

**MINUTES OF MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
HELD AT KERRISDALE COMMUNITY CENTRE
ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2009**

PRESENT:	Chair	- Raj Hundal
	Vice Chair	- Loretta Woodcock
	Commissioners	- Constance Barnes
		- Sarah Blyth
		- Aaron Jasper
		- Ian Robertson
		- Stuart Mackinnon
	Acting General Manager	- Peter Kuran
	Director of Corporate Services	- Anita Ho
	Director of Planning and Operations	- Piet Rutgers
	Co-Acting Director of Stanley District	- Philip Josephs
	Co-Acting Director of Stanley District	- Thomas Soulliere
	Acting Director of Queen Elizabeth District	- Diane Murphy
	Manager of Golf and Park Operations	- Ron Caswell
	Manager of Communications	- Joyce Courtney
	Recorder	- Shala Hay

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on Monday, November 02, 2009 were adopted as circulated.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair made mention of the Special Board Meeting that would be convened on November 17th to finalize the 2010 Budget Initiatives and invited members of the public to provide their input at the meeting. The Chair also reported on the royal visit of Camilla, the Duchess of Cornwall to VanDusen Botanical Garden; the Vancouver Biennale launch at Morton Park; and the BC Missing Women Memorial Service at Thornton Park.

Commissioner Mackinnon presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the Board on behalf of the British Columbia Bereavement Helpline and the Professionals in Care Alliance, in commemoration of Bereavement Day in BC, acknowledging the Board's support of BC Missing Women.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The last Planning and Environment Committee meeting was held on Thursday, November 12, 2009, on the agenda were: Riley Rink Presentation; Facility Infrastructure Renewal Plan. The next meeting will convene on Thursday, December 10, 2009.

The Services and Budgets Committee has not met since the last Board Meeting. The next meeting will convene on Tuesday, December 8, 2009.

City Council Report

At the next Regular Council Meeting a report on the 2010 Operating Budget Update, and Northeast False Creek: Directions for the Future would be brought to Council.

OPEN QUESTION PERIOD

Wayne Reid inquired into how the \$61 million budget shortfall was arrived at. Staff provided an explanation of the budget shortfall and its components.

STAFF REPORTS

2010 Fees and Charges

Board members received copies of a staff report dated November 06, 2009 recommending that the Board approve the 2010 Fees and Charges as detailed in the Appendix.

Staff informed the Board that in preparing the recommended 2010 Fees and Charges, comparative market rates, operating costs and impacts to customers were considered. Staff advised the Board that if the recommended fees and charges are not accepted the Board would have to find a way to compensate for a budget shortfall of \$1.6 million, which is equivalent to the closure of one or two community centres. Staff also recommended that as at January 01, 2010, admission fees be posted as the price before tax to promote transparency.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Peter Dueck
- Sean Smith
- Jim Palmer
- Linda Stewart
- Isabel Minty

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

- In light of the current economic recession and shrinking disposable income of residents, any increase in fees would not be wise
- The 4% increase is above the level of inflation over the past years
- Any decision to increase fees should be delayed until a real survey is conducted
- As salaries and wages account for most of the budget, Commissioners and senior staff should accept salary reductions to make up for the short fall
- The public was not made well aware of the increase in fees and charges
- Better notification and public consultation should have occurred
- Marina customers should have been notified of the increase by mail
- Would like to know how operating expenses at the marina have increased over the past year as stated in the report
- Burrard Marina seems to be leading the market in terms of fee levels but not in the standard of facilities offered
- The Marina rates for electrical power has almost doubled in the last few years
- The Park Board should formally protest the HST introduction
- Suggests that the Board build more marinas as this is one of the few revenue generating services it provides
- 177 is an insufficient number of respondents for a survey
- The fees increase notices at facilities are not noticeable
- Would prefer if fees were increased by more than 4% rather than cutting services
- Resents that the options are to either increase fees or cut services as other means of meeting the budget should be sought
- The Board should look towards increasing public awareness through the media to seek external funding for services
- The Board has allowed its rights to be taken away by accepting the City's decision to increase fees

Board members discussed the report. Members of the Board stated that this is not an easy decision for the Board and significant thought has gone into this matter. A Board member inquired into whether staff received feedback on the letter that was sent to the BCRPA requesting their support in a lobby against the introduction of the HST by the provincial government. Staff stated that they were informed by the BCRPA that they are still working on this.

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock,

THAT the Board approve the 2010 Fees and Charges as detailed in Appendix I.

Board members discussed the motion.

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

Moved by Commissioner Mackinnon,

A. THAT the Board approve the 2010 Fees and Charges as detailed in Appendix I.

B. THAT all posted Park Board Fees and Charges include taxes.

Board members discussed the amendment.

The amended motion was put forward and it was Defeated (Commissioner Mackinnon contrary).

The original motion was put forward and it was Carried Unanimously.

2010 Special Events

Board members received copies of a staff report dated November 05, 2009 recommending that the Board receive the 2010 Calendar of Major Events as information.

Commissioner Woodcock left the meeting at this time.

Board members discussed the report. A Board member inquired into whether significant opposition was raised by residents during this year's events. Staff informed the Board that there was no major opposition. The main concerns related to noise levels and rangers were on patrol to ensure that levels were within the limit. Board members commended staff on their role in scheduling and managing these events and commented on the number of exciting events on the 2010 Calendar.

Moved by Commissioner Barnes,

A. THAT the Board receive the 2010 Calendar of Major Events as information.

Carried Unanimously.

(Commissioner Woodcock was absent for the vote)

Enquiries, Other Matters and New Business

A Board member requested an update on the Jericho Wharf Re-consultation. Staff informed the Board that a report on this would be submitted at the November 30, 2009 Board meeting.

A Board member inquired into the status of the bookings for the temporary RV Parks during the 2010 Olympics. Staff informed the board that the bookings are going considerably well and the parks are being promoted throughout North America. RV parks are also being looked into as an affordable alternative form of accommodation for VANOC volunteers.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Peter Kuran
Acting General Manager

Commissioner Raj Hundal
Chair