

**MINUTES OF MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
HELD AT THE PARK BOARD OFFICE
ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2009**

PRESENT:	Chair	- Aaron Jasper
	Vice Chair	- Sarah Blyth
	Commissioners	- Constance Barnes
		- Raj Hundal
		- Stuart Mackinnon
		- Ian Robertson
		- Loretta Woodcock
	Acting General Manager	- Peter Kuran
	Director of Vancouver East District	- Liane McKenna
	Director of Planning and Operations	- Piet Rutgers
	Co-Acting Director of Stanley District	- Philip Josephs
	Acting Director of Queen Elizabeth District	- Diane Murphy
	Manager of Horticulture & Arboriculture	- Bill Manning
	Manager of Communications	- Joyce Courtney
	Recorder	- Shala Hay

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the following meetings were adopted as circulated: regular meeting of the Board held on Monday, November 16, 2009; special meeting of the Board held on Tuesday, November 17, 2009; and special meeting of the Board held on Thursday, November 25, 2009.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair reported on recent events: 2009 Cultural Harmony Awards, electric vehicle launch at Sunset Community Centre and official opening of Bright Nights in Stanley Park.

The Chair also reported on the highlights of the Park Board's Strategic Accomplishments for 2009: sustainable projects such as the Earth Day tree planting event and Mason Bee project; renewal of ageing infrastructure and adaptations to accommodate growth including the official opening of two new parks and the Vancouver Olympic/Paralympic Centre and finalization of the Forest Management Plan from the Stanley Park Restoration project; engagement of people through enhancements to the public web site, launch of the Park Board's Facebook and Twitter pages and introduction of the new format for the Annual Report; integration of public involvement with the hosting of 6 Community Board Meetings and 38 open house/workshop events;

Excellence In Green Building Practises Award was attained from the Globe Foundation and the World Green Building Council for sustainable venue construction to the architects of the Park Board's 4 new 2010 winter Games legacy facilities.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

On the agenda of the last Services and Budgets Committee meeting were: Procurement Policy; 2009/2010 Operating Budget Update; and 2010 meeting schedule. The next meeting will convene on January 19, 2010.

On the agenda of the last Planning and Environment Committee meeting were: No Smoking Policy; Mt Pleasant Park, Community Centre and Pool Consultation Results; 2010 Winter Games By-Law; Stanley Park Information Kiosk; and 2010 meeting schedule. The next meeting will convene on January 7, 2009.

City Council Report

Included on the agenda of the next Regular Council meeting are: Approval of Funding in Advance of 2010 Capital Budget: Conversion of the Vancouver Olympic/Paralympic Centre at Hillcrest Park into the new Riley Park Community Centre, Riley Park Ice Rink, Vancouver Curling Club and Riley Park Library; Changes to Council-Delegated Authority to Contract ("Standing Authorities"). At the next Planning and Environment Committee meeting Council will receive a report on the Hastings Park/PNE Master Plan.

Election of Chair

As set forth in the Board's Procedure By-law, the Acting General Manager acting as Chair pro-tem, called for nominations for Chair of the Board for Year 2010.

Commissioner Hundal nominated Commissioner Jasper as Chair.

Ballots were provided to the Commissioners for completion. The ballots were counted and Commissioner Jasper was declared Chair of the Board for Year 2010.

The Acting General Manager handed over the Chair to Commissioner Jasper.

Election of Vice-Chair

Commissioner Barnes nominated Commissioner Blyth as Vice-Chair

Ballots were provided to the Commissioners for completion. The ballots were counted and Commissioner Blyth was declared Vice-Chair of the Board for Year 2010.

STAFF REPORTS

Mount Pleasant Park

Board members received copies of a staff report dated December 07, 2009 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A to C.

Staff informed the Board that the new Mount Pleasant Community Centre, at #1 Kingsway, opened its doors on Friday, December 11, 2009. The results of the public consultation and recommended next steps in the plan for Mount Pleasant Park were presented. The consultation results indicated that the community's preference is for an outdoor swimming pool and change room to be included in the plans for the park. Staff recommended that the park be developed in such a way to permit the pool and change rooms to be included at a later date, when the capital funds become available and that the existing building be decommissioned.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Don Davies, Member of Parliament, Vancouver Kingsway
- Bryan Stewart
- Ken Bregman
- Margery Duda
- Robert Kay
- Sharon Urton
- Anita Romaniuk

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

- Would like the Board to know how important the pool is to the residents of Mount Pleasant
- The pool supports a healthy lifestyle
- It is one of the few outdoor pools remaining and also serves users outside of the community
- If the existing pool is allowed to be closed it can take five to ten years for a new one to be built
- Recommend that, if the building is decommissioned, washroom facilities be set up for about five to six years to keep the pool operational
- Suggest that, as long as the pool is functioning, the building and pool could be kept operational

- A small general admission fee for the pool could be charged to cover the operating costs and allow time for a plan of action to be developed
- Need the development plans to be finalized, to determine the amount of funds required, in order to start working on fundraising for the new pool
- Advise that some of the funding for redevelopment of the park go towards building outdoor change rooms for the existing pool, as this is what the community wants
- There already is a playing court in the area so this is not a priority but the pool is
- Would like to know the timeline for approval of the plans
- Should not worry about adding amenities to the park right now; should focus on the pool and green space
- The community has shown willingness to fundraise and secure financing from the government and other organisations

The Board thanked the delegations for their comments.

Board members discussed the report. A Board member inquired into the cost to bring the building up to standards. Staff advised the Board that it would cost approximately \$4-6 million to address the structural, mechanical and fire code deficiencies of the building. A Board member asked staff to explain how the \$1 million financing for the park redevelopment came about. Staff informed the Board that the funding came from the Development Cost Levy (DCL) Reserve, which is a government funding program available for the development of parks, but can not be used for the development of facilities.

Moved by Commissioner Barnes,

- A. THAT the Board receives this report on the outcome of the public consultation program for information.
- B. THAT the Board direct staff to develop a plan for Mount Pleasant Park that allows for the future development of an outdoor pool and change rooms at such time as funds for this component become available.
- C. THAT the Board authorizes the decommissioning of the existing building and pool.

A member of the Board proposed an amendment to section B of the motion.

Moved by Commissioner Mackinnon,

- B. THAT the Board direct staff to develop a plan for Mount Pleasant Park that allows for the future development of an outdoor pool and change rooms within the next Capital Plan.

Board members discussed the amendment. Several members of the Board stated that the current budget constraints would not permit this project to be funded in the next Capital Plan.

The amendment to the motion was put forward and it was Defeated (Commissioner Mackinnon and Commissioner Barnes contrary).

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

Year 2010 Board Meeting Dates

The Chair stated that the next agenda item to be dealt with will be the 2010 Board Meeting dates after which the Board will return to the staff reports.

Board members received copies of the dates for the 2010 Board meetings.

Moved by Commissioner Mackinnon,

THAT the Year 2010 Board meeting dates be approved as submitted.

-Carried Unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

Hastings Park / Pacific National Exhibition (PNE): Recommended Master Plan Directions

Board members received copies of a staff report dated December 11, 2009 recommending that the Board receive this report for information on the recommended master plan directions for Hastings Park/Pacific National Exhibition (PNE).

Staff advised the Board that this report relates to the Council report which lays out the various aspects of the recommended master plan directions.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Patricia Coutts
- Eric Harms, President, Hastings Community Association
- Stewart Anderson, President, Kiwassa Neighbourhood Service Association
- Randy Chatterjee, Hastings Park Conservancy

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

- Citizens of Vancouver were denied the rights to these lands due to the establishment of the PNE which has been using the park as a cash cow.
- This plan is against what citizens have been expecting over the years and what they have been promised
- Since 1910 the Board said it was opposed to leasing the park to any operation
- Residents in other areas are allowed unfettered access to parks even during festivities but members of Hastings community are denied access to their park
- The use of Empire Bowl will be negotiated by the PNE and BC Lions but kids are not even allowed access to this area
- The Park Board needs to advocate for the park otherwise it should just be called an exhibition ground
- There should be a balance and all governance should not be turned over to that association, which does not have the public's best interest at heart.
- This plan is unsupported by the results from the public surveys that went out over the summer which came back in disagreement with the proposed plans
- Concern that there is no economic basis for this plan, as the forum is used 58 days of the year and they are unable to fill the existing space

The Board thanked the delegations for their comments.

Board members discussed the report.

Moved by Commissioner Hundal,

THAT the Board receive the recommended master plan directions for Hastings Park / Pacific National Exhibition (PNE) for information.

Board members discussed the motion. A Board member proposed that the motion be amended to include a section B.

Moved by Commissioner Hundal,

B. THAT the Board urge Council to support the recommendations of the 2004 Hastings Park Restoration Plan which recommended an additional 45 to 47 acres of green space in Hastings Park.

-Carried Unanimously.

Board members discussed the motion as amended. A Board member proposed that the motion be amended to include a section C.

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock,

- C. THAT the Board request that Council place portions of restored park land at Hastings Park under the “custody, care and management” of the Park Board as permitted under sections 488.3 of the Vancouver Charter.

Board members discussed the amendment. A Board member suggested an amendment to the proposed section C.

Moved by Commissioner Robertson,

- C. THAT the Board request that Council place portions of restored park land at Hastings Park under the “custody, care and management” of the Park Board as permitted under sections 488.3 of the Vancouver Charter and that Council provide the Park Board with adequate funding for the “custody, care and management” of the Park Board’s portion of the park.**

-Carried Unanimously.

The proposed section C, as amended, was put forward and it was Carried Unanimously.

Board members discussed the main motion as amended. A member of the Board expressed concern that the intention of Council would be to go with the proposed 25 to 35 acres stated in the report, which is less than the additional 45 to 47 acres proposed by Council in 2004.

The main motion as amended was put forward and it was Carried (Commissioner Mackinnon and Commissioner Woodcock contrary).

The motion that was carried by the Board is as follows:

- A. THAT the Board receive for information this report on the recommended master plan directions for Hastings Park / Pacific National Exhibition (PNE).**
- B. THAT the Board urge Council to support the recommendations for the 2004 Hastings Park Restoration Plan which recommended an additional 45 to 47 acres of green space in Hastings Park.**

- C. THAT the Board request that Council place portions of restored park land at Hastings Park under the “custody, care and management” of the Park Board as permitted under sections 488.3 of the Vancouver Charter and that Council provide the Park Board with adequate funding for the “custody, care and management” of the Park Board’s portion of the park.**

Use of Harbour Green Dock by Passenger Ferry Services

Board members received a copy of a staff report dated December 02, 2009 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A to C.

Staff advised the Board that Coastal Link Ferries Ltd has been using the dock on a temporary basis for the past year, to provide a public transit service from downtown Vancouver to Bowen Island and West Vancouver. Staff recommended that the Board enter into a one year trial agreement with Coastal link Ferries Ltd, from January 1st to December 31st, 2010 and that authorization be given to the General Manager to execute similar agreements with other ferry operators.

Board members discussed the report. A Board member expressed concern that public consultation was not conducted before the recommendation came to the Board.

Moved by Commissioner Blyth,

- A. THAT the Board approve a trial period of up to twelve months for the use of the floating walkway dock at Harbour Green Park by Coastal Link Ferries Ltd for its commuter passenger ferry service, with details as set out in this report.**
- B. THAT the Board approve entering into similar trial period agreements with other companies offering comparable passenger ferry services, as applicable.**
- C. THAT once the form of the licence has been approved by the General Manager and the Director of Legal Services, that the General Manager is authorized to execute the document on behalf of the Board.**

-Carried.

(Commissioner Mackinnon contrary)

MOTIONS

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock,

WHEREAS:

- 1. Violence against women persists as both a pervasive violation of human rights and a significant impediment to achieving gender equality on a global and local level;**
- 2. Gender inequality remains one of the root causes of violence against women while violence against women serves as both an acute manifestation of gender inequality and a means of perpetuating it;**
- 3. Vancouver is a city that believes in dignity, respect, and gender equality and has established the first City of Vancouver Women's Advisory Committee;**
- 4. Recent figures from Statistics Canada indicate that women are 8 times more likely than men to experience violence in relationships (Source: Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, Statistics Canada, 2006);**
- 5. Recent statistics show that violence against women increase by one third during times of economic downturn;**
- 6. 'We Can End All Violence against Women', or 'We Can', is a multi-year, international campaign, which seeks to challenge and change deeply entrenched societal attitudes and practices that support violence against women through a Coalition of over 50 organizations and 500 individuals;**
- 7. 'We Can' is a partner in the international '16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence' campaign that will be taking place from November 25- December 10, 2009 to raise awareness and dialogue around violence against women;**
- 8. The '16 Days' Campaign has seen tens of thousands of activists from every region of the world take part in a united movement for women's rights since its beginning in 1991, providing an opportunity to work together in solidarity and draw upon this period of heightened international attention to gain support for local efforts;**

9. The COV Women's Advisory Committee requests that Vancouver City Council support the campaign against violence against women by supporting this campaign.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the Vancouver Park Board unanimously agree to endorse the We Can Coalition and its '16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence' Campaign.

-Carried Unanimously.

The Vice Chair took over the chairing of the meeting so that the Chair could put forward a motion.

Moved by Commissioner Jasper,

WHEREAS the Board initiated a Core Services Review as part of its 2010 Budget process to better align its programs and services with the Park Boards mandate;

WHEREAS the Bloedel Conservatory, as part of the 2010 Budget process, was identified as not being part of the Park Boards Core Service;

WHEREAS the Board approved, on November 25, 2009, to close the Bloedel Conservatory to assist in meeting the Park Board's 2010 fiscal challenges;

WHEREAS the Board recognizes the historic value of the Bloedel Conservatory and its potential for future use;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board direct staff to issue a Request for Expressions of Interest inviting interested applicants to submit written business cases/concept plans and other relevant information for the use (in a similar or new capacity) of the Bloedel Conservatory facility in Queen Elizabeth Park.

Board members discussed the motion. A Board member requested that the Board go into a brief in-camera meeting.

Moved by Commissioner Robertson,

THAT the Board go into an in-camera meeting.

-Carried Unanimously.

The Board went into an in-camera meeting at 9:31p.m.

The Board exited the in-camera meeting and the meeting reconvened at 9:49 p.m.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- John Coupar, Friends of the Bloedel
- John Mcalpine
- Emma Sutherland, RedFox Program
- Mary Anne Byrne & Family
- Avery Burrow
- Paul Faoro, President, CUPE Local 15
- Sheryl Hamilton, Friends of the Bloedel
- Bill McCreery, representing a Group of former Park Board Commissioners
- Bonnie Simpson
- Donald Simpson
- Zenon Holtz
- Stephen Bohus

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

- Over 52,000 persons have signed a petition against the closure of Bloedel Conservatory
- The previous Boards did not neglect the conservatory, in fact recent upgrades were made to the facility
- Findings indicate that the building is solid and in good condition
- Because the foundation is no longer in existence does not mean that the City can cancel its obligation
- There should be transparency in these discussion and no need to go in-camera
- The conservatory is an excellent place to take visitors and it is a landmark
- Is the Board so divorced from commercial methods that it cannot find a way for it to make money
- A lot of money can be made during the Olympics
- Where would the birds who call the conservatory home go if it is closed
- The location makes it difficult to find for those who are unfamiliar with it
- More advertising should be done, for e.g. on the sides of buses
- Parking fees in the area are relatively high, therefore a discount can be offered with the presentation of a parking receipt to make it more attractive
- The Board threw its mission statement out the window on November 25th when it decided to put forward those budget cuts
- If this motion is passed it would result in the privatization of Park Board facilities

- The Board should be at City Hall fighting for funding for the park systems
- A solution is needed but insufficient time is given to come up with a solution
- Friends of the Bloedel would like to work with the Board in a similar capacity to the VanDusen Society
- Request that the Board extend the terms to allow the conservatory to remain open for the next 6 to 8 months
- Recommend that the final decision be deterred until alternative solutions are found
- Can consider increasing the fees and avenues for fundraising and generating revenue
- Getting rid of the Bloedel sends the message to donors that they should not donate money to the Park Board as you will not be leaving a legacy
- The Bloedel was given in good faith to the Board and at the first sign of problems the decision was made to close it
- If money was set aside for improvements rather than added to the City revenue fund we would not be in the situation we are in today
- Whatever repairs are needed can be fixed and in the meantime the cost needed to keep it open can be arranged, but the loss will be unforgivable
- The Bloedel is a gift for future generations and you should not look at what is legally binding but at what is the right thing to do
- The panels can stay for a few more years and there are more sustainable upgrades that can be done
- Closure of the conservatory conflicts with the goal of being the greenest city in the world

The Board thanked the delegations for their comments.

Board members discussed the motion. A member of the Board suggested that the final paragraph of the motion be amended.

Moved by Commissioner Jasper,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, pending clarification that the rights of the Bloedel foundation had not been assigned to its successor or assignee, that the Board direct staff to issue a Request for Expressions of Interest inviting interested applicants to submit written business cases/concept plans and other relevant information for the use (in a similar or new capacity) of the Bloedel Conservatory facility in Queen Elizabeth Park.

-Carried Unanimously.

Board members discussed the motion as amended and a second amendment to the final paragraph of the motion was suggested.

Moved by Commissioner Jasper,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, pending clarification that the rights of the Bloedel foundation had not been assigned to its successor or assignee, that the Board direct staff to issue a Request for Expressions of Interest inviting interested applicants to submit written business cases/concept plans and other relevant information for the use (in a similar or new capacity) of the Bloedel Conservatory facility in Queen Elizabeth Park by April 30th, 2010.

Board members discussed the amendment. A Board member expressed concern as to whether April 30th would be sufficient time.

The amendment was put forward and it was Carried (Commissioner Mackinnon, Robertson and Woodcock contrary).

The main motion as amended was put forward and it was Carried (Commissioner Mackinnon, Commissioner Robertson and Commissioner Woodcock contrary).

Moved by Commissioner Jasper,

WHEREAS the Board initiated a Core Services Review as part of its 2010 Budget process to better align its programs and services with the Park Boards mandate;

WHEREAS the Children's Farmyard, as part of the 2010 Budget process, was identified as not being part of the Park Boards Core Services;

WHEREAS the Board approved, on November 25, 2009, to close the Children's Farmyard to assist in meeting the Park Board's 2010 fiscal challenges and support its core services;

WHEREAS the Board recognizes the potential educational value of the Children's Farmyard;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board direct staff to issue a Request for Expressions of Interest inviting interested applicants to submit written business cases/concept plans and other relevant information for the use (in a similar or new capacity) of the Children's Farmyard facility in Stanley Park.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Tamara Flick-Parker
- Paul Faoro, President, CUPE Local 15
- Mike Jackson, President, CUPE Local 1004
- Gerry O'Neil, Stanley Park Horse-Drawn Tours

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

- Would like sufficient time to work on this, similar to Bloedel, especially in light of the holidays
- Spoke with Yosef Wosk who is interested in putting together a proposal to address fundraising and operating costs for the farmyard
- Would also like to ensure that the farm workers do not lose their jobs
- The Board should tell the City the amount that is needed to carry out the Park Board services and leave it up to Council to decide whether funding would be available
- Ask that the motion be withdrawn and the farmyard be kept open for the public
- Is the Board aware that there is a fundraising manager employed with the Board
- It would be embarrassing for management if a private company would come in and make a profit from running the farmyard
- Management has not come forward and offered to lose a couple of their positions
- It does not make any sense that the Board would think that any organisation would want to take over a business that has been losing money over the past few years
- If the Board is serious about this more time is needed
- Stanley Park and the farmyard need a wow factor and without the vision there would be no point
- There were plans a few years ago to upgrade the farmyard and similar ideas need to be looked into to generate attraction

The Board thanked the delegations for their comments.

Board members discussed the motion. A Board member suggested that the last paragraph of the motion be amended.

Moved by Commissioner Jasper,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board direct staff to issue a Request for Expressions of Interest inviting interested applicants to submit written business cases/concept plans and other relevant information for the use (in a similar or new capacity) of the Children's Farmyard facility in Stanley Park by April 30th, 2010.

Board members discussed the amendment. A few members of the Board expressed concern that the timeline would not be sufficient.

The amendment was put forward and it was Carried (Commissioner Mackinnon, Commissioner Robertson and Commissioner Woodcock contrary).

Board member discussed the motion as amended.

The main motion as amended was put forward and it was Carried (Commissioner Mackinnon, Commissioner Robertson and Commissioner Woodcock contrary).

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:

(c) **labour relations or other employee relations;**

-Carried Unanimously.

Enquiries, Other Matters and New Business

A Board member requested that in future, when there is an in-camera meeting, the Enquiries, Other Matters and New Business section of the agenda be brought up before the in-camera meeting, so that the public can be present for this part of the meeting. The Board concurred that this would be done in future.

The meeting adjourned at 12:37 a.m.

Peter Kuran
Acting General Manager

Commissioner Aaron Jasper
Chair