

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

DATE OF MEETING: February 6, 2007

ATTENDEES: Park Board Commissioners

Commissioner Heather Holden, Chair
Commissioner Spencer Herbert
Commissioner Korina Houghton
Commissioner Ian Robertson
Commissioner Loretta Woodcock

Park Board Staff

Piet Rutgers	Director of Planning and Operation
Bill Manning	Manager of Operations, Stanley District
Daisy Chin	Special Events Coordinator
Barbara Joughin	Committee Secretary

Delegations

Don Larson	Crab – Water for Life Society
Stuart Mackinnon	Green Party of Vancouver
Graeme Brownlee	St. Augustine Anglican Church
Terry Slack	Fraser River Coalition
Jordan Dobrikin	
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 January 9, 2007 Meeting
2. Approval of Minutes of January 23, 2007 Meeting
3. Park Naming
4. 2007 International Triathlon Trial Event

1. Approval of Minutes of January 9, 2007 meeting

The revised minutes of the January 9, 2007 meeting were approved as presented.

2. Approval of Minutes of January 23, 2007 meeting

The minutes of the January 23, 2007 meeting were approved as presented.

3. Park Naming

Piet Rutgers reviewed the process for naming a new park at West 72nd Avenue and Selkirk and Osler Streets. At the regular meeting of the Board on January 15, 2007, the staff report on Park Naming – Selkirk Street and 72nd Avenue Park Site recommended that the Board approve either Selkirk Park or Gyosan Park as the name for this new park. At this time, a new name was put forward for consideration, David Suzuki Park, and Board referred the matter to the Planning Committee for discussion.

Staff explained that the naming process lasted more than a year and resulted in a staff recommendation that the Board consider Selkirk and Gyosan as names for the park. He noted that naming the park after David Suzuki could shift the focus from the history of the Japanese community to an individual, that this is a neighbourhood park, and that there are ten parks to be named in the near future.

Delegations

1. Don Larson told the Committee that he did not recall any community discussion about naming the park and asked how the recommended names were chosen. He suggested that the neighbourhood be surveyed about the park name, and he supports naming the park after David Suzuki, whose family lived on the park. He offered to donate up to \$1000 to place a boulder in the new park with interpretive signage about the history of the area.
2. Stuart McKinnon said that a discussion on how parks are named is needed because the current guidelines do not allow for community input unless requested by the Board, although it is important that park names reflect the communities they are in, as well as values that hold into the future. He distributed a proposal for a process to name parks which would allow the public to participate in the naming process of new parks and recreational facilities in Vancouver. The proposed policy outlines a process of public notification, solicitation of submissions, and review by a committee, whose recommendations would be forwarded to the Park Board for approval. He provided information on the naming policies of the Vancouver School Board and the Province of BC's Geographical Naming Policy and Procedures. The proposed naming policy suggests that names of individuals should only be used posthumously.
3. Graeme Brownlee told the Committee that there was no real discussion about the park name in the process of designing the park, but the name that kept coming up was David Suzuki Park. He said the community wants the name of the park to help people remember what happened, and a plaque should be installed to remember the families that were moved out and never allowed to return.
4. Terry Slack told the Committee that naming the park Gyosan ("fishing village") would be an important acknowledgement of gyosans by the City of Vancouver, which were everywhere in the area and have never been recognized. He said many Japanese villages were bulldozed and burned, and explained that honouring the past and the present is very important to the Japanese. He suggested that the park be named David Suzuki Gyosan Park as a combination name that honours both the past and the future.
5. Jordon Dobrikin said the park should be named for the Japanese heritage in the area but the naming process for the park should be revisited to choose a name that people can understand.

Discussion

- A member of the Committee explained that the Marpole Oakridge Community Centre Association questioned why the name David Suzuki Park was not put forward for consideration, so he brought it forward at the Board meeting on January 15, 2007. He would like more community involvement in the process of naming parks.
- A Commissioner noted that although there are guidelines for naming parks, they are applied differently in different situations, and asked staff to clarify the guidelines and how they are applied. Staff described the guidelines and explained that each Board has managed the naming process differently as parks have been named over the years. A member of the Committee said she would like the guidelines to be more structured and include a community process. Staff noted that the Board will be receiving a report on naming City and Park Board community facilities on February 12, 2007.

- The Committee discussed the naming process for the new park in Marpole and staff explained that the park will open when it is ready whether or not it has been named. A Commissioner suggested that the park opening or naming could be scheduled to occur on a special Japanese celebration day.
- The Committee asked questions about the naming proposal presented by Stuart Mackinnon. He explained that the proposed naming policy puts the focus on the community rather than internal staff. A notice about the park naming and the request for committee volunteers would be sent out in the neighbourhood of the new park. A committee of five people would be appointed by the Park Board from this community. It would meet once to review all written submissions, and then bring its recommendations to the Park Board's Planning Committee.
- A member of the Committee suggested that the proposal be reviewed by staff and recommendations for a consistent method to manage naming of parks be brought back to the Planning Committee. The Committee discussed how long a process to name the new park in Marpole might take, and staff noted that there are two steps, reviewing the guidelines and recommending a structure, and applying the approved process to the new park in Marpole. It is necessary to give public process enough time.

Next Steps

The Planning Committee requested that staff review the proposed naming policy and report back to the Planning Committee with recommendations for a process to name new parks.

4. 2007 International Triathlon Trial Event

Daisy Chin told the Committee that the International Triathlon Union (ITU) has put forward a proposal to bring to Vancouver a Triathlon World Cup event (June 10, 2007) and the Triathlon World Championship (June 15, 2008). At the January 23, 2007 Planning Committee meeting, the proponents were invited to prepare a presentation for the February 6, 2007 Planning Committee meeting on Ceperley Park as a potential site for the 2007 World Cup event.

Delegations

Loreen Barnett told the Committee that the ITU held its first events on English Bay and wants to bring its world event back home. Due to Park Board concerns about impacts on English Bay, they are willing to consider Ceperley Park for the 2007 test event, which will host about 160 athletes competing for Olympic points, as well as an age group event of about 500.

The delegation presented their proposal for the 2007 World Cup event to be sited at Ceperley Park, and described the logistics and scheduling of its set-up, delivery, and tear-down from June 6 – 10, 2007. The areas of the beach, the park and the roads that would be impacted by the event were identified. There would be no disruption to the seawall, pool, or concession from Wednesday to Saturday but on race day, Sunday June 10, there will controlled access to the seawall, the restaurants and the concession. The proposed route for the age-group bike race would close the north side of Burrard Bridge. The proposed elite bike race course follows Beach Avenue and Davie Street. Staff noted that the proposed routes may change following review by the City due to concerns about reducing lanes on Burrard Bridge during current lane closures on Cambie Bridge.

Discussion

- The Committee discussed the route of the bike races. The delegation explained that they need to meet certain logistical and organizational requirements, and highlighted their focus on safety. Staff noted the Park Board's limitations on closures in Stanley Park.
- A Commissioner asked for an explanation of 'controlled access' in regard to the seawall and the restaurant. The delegation said that security guards will allow access only to those involved in the race. The organization will work with the restaurant to compensate for the disruption. On race day, the seawall will be unavailable to the public from 8:30 to 11:30 am, public bike traffic along the bike path will be rerouted, and there will be spectator control to ensure the safety of the public and the athletes.
- A Commissioner asked how this event will impact construction at the site of the Air India memorial and staff explained that although this project will be almost complete at the time of this event, the area will be fenced to contain project materials and any unfinished project elements.
- The Committee expressed concern about the event's impact on stakeholders and revenues, and requested that efforts be made to mitigate the losses that will occur for all stakeholders and the Park Board (pool, parking). Commissioners highlighted the need to ensure all stakeholders are informed and supportive.
- A member of the Committee asked if there are any environmental concerns and staff noted that although the heron colony will be occupied, no negative impacts are anticipated.
- The Committee asked the delegation about the suitability of Ceperley Park for the 2008 World Championship event. After running the 2007 test event, the organizers will have more information to determine if there is enough room for a greater number of athletes in 2008. The ITU requires a confirmed venue for this event by September 2007.
- A member of the Committee said he would like Vancouver's community centres to be involved as well as schools. The delegation explained how their current school program in North Vancouver links to the Active Communities initiative by showing kids a healthy, active lifestyle, and is a partnership between schools and recreation centres.

Next Steps

The proposal from the International Triathlon Union to bring to Vancouver a Triathlon World Cup event on June 10, 2007 will be brought to the City of Vancouver FEST Committee for review as soon as possible. Following this, staff's recommendations on the proposal will be brought to the Board for consideration.

After the 2007 trial event, a request to hold the Triathlon World Championship in Vancouver on June 15, 2008 will be brought to the Park Board's Planning Committee. The ITU requires a confirmed venue for this event by September 2007.

5. Next Meeting

The meeting adjourned at 8.40 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for February 20, 2007.