

**Minutes of Meeting
Planning Committee, Vancouver Park Board**

DATE OF MEETING: January 23, 2007

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

Park Board Staff

Piet Rutgers	Director of Planning and Operation
Jim Lowden	Director of Stanley District
Bill Manning	Manager of Operations, Stanley District
Greg Eng	Manager of Recreation Services, Stanley District
Philip Josephs	Manager of Revenue Services
Daisy Chin	Special Events Coordinator

Delegations

Russell Acton	Acton Ostry Architects
Loreen Barnett	International Triathlon Union
Leslie Buchanan	International Triathlon Union

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

1. Approval of Minutes of November 9, 2007 Meeting
2. Harbour Green Restaurant Design
3. 19th Annual Pacific Road Runners "1st Half" Half Marathon
4. 2007 Trial Event and the 2008 ITU Triathlon World Championships

1. Approval of Minutes of January 9, 2007 meeting

Approval of the minutes of the January 9, 2007 meeting were deferred to the next meeting.

2. Harbour Green Restaurant Design

Jim Lowden outlined how the Harbour Green Restaurant, located to the west of the Vancouver Trade and Convention Centre in Harbour Green Park, will help provide a financial foundation for the Board to proceed with its long term food strategy. Although the project is complex and the site challenging, there is significant potential for a facility at this location to be successful as a four-season restaurant, given its location, view, and access.

Acton Ostry Architects have been developing a restaurant program and design for the building. Russell Acton presented the Committee with views of the planning concept and the location of the site, and highlighted some of the design features of the restaurant. The glass building is intended to be a dramatic presence on Vancouver's waterfront, and will offer diverse indoor and outdoor experiences for patrons and passersby. The three-story building includes a bar with 70 indoor and 48 outdoor seats at the seawalk level, a dining room with 100 indoor and 32 outdoor balcony seats on the second level, and casual outdoor seating for 40 on a roof terrace. A grand stair is located between the restaurant site and Harbour Green Park, and includes a runnel for managing stormwater runoff. The architect explained that view studies will be further developed to assess impacts from various vantage points.

Discussion

- The Committee asked the architect about access for service vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians. There is a bike route for access to the water from above at the convention centre, and bike racks will be included in future phases of the planning.
- A member of the Committee asked whether energy efficiency is included in the design and staff replied that the policy is for Gold LEED.
- A Commissioner inquired about neighbouring residences in relation to potential noise from the new facility. Staff explained that the nearest residences will be located several hundred feet to the south and the building will be designed to shield residents from activity noise.
- A member of the public suggested that the third level might interrupt the view and asked if it was necessary. The architect noted that the building is shorter than the convention centre and would be designed to enhance rather than block the views. It will be constructed largely of glass which will assist with this effect.
- A Commissioner asked about the size of the green areas on the uppermost rooftops and whether the space was useable, and staff replied that it will be a prominently visual feature.

Next Steps

A recommended conceptual design for a new restaurant will be brought to the Board for approval in the spring of 2007. The development permit process will be initiated at that time and is projected to be completed by the fall of 2007, at which time a formal Request for Proposals will be issued, a restaurant tenant selected, and a facility constructed by 2010.

Recommendation

The Planning Committee recommended that a conceptual design for the restaurant adjacent to the Harbour Green Park and the Convention Centre be brought to the Board for approval.

Commissioner Woodcock left the meeting at this time.

3. 19th Annual Pacific Road Runners “1st Half” Half Marathon

Daisy Chin described a request from the Pacific Road Runners to reroute the 19th Annual “First Half” Half Marathon on February 11, 2007 due to the closure of the Stanley Park seawall, which was recently damaged during winter storms. Organizers have proposed that the route be modified to divert runners from the seawall at Lumberman’s Arch onto Park Drive, and are requesting a partial closure of the western portion of Park Drive as follows.

- Full closure from 9:00 – 10:15 am
- One lane from 10:15 – 11:00 am

The Vancouver Police Department will provide traffic control throughout the race, and be posted at key points to tell people that the event is occurring. Police will open one lane of traffic on Park Drive at 10:15 am to allow patrons to access the Sequoia Grill Restaurant. Most runners will be through this portion of the course when Park Drive reopens fully at 11:00 am, but anyone still running will be directed onto the sidewalk. Organizers will arrange for access for employees to the Sequoia Grill and Prospect Point Café and Gift Shop prior to the closure. All Park Stakeholders will be notified of the event and its route.

Staff have approved the request due to the limited time of the closure and the time of year requested.

Discussion

The Committee discussed that several groups will be similarly affected by the closure of the seawall. Staff explained that the policy allows one road closure per month except in summer. Many calls have been received since the storms and staff are working with groups to choose routes that least impact the roads and Stanley Park users.

Summary

The Planning Committee received this item for information.

4. 2007 Trial Event and the 2008 ITU Triathlon World Championships

Leslie Buchanan and Loreen Barnett presented a video about the International Triathlon Union (ITU) and described their proposal to bring to Vancouver a Triathlon World Cup event (June 10, 2007) and the Triathlon World Championship (June 15, 2008). They would like to bring the best athletes in the world to the most livable city in the world.

The ITU is the world governing body for the Olympic sport of Triathlon. During a triathlon, athletes swim for 1500m, cycle for 40 km and run for 10 km. The proposed Vancouver World Cup would be one of 16 events hosted by the ITU in 2007, where 75 men and 75 women compete for a minimum of \$100,000 US prize money and qualifying points for the Olympic Games. The 2007 World Cup would be a test event for the 2008 Vancouver Elite and Age Group Triathlon World Championships. The 2008 event would also be the final qualifying event for the elite athletes for the Beijing Olympic Games.

The delegation stated that Triathlon is an environmentally friendly sport and the events are media and spectator friendly. These events provide sport tourism opportunities for host cities, and organizers project that 100,000 - 200,000 spectators will attend the Vancouver events. ITU produces a 52 minute television show on the World Cup that is broadcast in 145 countries. The delegation described their proposal for the 2007 World Cup event to be sited at Morton Park and English Bay, and the logistics and scheduling of its set-up, delivery, and tear-down from June 6 - 11, 2007. The areas of the beach, the park and the roads that would be impacted by the event were identified.

Daisy Chin described how staging this international event in 2007 at English Bay and Morton Park will impact users and residents. The related issues are the amount of time required for set up as well as for the actual events on June 10, the areas of English Bay that will be restricted, closures of the seawall, and the road closures and how they will impact downtown traffic. In addition, there will be potential conflicts with the construction of a new concession at English Bay. She identified Ceperley Park in Stanley Park as another site option for consideration.

Discussion

- A member of the Committee requested more information about the impact on the area and its users during the set-up of the event if it is located at Morton Park and English Bay. Staff explained that public access to streets and parks around Denman and Davie Streets will be limited by delivery trucks, and traffic and pedestrians will be diverted when Beach Avenue is closed. The event will also require traffic diversion beyond the immediate area.
- The Committee expressed concern about congestion if the event is held at English Bay, and a

member requested information on road closures around Ceperley Park, and its history of usage.

- The Committee discussed which area could be best managed for an event of this size and requested that a presentation on a plan for Ceperley Park be provided. The 2007 event hosts 600 athletes and staff are confident that the event planned for 2007 is manageable at Ceperley Park. However, the World Championships in 2008 is a two day event that will host about 4000 participants, and while the structures will be similar to the 2007 test event, there will be more of them.
- The delegation noted that although either location is suitable for a world class triathlon event, managing up to 200,000 spectators would be easier at English Bay than at Ceperley Park. In addition, one of the first World Cup events was held at English Bay and they would like to return to that location.
- A member of the Committee asked if the FEST Committee had a preferred location for the proposed events. Staff explained that the FEST Committee has concerns about closing Burrard Bridge, but will formally review the proposal when the Park Board has determined the location.
- A member of the Committee suggested that athletes could present at community centres as well as at schools.

The Committee said they are excited about Vancouver hosting the proposed international sport events, and highlighted the importance of creating a positive experience. The proponent was invited to prepare a presentation on Ceperley Park as a site for the 2007 World Cup event for the February 6, 2007 Planning Committee meeting.

Next Steps

The Planning Committee requested that the International Triathlon Union present a plan for the 2007 World Cup event at Ceperley Park on February 6, 2007.

5. Next Meeting

The meeting adjourned at 8.45 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for February 6, 2007.