pipe and valve chamber at the entrance to Queen Elizabeth Park (Cambie Street and 33rd Avenue) with the construction of the Canada Line.

Bob Trydal told the Committee that the GVRD is requesting the granting of rights-of-way over Sunset and Vanier Parks in order to formalize their existing use of Park Board land. A GVRD sewer pump station is located in Sunset Park at the foot of Jervis Street adjacent to the seawall. The existing Jervis forcemain is a 48" sewer pipe that carries sewage from the downtown peninsula across False Creek, through Vanier Park, to the Iona Waste Water Treatment Plant. He explained that granting statutory rights-of-way to the GVRD gives them the legal right to conveniently access park land and undertake minor modifications and repairs to their facilities, but limits their use to specific utilities and requires that the Park Board be notified of any proposed activities.

Delegation

Paul Wilting, an engineer with the GVRD, presented the Committee with information about the Jervis Forcemain and the Capilano Main #5.

1. The Jervis Forcemain sanitary sewer crossing was installed in 1939 and is the only single pipe crossing left in Vancouver's sewer system. The GVRD is proposing to install a new forcemain crossing, upgrade the ventilation system in the Jervis pump station, and add a one-half meter extension to the northwest side of the existing pump station. This project affects Sunset Beach in 2006/07 and Vanier Park in 2007/08.

The GVRD requires:

- temporary working space to install the crossing in 2006/07 (note – subsequent to the May 16, 2006 Planning Committee meeting, this area was described as being less than one-quarter acre of park grassland);
 - temporary working space to install land section in 2007/08;
 - permanent rights-of-way for the sewer;
 - permanent rights-of-way for the remaining GVRD facilities in Vanier Park.
2. The Capilano Main #5 water pipe supplies most of Vancouver, Richmond, Ladner, and Tsawwassen with drinking water. The original main stopped at Selkirk Street with a connection to Capilano Main #4. However, water demand is now high enough to require that the Capilano Main #5 be connected through to Little Mountain. Park Board staff are requesting that the installation of the new pipe and valve chamber be undertaken while the entrance to Queen Elizabeth Park is closed for six months during the construction of the Canada Line transit system.

The GVRD requires:

- temporary working space to install the main in 2006. (Note – subsequent to the May 16, 2006 Planning Committee meeting, this area was described as being less than one-quarter acre in size);
- permanent rights-of-way for the water main and valve chamber.

Discussion:

- Staff explained that statutory rights-of-way grant title in perpetuity, but noted that any major modifications require the Board's approval. Staff noted that there may be several requests for rights-of-way in Vancouver parks coming before the Committee in the near future as outstanding legal work is completed for utility infrastructure on park land.
- Staff requested clarification on the extent and timing of the GVRD's request for statutory rights-of-way in Vancouver parks and suggested that as many be brought forward at the same time as possible. Respecting a work schedule of October 15 – April 30 for construction in parks, installations in Sunset Park will be completed in 2006/07, and in Vanier Park in 2007/08. In addition, the GVRD may upgrade some utilities in Queen Elizabeth Park in one or two years as funding is secured.
- The group discussed the proposed changes to the Jervis pump station. The GVRD will remove the existing stairs and create a new public access between the parking lot and the seawall. Three beech trees adjacent to the pump station will be removed and replaced with three new trees in suitable locations. In addition, the bushes surrounding the pump station will be removed when the building is expanded, thereby eliminating the current hazard posed

by campers.

- The group discussed the future route of sewer pipes through Vanier Park. Staff agree in principle to routing pipe through the park, and will determine the least disruptive route. A member of the Committee requested that this matter be returned to the Planning Committee for discussion.
- A member of the Committee requested that signage be installed at the site of the sewage pump station and pipe crossing.
- The timing of construction related to the Capilano Main #5 at the entrance to Queen Elizabeth Park is critical as it is tied to the six-month closure of the park entrance at 33rd Avenue. Staff noted that a report on this item will be brought to the Board in June.

Next Steps

The GVRD will hold a community open house in June to explain the Jervis Forcemain project. Staff will prepare reports for the Board on the Jervis Forcemain crossing and the Capilano Main #5 project before the summer recess, and a report on the Vanier Park pipe routing will follow subsequent to the completion of the crossing and further review by the Planning Committee.

4. Next Meeting

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 16, 2006.