

**MINUTES OF MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
HELD AT WEST POINT GREY COMMUNITY CENTRE
ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2009**

PRESENT:	Chair	- Raj Hundal
	Vice Chair	- Loretta Woodcock
	Commissioners	- Constance Barnes
		- Sarah Blyth
		- Ian Robertson
		- Stuart Mackinnon
	Acting General Manager	- Peter Kuran
	Director of Corporate Services	- Anita Ho
	Director of Vancouver East District	- Liane McKenna
	Director of Planning and Operations	- Piet Rutgers
	Acting Director of Queen Elizabeth District	- Diane Murphy
	Research Planner	- Michele Desrochers
	Manager of Communications	- Joyce Courtney
	Recorder	- Julie Casanova

Commissioner Jasper was absent as he was out of the country.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on Monday, October 05, 2009 were adopted as circulated.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair reported on the City's 2009 Diwali Festival, the soccer game between Team Vancouver and Portland FC and the Mark DeMontis Courage Canada event at Riley Park Community Centre.

City Council Report

Council will be receiving reports on the Greenest City Action Team 10 Year Plan, 2010 Operating Budget Preliminary Estimates, Composition of the PNE Board of Directors and the North East False Creek Future Directions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning and Environment Committee: the committee met on October 8, 2009 and received a gift from the Western Arts Circle, a presentation on Floyd's Ice Rink Proposal, Dog Off Leash Public Consultation Results and an update on the Synthetic Turf Sites Public Process.

Services and Budgets Committee: the committee met on October 13, 2009 and discussed the Vancouver Services Review – 2010 Operating Budget Process, 2010 Capital Budget, the 2009 Operating Budget Update for September and the South East False Creek Community/Boating Centre Operating Plan.

OPEN QUESTION PERIOD

Bill Moran, Vice President, West Point Grey Community Association, welcomed and thanked the Board for visiting Aberthau. Mr. Moran provided a brief history of Aberthau and stated that the community association is pursuing a building expansion program to which they are looking for the Board's support.

Sharon Urton, member of the Vancouver Sport Strategy was concerned with the delay of the boating centre at South East False Creek.

A representative for the parents of the Killarney Gators Swim Club presented a request to the Board to allocate time for the use of their club at the new Percy Norman Pool.

STAFF REPORTS

The Hollow Tree Stabilization Agreement Extension

Board members received copies of a staff report dated October 14, 2009 recommending that the Board accept the Stanley Park Hollow Tree Conservation Society's request to extend the current term of the agreement with the Board.

Staff advised the Board that work on the stabilization of the Hollow Tree has progressed, however, there is still a significant amount of work to be done. The Stanley Park Hollow Tree Conservation Society has encountered fund raising challenges with the economic downturn. A revised schedule for the completion of the Hollow Tree Restoration has been received by staff. The Society is requesting a further extension of three months to complete the project.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Harold Kalman
- Douglas Campbell

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

- the Hollow Tree Conservation Society had a few challenges with the project, especially in regard to financing;
- reached 85% of goal in fundraising and confident to raise the balance to complete the project;
- an engineering services company hired by the society has inspected the pile cap and declared the tree to be secure and safe;
- committed to finish by December 31, 2009.

Board members discussed the project and stated that the Hollow Tree has historical value and supported the restoration. A member of the Board expressed his concern that the Hollow Tree Conservation Society has not met its commitment to complete the project on the agreed upon date and is now back to ask for an extension. He did not support the request to extend the agreement again as he does not see the project being completed by December 31, 2009.

Moved by Commissioner Blyth,

THAT the Board accept the Stanley Park Hollow Tree Conservation Society's request to extend the current term of the agreement with the Board, for the purposes of Hollow Tree stabilization, to December 31, 2009 and

THAT this extension be the last given to the Stanley Park Hollow Tree Conservation Society so that Park Board staff has enough time to ensure a safe condition for the Hollow Tree and complete the landscaping prior to the 2010 Olympic Games.

- Carried.

(Commissioner Mackinnon contrary)

Northeast False Creek: Directions for the Future

Board members received copies of a staff report dated October 14, 2009 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A to D.

Staff advised the Board that the Creekside Park extension is a park that has been included in the False Creek North Official Development Plan (ODP) since 1990. The planned park is located to the north and west of existing Creekside Park, bounded by the False Creek waterfront, Carrall Street, Pacific Boulevard and Quebec Street. The ODP

lists the park as 3.67 hectares in size. A concept plan for the Creekside Park extension was developed in 2006. There is a possibility that Creekside Park extension could be reshaped as the owner of the lands located on the False Creek waterfront between the Plaza of Nations and the existing Creekside Park have requested to explore the possibility to rezone the land.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Sharon Urton, Vancouver Sport Strategy Implementation Committee
- Adam Vasilevic, Vancouver Public Space Network
- Simon Litherand, President False Creek Rowing Club
- Fern Jeffries, False Creek Residents Association
- John Murray, False Creek Residents Association
- Don Gagan, False Creek Residents Association
- Ed Lee
- Devon Knight, Strata Council 1255 Main Street

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

- concerned about lack of water sports equipment storage facility;
- residents at Citygate need their park;
- hope the Board will provide strong direction in the development of NE False Creek;
- need public open spaces for the people living in the area;
- consider water based sports as part of recreational area;
- Creekside Park is primary access to water at False Creek;
- the rezoning proposal could result in towers being built which will block the views for the residents at Citygate;
- this is not reshaping a park, but reneging on an agreement;
- strip or linear park is not welcoming for families;
- need a designated park, Board should proceed with the concept plan from 2006.

Moved by Commissioner Barnes,

- A. THAT the Board receive the City Council report entitled "Northeast False Creek: Directions for the Future", attached as Appendix A, for information.
- B. THAT the Board support the creation of the following parks and public open space in Northeast False Creek:
 - i) Creekside Park extension;
 - ii) An Outdoor Recreation Area primarily focused on hard-surface activities under the viaducts east of Carrall Street; and

- iii) A Civic Plaza capable of hosting a wide range of special events on the False Creek waterfront on the Robson or Georgia Street axis.
- C. THAT the Board is prepared to consider proposals to reshape Creekside Park extension, based on the criteria listed in Table 1 contained in this report.
- D. THAT the Board support the following elements in the Public Benefits Proposal for new development being considered for Northeast False Creek:
 - i) The Outdoor Recreation Area;
 - ii) The Civic Plaza;
 - iii) A financial contribution to upgrade existing parks and public open spaces in False Creek North; and
 - iv) A financial contribution toward the planned renewal of the Vancouver Aquatic Centre.

Board members discussed the report and a member of the Board requested a five minute break so that members of the Board could discuss the issue in private.

The Board recessed at 9:10 pm.

The Board reconvened at 9:18 pm.

A member of the Board requested the motion be severed.

Moved by Commissioner Barnes,

- A. THAT the Board receive the City Council report entitled “Northeast False Creek: Directions for the Future”, attached as Appendix A, for information.**

- Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Barnes,

- B. THAT the Board support the creation of the following parks and public open space in Northeast False Creek:**
 - i) Creekside Park extension;**
 - ii) An Outdoor Recreation Area primarily focused on hard-surface activities under the viaducts east of Carrall Street; and**

- iii) **A Civic Plaza capable of hosting a wide range of special events on the False Creek waterfront on the Robson or Georgia Street axis.**

- Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Barnes,

- C. **THAT the Board is prepared to consider proposals to reshape Creekside Park extension, based on the criteria listed in Table 1 contained in this report.**

Board members discussed motion C and expressed concern that they would like to see an active park for families to enjoy and not a linear passive park. A consultation with the community was done in 2006 and would like to see the concept plan from this public consultation executed rather than reshape the park to a long singular park which will not be providing the amenities for the park users.

The motion was put forward and it was DEFEATED UNANIMOUSLY.

Moved by Commissioner Barnes,

- D. **THAT the Board support the following elements in the Public Benefits Proposal for new development being considered for Northeast False Creek:**
- i) **The Outdoor Recreation Area;**
 - ii) **The Civic Plaza;**
 - iii) **A financial contribution to upgrade existing parks and public open spaces in False Creek North; and**
 - iv) **A financial contribution toward the planned renewal of the Vancouver Aquatic Centre.**

A member of the Board suggested an amendment to motion D.

Moved by Commissioner Robertson,

- v) **THAT the Park Board direct Council to expedite the provision of the Creekside Park extension prior to any development of site 6C, and strive to acquire commensurate Park Board amenities in consultation with residents.**

- Carried Unanimously.

Motion D as amended was put forward and it was Carried Unanimously.

The approved motion regarding Northeast False Creek: Directions for the Future is as follows:

- A. **THAT the Board receive the City Council report entitled “Northeast False Creek: Directions for the Future”, attached as Appendix A, for information.**

- B. **THAT the Board support the creation of the following parks and public open space in Northeast False Creek:**
 - i) **Creekside Park extension;**
 - ii) **An Outdoor Recreation Area primarily focused on hard-surface activities under the viaducts east of Carrall Street; and**
 - iii) **A Civic Plaza capable of hosting a wide range of special events on the False Creek waterfront on the Robson or Georgia Street axis.**

- C. **THAT the Board support the following elements in the Public Benefits Proposal for new development being considered for Northeast False Creek:**
 - i) **The Outdoor Recreation Area;**
 - ii) **The Civic Plaza;**
 - iii) **A financial contribution to upgrade existing parks and public open spaces in False Creek North; and**
 - iv) **A financial contribution toward the planned renewal of the Vancouver Aquatic Centre.**
 - v) **THAT the Park Board direct Council to expedite the provision of the Creekside Park extension prior to any development of site 6C, and strive to acquire commensurate Park Board amenities in consultation with residents.**

Contract Award – Kitsilano Beach Park Playground

Board members received copies of a staff report dated October 7, 2009 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A to D.

Staff advised the Board the upgrading of the Kitsilano Beach Park playground to an accessible playground is being done in partnership with Legacies Now Society, the Province, Ronald McDonald House Charities Canada and Rick Hansen Foundation. A landscape architecture firm is required to oversee the playground’s detailed design development, tender drawings and specifications and to review and inspect the contractor’s work during construction.

Board members thanked the partners, discussed the report and stated that the legacy project of an accessible playground on the beach shows great foresight and will benefit the marginalised community.

Moved by Commissioner Mackinnon,

- A. THAT, subject to Recommendations B, C and D, the Board enter into a contract with HB Lanarc Consultants Ltd. in the amount of \$64,725 including disbursements, for landscape architectural design services for the upgrade of Kitsilano Beach Park Playground to an accessible playground as detailed in this report;**
- B. THAT the contract be on the terms and conditions outlined in this report and on such other terms and conditions as are approved by the General Manager of the Park Board in consultation with the Director of Legal Services;**
- C. THAT, upon approval of the contract by the General Manager of the Park Board in consultation with the Director of Legal Services, the General Manager of the Park Board be authorized to execute the contract on behalf of the Board;**
- D. THAT no legal rights shall arise hereby, and none shall arise until execution of the contemplated contract, and the Board reserves the right to rescind this resolution at any time up to the execution and delivery of the contemplated contract by the General Manager of the Park Board.**

- Carried Unanimously.

Council Report on 2010 Operating Budget Preliminary Estimates

Board members received copies of a staff report dated October 15, 2009 recommending that the Board receive this report for information.

Staff advised the Board that Council will be discussing the 2010 Preliminary Operating Budget Estimates at its meeting on Tuesday, October 20, 2009. Council will direct staff to report back on options to achieve a property tax increase of between 1.5% and 2.0%. The balancing of the 2010 budget involves a combination of strategies, including continuation of the temporary "bridging" initiatives implemented in 2009 for 2010 and implementation of strategies identified in the Vancouver Services Review. Strategies identified during the Vancouver Services Review for long term solutions to the budget shortfalls are also being used to reduce the budget gap in 2010.

Board members discussed the report and expressed concerns regarding shared services as it is important for the Board to have autonomy over its finances and the building and maintaining of capital projects. A member of the Board indicated that although he understood there is some duplication of public works, he was concerned that public areas around community centres may lack attention during inclement weather. A member of the Board expressed his concern that shared services may dilute the level of service the public have come to expect from the Board

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock,

THAT the Board receive the report for information.

- Carried Unanimously.

Financial Statements to September 30, 2009

Board members received copies of a staff report dated October 9, 2009 recommending that the Board receive this report for information.

Staff advised the Board that overall the Board has spent 70.6% of its budget to the end of September, this is approximately \$2.5 million less than the net expenditures during the first nine months of 2008. While the Board's 2009 operating budget has been reduced by \$2 million, the decrease in net expenditures of almost \$1 million confirms that the Board is on track to meet the 2009 operating budget. The Donation Program collected \$393,833 in the first nine months of 2009 and the Stanley Park Restoration Project has a balance of \$664,317 remaining in the fund to complete the restoration and legacy work for Stanley Park.

Board members thanked staff for the report and were glad to note that we would be on budget.

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock,

THAT the Board receive this report for information.

- Carried Unanimously.

Enquiries, Other Matters and New Business

A member of the Board requested an update on the First Tee project.

Staff advised the Board that the fund raising program for this project is progressing and the business plan is being developed. It is anticipated that the program could be ready in 2010.

The meeting adjourned at 10:06 pm.

Peter Kuran
Acting General Manager

Commissioner Raj Hundal
Chair