

**Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Parks and Recreation
Services & Budgets Committee Meeting
Held at the Vancouver Park Board Office on
Tuesday, February 10, 2009**

ATTENDEES: Park Board Commissioners

Loretta Woodcock, Chair
Constance Barnes, Vice Chair
Aaron Jasper
Ian Robertson
Raj Hundal
Sarah Blyth

Park Board Staff

Anita Ho	Director, Corporate Services
Liane McKenna	Director, Vancouver East
Lori MacKay	Director, Queen Elizabeth
Piet Rutgers	Director, Planning & Operations
Peter Kuran	Director, Stanley District
Thomas Soulliere	Manager, Recreation Services
Terry Walton	Manager, Recreation Services
Diane Murphy	Manager, Recreation Services
Meg Elliott	Senior Business Analyst
Doug Pirozek	Recreation Service Co-ordinator
Linda Brindley	Recorder

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm, with the following Agenda:

1. Fees/Charges Special Events/Fields
2. Delegation: Mount Pleasant Community Centre Operation
3. #1 Kingsway Operating Plan and Budget
4. Federal Municipal Infrastructure Funding
5. Vancouver Olympic Centre Operating Plan and Opening
6. 2009 Operating Budget
7. 2009 Services & Budgets Meeting Dates

1. Fees/Charges Special Events/Fields

Staff gave an overview of the 2009 Fees & Charges proposal for outdoor sport facilities. The objectives are to simplify the fee structure, compare the charges with market rates and review

the allocation of facilities. To ensure there was community support for the proposed changes, users were surveyed for their feedback. In order to simplify the fee structure, it is proposed to discontinue the unused rates. The proposed rates are comparable with other market rates within the region. Future discussions are required with users to determine the allocation of facilities. The proposal is for the new rates to be effective September 2009. Staff is seeking feedback from the Services and Budgets Committee on the proposed rates and if endorsed, staff will prepare a Board report to be tabled at the Board in March.

Discussion:

The Commissioners questioned when the last increase was implemented and would like to have the percentage increases shown on the proposed fee schedule when the Board report is brought to the Board. They requested that an addendum be included in the Board report that lists the organizations that provided feedback. The Committee supported the proposal and requested staff to explore the option of annual fees with users when the Board report is brought to the Board.

Staff responded that the increases take place each September.

2. Delegation: Mount Pleasant Community Centre Operation

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Nancy Chiavario
- Mallory O'Connor
- Phalgun Joshi

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

- Mount Pleasant Community Centre (MPCC) is slated for demolition in 2009 and all programs, except licensed out of school care and preschool will be moving to #1 Kingsway
- Concern that no interim solution for the childcare programs is being provided between the opening of #1 Kingsway and the construction of the childcare modular at Simon Fraser Elementary
- Request that the childcare be allowed to continue operation at MPCC or that the programs move to Simon Fraser Elementary
- Time for a decision is short because registration will begin in March
- Ask that Park Board find an interim solution
- Parents in the area are dependent on after school care

Staff advised that before and after and kindercare childcare has been identified as a need in the community. Park Board staff supports the continuity of the childcare and the society's

goal to get the modular up at Simon Fraser Elementary. #1 Kingsway will open in early fall of 2009. Staff will continue to explore options for the childcare programs.

Discussion:

The Commissioners questioned if staff will be retained at MPCC, if the childcare could remain at the facility and the cost of the modular and whether the modular has washrooms.

Staff stated that the intent is to move staff to the new building and decommission the old facility. It would be difficult to isolate a portion of the facility for childcare due to the layout of the building. There would be ongoing concern with vandalism and the Association would need to cover all operating costs, as the funding currently in place is to be transferred to #1 Kingsway. The cost of the modular is between \$1.8 million and \$ 2 million and the washrooms are contained within.

The Committee thanked the delegates for bringing the matter to their attention and asked staff to continue to work with the Association on options.

3. #1 Kingsway Operating Plan and Budget

Staff stated that replacement of the existing Mount Pleasant Community Centre was approved in 2001. A library, child development centre and market rental housing were added bringing the final approved budget to \$50.4 million. Construction began in September 2005 and the building is expected to be substantially complete in August 2009. The Community Centre programs will run at the existing MPCC until September 2009 when relocation will take place. The Mount Pleasant pool will operate during the summer of 2009. The new centre is expected to open in early October 2009 and it is anticipated that consultation for the Mount Pleasant Park will commence in the fall of 2009. The Operating Plan and Budget report will be presented to the Park Board on March 2 and to City Council on March 5.

4. Federal Municipal Infrastructure Funding

Staff gave an overview of the highlights of the Federal Budget 2009 initiatives that are intended to accelerate investments in infrastructure which will provide timely economic stimulus by creating jobs across Canada and also to help Canada emerge from the economic crisis with a more modern and greener infrastructure. One program provides \$500 million over two years to support construction of new community recreational facilities and upgrades to existing facilities across Canada. The initiative will support up to 50% of the total cost of eligible projects, with the balance to be provided by provincial and municipal governments, community organizations and the private sector. The initiative will be delivered nationally through three regional development agencies.

The second program has a couple of funds, including a new \$4 billion Infrastructure Stimulus Fund which will be available for two years for projects that will begin construction during the 2009 and 2010 construction seasons. The initiative is designed to get shovels in the

ground quickly. The Federal government will approve provincial, territorial and municipal project plans and will cover up to 50% of eligible project costs. Another Federal Fund also provides \$1 billion over five years for a Green Infrastructure Fund. Funding will be allocated based on merit to support green infrastructure projects on a cost-shared basis. Staff advised that more information will be provided in the weeks ahead regarding minimum size of projects and the cost sharing required.

Discussion:

The Commissioners questioned if there is a list of qualified projects and who will determine the projects to be submitted.

Staff replied that once the criteria necessary for submission is known, projects will be assessed on their suitability and then City Council will make a decision on recommendations for submission. Staff advised that a report will be brought to the Park Board first and then submitted to City Council, followed by the Provincial Government and then the Federal Government. Projects discussed as potential options under these three funding programs included playing fields, Malkin Bowl, VanDusen and Trout Lake.

Margery Duda, a delegation, requested to speak to the Board and made the following comments:

- she contacted her MP, Don Davies, to inquire if the Mount Pleasant pool is a suitable project for funding
- funding is tied to municipal and provincial payments with each having to contribute matching funds
- requests that Park Board include the Mount Pleasant pool on their list of projects that will be given to the City for review

Commissioners Hundal and Blyth left the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

5. Vancouver Olympic Centre Operating Plan and Opening

Staff gave an outline of the 5 year service plan. The proposal to open the pool in the summer of 2009 is not financially viable in view of our current budget challenge. The goals of the plan are to manage the transition with the public, ensure the services are provided seamlessly, protect the assets of the facility, provide financial sustainability and to provide leadership excellence. Staff provided some upcoming program highlights including the official opening of the curling venue on February 19. The World Wheelchair and World Junior Curling Championships will be held at the new Vancouver Olympic/Paralympic Centre at Hillcrest/Riley Park in February and March. The Centre will host Curling and Wheelchair Curling during the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

The legacy facility will open in 2011 with a fully operational community centre, rink, library and curling club. The plan calls for the facility to be open from 6 AM to 10 PM, 364 days a year.

Discussion:

The Commissioners questioned the cost to open the pool early. Staff replied that the cost to open the pool early is \$800,000.

6. 2009 Operating Budget

Staff gave an update of the 2009 Operating Budget. In the preliminary year end statements for 2008, there was a revenue shortfall and for 2009 there is a requirement to raise a further \$1.7 million in revenue (or 2.2 million more than 2008). Staff stated that there is a revenue challenge of \$2.2 million for 2009. They appealed the revenue percentage increase to the City but the City did not provide assistance. The suggestion was made to balance expenses by deferring the golf course loan payment to 2010 or beyond. Also, a reduction target of \$300,000 was assigned to the Park Board and options of how to achieve the target were outlined to the Committee.

The Commissioners questioned if either CUPE 15 or 1004 had been notified. Staff replied that unions, public stakeholders and staff have been invited to provide input to the 2009 Operating Budget. The items brought forward tonight before the Services & Budgets Committee are for their endorsement. A report will be presented at the March 2 Board meeting. The information will also be tabled at Labour Management meetings over the next two weeks.

Staff presented a number of proposals to meet the \$0.3 million budget reduction target.

Discussion:

The Commissioners questioned if there are other areas to increase revenues and if the possible loss of sales from bottled water has been considered in the numbers before the Committee. Staff are looking at special events and filming, and the possible loss of bottled water sales (estimated @ \$250,000) has not been included.

The General Manager stated that staff has tried to not impact services provided by the Park Board. After reviewing the initiatives, the Committee endorsed the proposals to fund \$300,000 in efficiencies.

Since the original Council Report, a further \$12 million shortfall has been projected and the City Manager is taking steps to mitigate the shortfall. A recalculation has been done on the development permit area which has indicated a 50% decrease in permit revenues for December, January and February creating a \$12 million shortfall. The City Manager has

worked with the City Management Team and a hiring freeze has been instituted for temporary and permanent employees throughout the organization.

Further items being examined include no consulting contracts to be awarded, travel to be frozen outside the province and training to be reduced to required training only. An audit will be conducted to review core services. Wage rollbacks for management staff are also being considered.

The General Manager recommended that the Board support the City directives for cost cutting. The Committee agrees that we should support the City of Vancouver position, however, the Park Board will remain the authority in charge and will look at areas for reduction that include non core services. The General Manager will take those suggested reductions back to City Council.

7. Approval of 2009 Meeting Dates

The Committee members received the draft 2009 Services & Budgets Meeting Dates. The Committee decided to proceed with the March 10, 2009 Services & Budgets meeting as scheduled and then to alternate with a meeting on the third Tuesday of the month, followed by a meeting on the second Tuesday of the month, all with a 6:30 p.m. start time.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Anita Ho, Director,
Corporate Services

Loretta Woodcock, Chair