

**Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Parks and Recreation
Planning & Environment Committee Meeting
Held at the Vancouver Park Board Office on
Thursday, June 11, 2009**

ATTENDEES: **Park Board Commissioners**
Aaron Jasper, Chair
Ian Robertson
Stuart Mackinnon
Loretta Woodcock

Commissioner Blyth was absent.

Park Board Staff

Piet Rutgers	Director, Planning & Operations
Danica Djurkovic	Manager, Facility Development
Terry Walton	Manager of Recreation Services, Vancouver East District
Harry Jongerden	Garden Director, VanDusen Botanical Garden
Bill Manning	Manager, Arboriculture and Horticulture, Queen Elizabeth District
Shala Hay	Recorder

Delegations:

Keith Jacobson, President, Killarney Community Centre Association
Henry Hawthorn, President, VanDusen Botanical Gardens Association

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm, with the following Agenda:

1. Approval of Minutes of the Meeting of May 14, 2009
2. Seniors Centre Siting
3. Partnership Agreement with VanDusen

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Planning & Environment Committee held on Thursday, May 14, 2009 were adopted as circulated.

2. Seniors Centre Siting

Staff presented a report on the possible options for the location of a senior services addition to Killarney Community Centre as requested by the Board. Several one and two level options of 10,000 ft² were presented. The benefits and challenges of each option were considered. All the options looked at constructing the senior services structure in close proximity to the core services of the community centre. Option 2C, adjacent to the north of the community centre, was seen as the most ideal; it has the most benefits and only one foreseeable challenge. It would consist of 2-levels, which will optimise the land use, and will connect with the existing elevator, stairs, kitchen and mechanical systems, as well as the other facilities. The only foreseeable challenge would be the proximity of the baseball field which could be easily solved through fencing.

Discussion:

It was noted by the Committee that all the options looked at locating the structure towards the back of the community centre away from the parking lot, which could pose a challenge to persons with limited mobility. Staff stated that all the areas considered are close to accessible entries and elevators, there should therefore be no challenges in this regard.

The Committee inquired into whether there would be any peat related construction issues. Staff stated that this would not be a significant issue and the structure would not be that large, at only 5000 ft² on each level.

Staff stated that the next step would be a feasibility study. This will look at other seniors' programs in the south east sector of the city, the types of programs they offer and the features and amenities that are important to users, such as the kitchen and lobby. Funding still has to be obtained for the study.

The Committee asked whether it has been confirmed that the structure will be connected with the existing kitchen, what demands this would place on the facility, and how it would affect the use of the kitchen by the rest of the community centre. Staff stated that a detailed analysis will be required to determine how the senior services structure would be integrated with the rest of the centre and where separate facilities may be needed. The aim would be to avoid duplicating resources unnecessarily before assessing the level of use.

The Committee asked what the timeline would be for completing the feasibility study. Staff stated that outside consultants would be most likely contracted for this, and it should take 4 to 6 months.

The Committee questioned, as the Park Board would only be contributing the land for the project and there is no definite source for funding the rest of the project, whether it is worthwhile to invest time into the project. Staff stated that based on the financial situation, they must consider the many other projects competing for their time and resources, which includes several other community centres, there is therefore a need for prioritisation. At the moment a potential location has been found for the senior services addition and a feasibility study is now needed to provide a rationale for moving forward. This would also add substance to the project and may assist in gaining financial support.

The following delegation requested to speak to the Committee:

- Keith Jacobson, President Killarney Community Centre Association

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

- Since 1986 seniors in the area have been requesting the Killarney Community Centre to establish a seniors centre
- In 2001 a building that was used by seniors in the area was damaged beyond repair over the winter
- The community centre was approached at that time to work with seniors and the community towards developing a seniors centre
- They were unsuccessful, in the past, in obtaining federal government funding
- They are happy to see that progress is being made
- Since 1986 the feasibility of the facility has been studied
- They would like to see the project now move forward
- Infrastructure money is becoming available through federal government, which could provide funding for the project
- Would like the Park Board to work with the community centre to get the project started
- He personally likes the site, his only concern is regarding the peat issues at that location

Discussion:

The Committee stated that they see the need for the feasibility study, as it would validate the project and its absence may impede the pursuit of funding; however the Park Board would not be able to finance the study. The Committee suggested that the community centre look towards funding the feasibility study, as it would support their quest for funding and expedite the process. The delegation stated that the Community Centre Association election will be occurring soon and after this they could approach the elected members regarding funding. Staff stated that the feasibility study should cost about \$40,000.

The delegation inquired into whether the Park Board would consider including the project in the list that will be submitted for federal government funding, if the community centre financed the feasibility study. The Committee informed the delegation that the Park Board cannot put the project on the application list because it does not meet the requirements, as there is no initial source of funding. If some initial source of funding could be acquired then the Board could consider endorsing the project for federal government funding. The Board already has a commitment to other projects in its Capital Plan for 2010 to 2011 and would not be able to allocate any funds to this project.

The Committee concluded that it is in support of option 2C for the location of the Killarney Community Centre Senior Services Addition and would bring it before the Board for approval. However, the Committee is not in support of the Park Board financing the feasibility study and requested the Killarney Association to determine whether they could fund the study.

3. Partnership Agreement with VanDusen

Staff provided an explanation of the agreement between the Park Board and the VanDusen Botanical Garden Association (VBGA) to give a clearer understanding of the principles of the agreement. The Joint Operating Agreement (JOA) was developed in 1994 and roles were established for the Park Board and the VBGA, as well as, joint responsibilities for both parties.

The Park Board's responsibilities are: Direction, Curation, Garden Maintenance, Visitor Experience and Facilities. VBGA's responsibilities are: Education, Membership, Development (Funding), Volunteer Coordination and Library. The joint responsibilities are: Marketing, Special Events and Outreach.

The VanDusen Garden Development Project that is currently in progress was made possible by the contribution of both parties, the Park Board contributed \$6 million and VBGA raised \$6.5 million towards the project.

A new draft JOA was developed but still has to be finalised. There is a need for this process to move forward. The new draft agreement focuses on consultation rather than clear lines of responsibility.

The following delegation requested to speak to the Committee:

- Henry Hawthorn, President, VanDusen Botanical Gardens Association

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

- VBGA is a fundraising association that raises a large sum of money each year, which has allowed the garden to function without funding from the Park Board
- This saves the Board a significant amount of money each year which it would otherwise have to incur for the garden's operation

Discussion:

The Committee thanked staff and VBGA for the overview that was presented and commended them on their good work.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.

Piet Rutgers, Director,
Planning & Operations

Commissioner Aaron Jasper,
Chair