

**MINUTES OF MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
HELD AT THE PARK BOARD OFFICE
ON MONDAY, JULY 20, 2009**

PRESENT:	Chair	- Raj Hundal
	Commissioners	- Sarah Blyth
		- Aaron Jasper
		- Stuart Mackinnon
		- Ian Robertson
	General Manager	- Susan Mundick
	Director of Planning & Operations	- Piet Rutgers
	Director of Corporate Services	- Anita Ho
	Director of Stanley District	- Peter Kuran
	Manager of Horticulture & Arboriculture	- Bill Manning
	Manager of Communications	- Joyce Courtney
	Manager of Revenue Services & Marinas	- Philip Joseph
	Manager of Information Technology	- Norman Mills
	Recorder	- Shala Hay

**Commissioner Loretta Woodcock, Vice Chair, was absent.
Commissioner Constance Barnes was on leave of absence.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on Monday, July 06, 2009 were adopted as circulated.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair reported on the recent tour by the Commissioners of the ice rinks at Trout Lake and Killarney Community Centres and the Walk of the Dragon event at Stanley Park.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Items on the agenda at the last Planning and Environment Committee meeting were: Update on Parks and Facility in the Olympic Village; Dunbar Community Association – Needs Assessment.

There were no Services and Budgets Committee meetings since the last Board Meeting.

CITY COUNCIL REPORT

The General Manager informed the Board of the following items on the agenda for the upcoming Regular Council Meeting: 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Torch Relay; 2009 Operating Budget Review for the entire City. The General Manager presented the 2008 Annual Report publication to the Board, which was distributed as an insert in the Vancouver Courier and Ming Pao newspapers. This is the first time this type of publication was done for the Park Board's Annual Report, the objective is to share the information with the community.

STAFF REPORTS

Temporary RV sites for the 2010 Winter Games and Award of Contract to Operate These Sites

Board members received copies of a staff report dated July 10, 2009 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A to D.

Staff advised the Board that these temporary sites would provide alternative visitor accommodation during the 2010 Olympics. The parking lots at Jericho and Spanish Banks were selected based on feasibility, as they have large capacities and there are no residences directly adjacent to the sites. Regulations would be enforced with "quiet hours" in effect from 10:00 pm to 7:00 am daily. Staff informed the Board that measures would be in place to address any issues that may arise during the temporary usage period.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Joss Penny, BC Lodgings and Campgrounds Association
- Mike Cotter, Jericho Sailing Centre
- Dr. Frank Tyers
- Icel Dobell
- Dr. Tom & Leslie Elliott
- Pixie Riddle
- Larry Bongie
- Walt Judas, Vice President, Marketing Communications & 2010 Strategies, Tourism Vancouver

The following is a summary of comments provided by the foregoing delegations:

- This plan would assist the City in meeting the large demand for accommodation during the Games and support the RV lifestyle
- There is limited commercial RV space in the city
- Statistics show that approximately 80% of RV owners are over 35 years and are used to rules and quiet times enforced at RV sites
- It is anticipated that the RV's would be self contained without the need for tents
- Past trends show that RV users will camp on these sites whether they have authorization or not; this solution ensures that the sites are regulated

- The Park Board is not protecting the natural habitat of these sites
- Concerned that this would set a precedent for future use of the area for these type of activities
- The Board does not have authority over Spanish Banks to make this decision
- All costs need to be accounted for in order to assess the profitability of this venture and there are areas still to be confirmed before the total cost can be assessed
- The public was not properly informed of this proposal and more public input should have been sought
- The majority of the public is opposed to this decision and there are signed petitions to support this
- During this period the beach is well visited by the public and this would impede on their utilization of these areas and create an eyesore
- Residents would be disturbed when the vehicles are rolling in and out of the lots
- Quiet time does not consider residents who go to bed earlier than 10pm
- Sufficient thought has not been given to safety issues for residents as there would be strangers in their neighbourhoods
- If there is a situation during the Games the police may be preoccupied downtown and may not get to the site on time
- The number of showers available is not sufficient
- The Park Board should stick to its role of maintaining parks and not get involved in commercial ventures such as this
- What rules would be applied for RV owners with pets and would they impose on nearby dog offleash parks
- What provisions would be in place for traffic pile up on surrounding roads, the clearing of snow and towing of RV's as the need arise
- The nearby concession stands would benefit greatly from this; would other enterprises be given an opportunity to benefit as well
- There is still a large portion of 2010 Olympics visitors without accommodation and this provides a non-traditional option for them
- RV owners who are visiting for the Games will have similar concerns as residents for safety, garbage and noise

The Board thanked the delegations for their comments.

Board members discussed the report and acknowledged that the plan would provide a much needed alternative form of accommodation during the Olympics, and generate revenue, in light of current budget cuts, which could go towards community centres and facilities to benefit the public.

Moved by Commissioner Jasper,

- A. THAT the Board approve the use of parking lots at Jericho and Spanish Bank as temporary RV sites during the 2010 Winter Games with specific details subject to the approval of the General Manager**
- B. THAT the Board award the contract to manage these sites to Duckworth Management Group Ltd. at a cost of \$134,832**
- C. THAT no legal rights shall arise and no consents, permissions or licences are granted hereby and none shall arise or be granted hereafter unless and until all contemplated legal documentation has been executed and delivered by all parties**
- D. THAT once the form of all legal documentation has been approved by the General Manager and Director of Legal Services for the city of Vancouver, that the General Manager be authorized to execute and deliver such documentation on behalf of the Board**

A member of the Board requested that the motion be severed into its constituent parts.

Motion A was put forward and it was Carried.

(Commissioner Mackinnon contrary)

Motion B was put forward and it was Carried Unanimously.

Motion C was put forward and it was Carried Unanimously.

Motion D was put forward and it was Carried Unanimously.

Board Meeting Audio/Video

Board members received copies of a staff report dated July 09, 2009 recommending that the Board post audio/video recordings of all Park Board meetings online, commencing in 2010, subject to budget availability.

Staff advised the Board that this recommendation is in response to the motion that was passed at the March 23, 2009 Board meeting, requesting staff to examine the feasibility of posting Board meeting proceedings online. The use of streaming video would allow the public live access to recordings without having to wait for files to download and would permit indexing of agenda item recordings.

Eleanor Hadley appeared before the Board and stated that this facility would incur a large expense to taxpayers. She also stated that facilities for the hearing and visually impaired should be provided at Board meetings.

Board members discussed the report and thanked staff for looking into this request. A member of the Board stated that they did not support the recording of meetings not held at the Park Board office. A Board member stated that this system would enhance the transparency of the Board.

Moved by Commissioner Blyth,

THAT the Board post audio/video recordings of all Park Board meetings on the Park Board web site, including live streaming video for meetings at the administration building, commencing in 2010, subject to budget availability.

- Carried Unanimously.

Social Media Proposal

Board members received copies of a staff report dated July 09, 2009 recommending that the Board use social media, including Facebook and Twitter to enhance and expand its public consultation and advertising of major initiatives.

Staff advised the Board that this recommendation is in response to the motion that was passed at the March 23, 2009 Board meeting, instructing staff to explore the feasibility of using social media to communicate with the public. The use of social media would allow the Board to reach new audiences and communicate with existing audiences via a new medium, at no additional cost to the Board. A phased implementation process is recommended starting with Facebook and Twitter, with a review after three months.

Eleanor Hadley appeared before the Board and commented that social media is a tool for Private Corporations, not for the Park Board and this service would be an inefficient use of taxpayers' dollars. She stated that the use of social media promotes the loss of human contact and excludes persons without computers, and the Board should focus on advertising Board meetings to the public.

Board members discussed the report. A Board member inquired whether this application would replace any of the existing communication systems. Staff informed the Board that it would complement rather than replace the existing systems.

Moved by Commissioner Blyth,

That the Board use social media, including Facebook and Twitter, in order to enhance and expand its public consultation and advertising of major initiatives.

- Carried Unanimously.

Pandora Park Community Garden

Board members received copies of a staff report dated July 06, 2009 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A and B.

Staff advised the Board that this report is in reference to a proposal submitted to the Board in May 2009 by the Pandora Park Community Garden Society, outlining their proposed plan for a community garden. The garden would occupy a 100' x 100' area and would be utilized by residents in the surrounding areas, most of whom live in apartment buildings with little green space.

Carol Wood, Pandora Park Community Garden Society, appeared before the Board and stated that the Society was formed with the objective of establishing a community garden for residents. The garden is well supported by residents and there is a waiting list for plots. The west side of the park was selected as it has the least amount of traffic. A combination of vegetables and flowers would most likely be grown and they are looking forward to fundraising activities to supply the tools and materials needed.

Moved by Commissioner Jasper,

- A. THAT the Board give permission to use a portion of Pandora Park as a community garden, with all specifications to the satisfaction of the General Manager.**
- B. THAT the Board grant a 5 year license to operate the community garden to the Pandora Park Community Garden Society, with all terms consistent with the Community Garden Policy.**

- Carried Unanimously.

Fish House Restaurant - Assignment of sublease to an affiliate company of Sequoia Company of Restaurants Inc.

Board members received copies of a staff report dated July 10, 2009 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A to C.

Staff informed the Board that the current tenants of the Fish House Restaurant requested that the lease be assigned to Sequoia Company of Restaurants Inc. This request is permitted under the existing lease agreement and both companies have a long standing reputation with the Board. Sequoia Company of Restaurants Inc is the lessee of the Teahouse and Seasons restaurant sites.

Darren Gates, Sequoia Company of Restaurants Inc, appeared before the Board and stated that a concept change for the restaurant may be in order as indicated by sales trends. The look, signage and other media may also be revised to enhance sales.

Board members discussed the report. A member of the Board stated that Sequoia Company of Restaurants is a good partner and the restaurant would be in good hands.

Moved by Commissioner Robertson,

- A. THAT the Board approve the assignment of the Sublease with respect to the Fish House in Stanley Park (the “Sublease”) from bcIMC Realty Corporation, as tenant, and Silverbirch No.42 Holdings Ltd.), as trustee, to an affiliate company of Sequoia Company of Restaurants Inc. (“Sequoia”) to be incorporated by Sequoia;**
- B. THAT no legal rights shall arise and no consents, permissions or licences are granted hereby and none shall arise or be granted hereafter unless and until all contemplated legal documentation has been executed and delivered by all parties.**
- C. THAT once the form of all legal documentation has been approved by the General Manager and the Director of Legal Services for the City of Vancouver, that the General Manager be authorized to execute and deliver such documentation on behalf of the Board**

- Carried Unanimously.

Financial Statements to June 30, 2009

Board members received copies of a staff report dated July 10, 2009 recommending that the Board receive this report for information.

Staff provided the Board with an overview of the financial performance for the first six months of 2009. Revenue has increased by \$1.5 million in comparison to 2008. Expenditure has increased by \$0.4 million in comparison to 2008, mainly due to increases in Supplies and Utilities & City Equipment costs, some of which are recoverable from insurance, and some are one-time costs for the year that would be balanced at year end. Overall, net expenditure decreased by \$1.1 million in comparison to the first half of 2008. The Board is on track to meeting the budget target for 2009, provided that current trends continue.

Board members discussed the report. A Board member questioned whether the current Vancouver Services Review exercise would lead to any service cuts that may impact on revenue. Staff informed the Board that they are working to ensure that the Review team understands that the Park Board system is unique in comparison to the other City departments and to ensure they recognize the revenue impacts that may arise from service cuts. Staff assured the Board that its approval would be sought before any decision is taken.

Moved by Commissioner Jasper,

THAT the Board receive this report for information

- Carried Unanimously.

Kitsilano Beach Playground

Board members received copies of a staff report dated July 09, 2009 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A and B.

Staff advised the Board that the project is unique in that it would be a universally accessible playground with a total of \$500,000 invested in it, \$100,000 from the Capital Plan and \$400,000 from outside funding. The design and public consultation phase would take place this fall and construction would occur in the spring and summer of 2010.

Board members discussed the report. A member of the Board stated that the project is commendable as it would be dedicated to universal accessibility.

Moved by Commissioner Mackinnon,

- A. THAT the Board approve the upgrading of the Kitsilano Beach playground to an accessible playground in partnership with the Legacies Now Society and other funding partners.**
- B. THAT the Board authorize the General Manager to enter into the necessary agreements with the Legacies Now Society and other funders, as outlined in this report.**

- Carried Unanimously.

MOTIONS

The following delegation requested to speak to the Board:

- Don Chandler, Vancouver Electric Vehicle Association (VEVA)

The following is a summary of comments provided by the foregoing delegation:

- Electric vehicles emit considerably less greenhouse gases than diesel and gasoline engine vehicles
- Most major automobile manufacturers have announced the production of electric vehicles; therefore supply would be on stream soon
- Automakers are asking for infrastructure to be in place before they start delivering these vehicles

- The Park Board only has one public charging station, located at Sunset Community Centre
- Having a charging station every 2 km would overcome one of the major challenges to the adoption of these vehicles
- Most charging will be done at home overnight
- The most practical solution would be to install stations where there are power supplies, plugs can be installed on power poles
- VEVA can assist with the electrical details
- Request the Board to approve the motion

Board members discussed the motion. A member of the Board stated that staff's investigation into the feasibility of this project, as requested in the motion, would determine the number of outlets that may be practical and options for cost recovery.

Moved by Commissioner Robertson,

Whereas the City of Vancouver's vision is to be the greenest and most sustainable city in the world, and

Whereas electric cars will rise to 35% of all cars produced in the world by 2025, of that 10% will be pure electric cars, and

Whereas many plug-in electric vehicles' range is 50 km and require only a 220-volt dryer or stove-type electrical outlet,

Therefore be it resolved that the Board direct staff to inventory the electrical infrastructure servicing Park Board parking lots and nearby areas to identify potential capacity available and outlets suitable for electric vehicle charging and identify the costs related to installing and operating outlets for electrical vehicle charging on a test basis.

- Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Jasper,

Whereas at the regular Board meeting on Monday, February 02, 2009, the Board established two committees, Services and Budgets and Planning and Environment and appointed the Chair and Vice Chair and Committee members;

Therefore, Be It Resolved That the Board rescind the February 02, 2009 motion establishing the Committee and appointees.

- Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Jasper,

THAT the Vancouver Park Board change the Planning and Environment Committee as follows:

**Commissioner Sarah Blyth, Chair
Commissioner Aaron Jasper, Vice-Chair
Commissioner Stuart Mackinnon
Commissioner Ian Robertson**

Board members discussed the motion. A member of the Board inquired whether this change was due to the absence of Commissioner Barnes. A member of the Board stated that as it is not certain when Commissioner Barnes will return Commissioner Jasper would assume the role of Vice Chair of the Services & Budgets Committee and step down to Vice Chair of the Planning & Environment Committee, while Commissioner Blyth assumes the role of Chair.

The motion was put forward and was Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Jasper,

THAT the Vancouver Park Board change the Services and Budgets Committee as follows:

**Commissioner Loretta Woodcock, Chair
Commissioner Aaron Jasper, Vice-Chair
Commissioner Constance Barnes
Commissioner Ian Robertson**

- Carried Unanimously.

IN-CAMERA MEETING

Moved by Commissioner Mackinnon,

THAT the Board later this evening go into a meeting which is closed to the public, pursuant to Section 165.2 (1) of the *Vancouver Charter*, to discuss matters related to paragraph:

- (k) negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of an activity, work or facility that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the Council, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the city if they were held in public.**

- Carried Unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:51 p.m.

Susan Mundick
General Manager

Commissioner Raj Hundal
Chair