

**Minutes of Meeting
Finance Committee, Vancouver Park Board
2099 Beach Avenue, Vancouver**

DATE OF MEETING: May 23, 2007

ATTENDEES: Park Board Commissioners

Commissioner Marty Zlotnik, Committee Chair
Commissioner Korina Houghton
Commissioner Loretta Woodcock

Park Board Staff

Anita Ho Director, Corporate Services
Liane McKenna Director, Vancouver East District
Meg Elliott Senior Business Analyst (& recorder)

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm. The Agenda for the meeting was as follows:

1. Approval of April 16, 2007 Meeting Minutes
2. Delegation – Fundraising for Improvements to Strathcona Track
3. April 2007 Operating Statement
4. Rupert Park – Parking Proposal

1. Approval of April 16, 2007 Meeting Minutes:

Minutes of the April 16, 2007 meeting were approved.

2. Delegation – Fundraising for Improvements to Strathcona Track

Brian Larsen spoke on behalf of the Vancouver Torrent, a group of fitness and speed skaters whose mission is to promote and enjoy the sport of speed and fitness skating in Vancouver.

This group has been exploring opportunities to raise funds to rehabilitate the track at Strathcona Park, with an eye to using it for in-line skating training and practice. Brian has been in contact with Park Board staff, and Ray-Cam and Strathcona Community Associations, and has come forward to the Committee to seek approval to pursue this.

Discussion

Members of the Committee asked Mr. Larsen a number of questions including how the track and trees at the site would be affected by the proposal, what consultation has been done with field users and community gardens organizers, and what kind of liability insurance his group has. Staff were also questioned about the history of the track at the site, its current condition, and recommendations on what kind of process to pursue before agreeing to go ahead with public consultation on the project.

Staff suggested that it would be prudent to conduct a technical evaluation of the site and a public consultation process with local residents, park users, and groups before the Board could approve any project. Staff also suggested that the Board could assist the group in raising funds by providing tax receipts for donations to the project, and that they could work with the group to develop the proposal more fully before taking it to the Board for consideration.

Commissioners discussed whether to approve the project in principle and what other options were available to them.

Recommendation

The Finance Committee recommended that the proposal be brought before the Board to for its approval of the project in principle so that technical reviews and consultation could be conducted.

Commissioner Houghton left the meeting at 7:25 pm

3. April 2007 Financial Updates

Anita Ho provided copies of the April 2007 operating statement, and April 2007 statements for the Stanley Park Restoration Project and the Donation Program for the Committee's information.

She explained that although it has been a cold and wet spring, overall Board operating revenues are comparable to last year, as are expenses.

Discussion

A member of the Committee asked if the funds for Stanley Park within the current capital plan would still be needed given the amount of available funding for Stanley Park Restoration.

Staff replied that the funding within the capital plan was for specific purposes not related to restoration and would be needed for other work in Stanley Park

Summary

The Finance Committee received the financial updates for information.

4. Rupert Park – Parking Proposal

Liane McKenna presented the Committee with a proposal for use of the gravel parking lot at Rupert Park. VANOC approached the Park Board with a proposal to pay the Board \$15,000 per year for 3 years in exchange for use of the gravel parking lot at Rupert Park on weekdays during daytime office hours. This funding would be used to make improvements to the park for the benefit of park users.

Most park users, including the sports field users, use the parking lot during evening and weekends – currently the weekday, daytime use of this parking lot is minimal.

Discussion

Members of the Committee asked questions on various topics related to the proposal.

Summary

The Finance Committee received the proposal for information.

5. Adjournment

The meeting ended at 8:00 pm.