

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

**DATE OF MEETING:** April 21, 2008

**ATTENDEES: Park Board Commissioners**

Commissioner Ian Robertson, Acting Chair  
Commissioner Allan DeGenova  
Commissioner Heather Holden  
Commissioner Korina Houghton  
Commissioner Loretta Woodcock

Commissioners Herbert and Zlotnik were absent from the meeting.

**Park Board Staff**

Susan Mundick	General Manager
Peter Kuran	Director, Stanley District
Liane McKenna	Director, Vancouver East District
Diane Murphy	Acting Director, Queen Elizabeth District
Alex Downie	Supervisor, Queen Elizabeth Park
Philip Josephs	Manager, Revenue Services
Paul Montpellier	City Arborist
Linda Brindley	Recorder

**Guests**

Stuart Colquhoun, Operator of Legends of the Moon Gift Shop

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm, with the following Agenda:

1. Approval of Minutes of March 17, 2008 Meeting
2. QE Park Tree Plan
3. Legends of the Moon Expansion Project
4. Update on Status of Summer Canada Jobs 2008

**1. Approval of Minutes of March 17, 2008 Meeting**

The minutes of the Committee meeting of March 17, 2008 were adopted as circulated.

**2. QE Park Tree Plan**

Staff provided an update on the QE Park Tree Plan. The plan's objectives are to:

- Restore the principal view corridors by removing and/or pruning obstructing trees;

- Replace the removed trees on a two-for-one basis;
- Enhance areas where trees were removed through replanting with appropriate species of trees and shrubs; and
- Preserve view corridors for future enjoyment of all citizens and visitors to the Park.

It is estimated that sixty to eighty trees would need to be removed in order to restore the lost views from the Bloedel Conservatory and Anniversary Garden lookouts. Pruning the trees will not achieve the plan's objectives. All the trees to be removed are species that are well-represented in local parks and gardens and no commemorative trees will be removed. Some of the trees to be removed have poor crown shape and are in poor health.

The optimal time to remove the trees would be in the spring of 2008, prior to the busy summer-time visitation period. Trees would be removed by Park Board Arboriculture crews. An assessment to determine if active bird nests are sited in any of the trees scheduled for removal would be carried out. Removal of nesting trees would be delayed to the non-nesting season if appropriate.

The cost to implement the plan is estimated at \$21,350 for the replacement trees and shrubs. Costs for labour can be absorbed by the QE Park operating budget by deferring other work. \$41,700 is currently saved in the QE Park Reserve Fund and could be applied to defray restoration costs related to the Tree Management Plan.

The public will be offered an opportunity to comment on the plan prior to its implementation through an Open House information session.

#### Discussion:

The Commissioners asked for an explanation of the two-for-one replacement and whether the two trees would be replanted in the same area as the removed tree. Concern was expressed that if Park staff is utilized for the labour, other work will be left undone. A Commissioner asked for clarification concerning the plans for stakeholder engagement and questioned the costs associated with consultation.

Staff responded that Park Board policy is that trees will be replaced on a two-for-one basis when they are removed and the trees will be planted in other areas of the QE Park where there are no view issues. It is intended that the replanting will be done later in the year and some of the annual winter work could be deferred. Staff envisions holding an open house with information materials concerning the proposed tree removals and timelines. The General Manager responded that no budget has been established at this time as the item is before the Committee for direction. It would be expected that costs for web announcements would be absorbed, but a mechanism would have to be put in place for city-wide notification and would likely cost between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

Staff will conduct a public consultation appropriate to the scope of the project and the subsequent results will be brought back to the Board as soon as possible.

The General Manager requested the Committee to hold the report since it is in draft form.

Commissioner Houghton left the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

### **3. Legends of the Moon Expansion Project**

Staff stated that the three components to the expansion are the gift shop, the washroom and the interpretative centre. The proposal is to extend the building at the rear by 1200 sq. ft. which will allow improvements to the washrooms by adding additional facilities to better accommodate the increasing number of tourists. The washrooms will include such new efficiencies as self flushing toilets and low water systems, as were used at the Watermark Restaurant. They plan to select an architect who will design a proposal to reflect the site while complimenting the existing structure and also taking the existing trees into account.

The current five year lease agreement will expire in June 2011. The original loan of \$500,000 was received from the City's Capital Financing Fund and was approved by the Board. Revenues from the gift shop of \$78,000 have been used to pay down the loan each year and it will be fully paid in July 2009.

It is estimated that the cost of the extension is between \$600,000 and \$750,000. The existing gift shop tenant is willing to provide \$500,000 of those costs in return for a ten year option to renew the lease. There have been no issues with this tenant and both parties enjoy a successful relationship. The remaining funds will be financed from the Corporate Sponsorship Fund and will be paid back within three years. There is presently \$345,000 in that fund and the next contribution from Coca Cola will increase that fund to over \$500,000.

With regard to the existing trees on the site, it may be necessary to stagger the building in order to accommodate all the trees. The area in the back of the building is not actively used by the public.

The gift shop operator, Stuart Colquhoun, stated that the site is extremely unique and they work very hard to ensure that the store provides a good experience for visitors.

The Commissioners questioned the internal process in applying for the Sponsorship Funds and inquired about the purpose of the expansion. Concern was expressed that the costs for the proposal will be greater than the estimated \$750,000.

Staff advised that hard numbers will be provided before the proposal goes forward. The General Manager stated that if the Board wants to proceed with the proposal, a more comprehensive business case will be prepared and due diligence will have to be done.

The gift shop operator stated that the entire building will be expanded at the rear allowing the retail space and the storage to increase. The plan will also incorporate energy efficiencies.

Although the Committee is in general agreement to proceed with the next step, there are concerns and request that staff report back after the plan has been developed.

#### **4. Update on Status of Summer Canada Jobs 2008**

Staff provided a brief overview on the Status of Summer Canada Jobs 2008. The Federal Government provides the program to various municipalities that permits youth to receive employment through this funding. This funding has been primarily used to support summer day camps operated by Community Associations. The funding is based on Federal ridings and each of the five ridings in Vancouver must provide feedback about how the funds will be used with the stipulation that the funds must be used for non-government groups.

Typically, each of the five ridings would receive the same amount of money. The funding is not all of the funding that supports day camps in the City. Although the Federal Government proceeded with the funding in 2007, because of the City strike, none of the funding was able to be used in the Park Board system.

In 2006, the amount of funding was \$470,000 and in 2008, preliminary indication is that \$392,000 will be funded to the non-government organizations that have applied. That reflects a reduction in Vancouver East from \$279,000 to \$213,000, an increase in the Stanley District from \$25,000 to \$27,000 and a reduction in the Queen Elizabeth District from \$167,000 to \$143,000.

#### Discussion:

A member of the Committee asked if the timeline was known and when it would be necessary for the Board to intervene. The Commissioners were concerned about the reduction in funds for Vancouver East.

Staff responded that the final approvals will be given the end of April and if necessary, they will come back to the Board in early May. The census is used to track employment needs in each area.

Staff to keep the Board informed and advise if additional action needs to be taken.

#### **5. Next Meeting**

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm. The next meeting will be held on Monday, June 16, 2008.