

**Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Parks and Recreation
Planning & Environment Committee Meeting
Held at the Vancouver Park Board Office on
Thursday, October 7, 2010**

ATTENDEES: Park Board Commissioners

Sarah Blyth, Chair
Raj Hundal, Vice Chair
Loretta Woodcock
Aaron Jasper
Stuart Mackinnon
Constance Barnes

Park Board Staff

Danica Djurkovic	Acting Director, Planning & Operations
Peter Kuran	Director, Stanley District
Thomas Soulliere	Manager of Recreation Services
Jenny Jung	Special Events and Filming Coordinator
Barinder Lalli	Recorder

Delegations:

- Erik Lees, Lees + Associates
- Paul Runnals, brand.LIVE

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm, with the following agenda:

1. Approval of Revised Minutes of the July 8, 2010 Meeting and Approval of Minutes of the September 9, 2010 Meeting
2. AAA New Site Options
3. Komagata Maru Update
4. Celebration of Light -2011 Event Proposal

1. Approval of Minutes

The revised minutes of the meeting of the Planning & Environment Committee held on Thursday, July 8th, 2010 and the minutes of the meeting of the Planning & Environment Committee held on September 9th, 2010 were adopted as circulated.

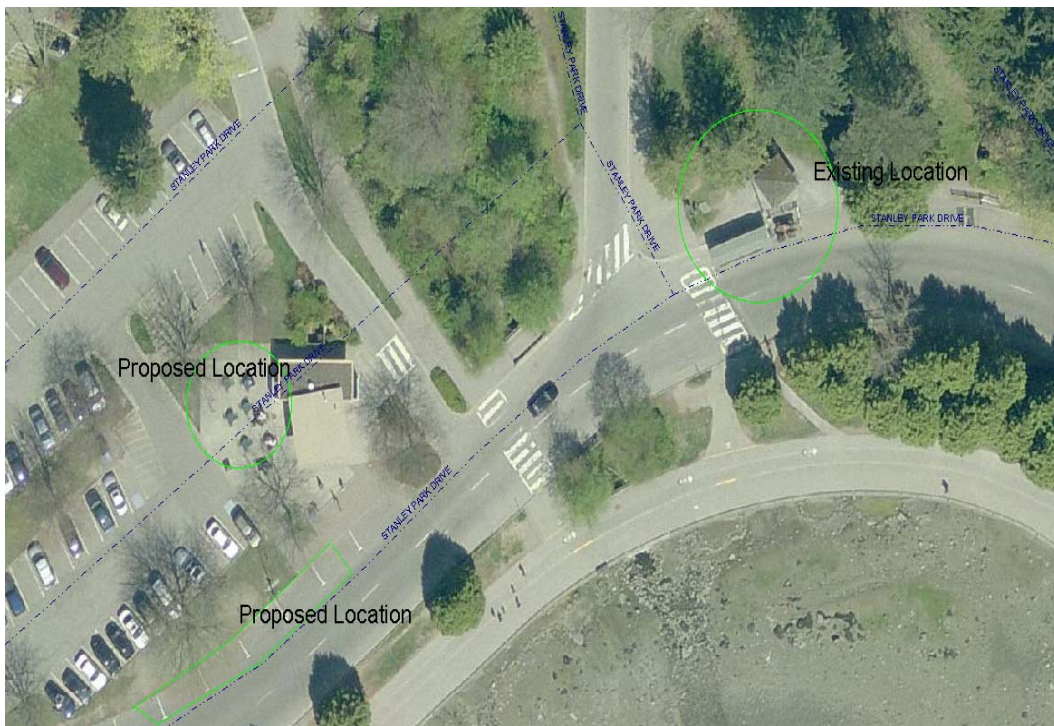
2. AAA New Site Options

Staff presented a proposal for a new site option for AAA Horse Drawn Carriage tours and discussed the current contract. The current 5 year contract expires on April 30th 2013 and

allows AAA to operate a horse-drawn carriage in approved areas of Stanley Park, occupy a portion of the service yard for storage of carriages and for the stabling of horses, use a kiosk on park drive as a ticket sales booth and to use the adjacent roadway as a departure location.

A capital improvements requirement necessitates that \$100 000 be spent on capital improvements to facilities within the first two years of the term and that all plans be approved by the General Manager in advance. The Board receives 6% of all revenues from the Horse-drawn tours and 10% of the revenues from the sale of souvenirs and tickets to other attractions.

Staff provided the following aerial view of the current location of AAA tours and the new proposed location.



The parking stalls that would be occupied as a result of the new location would be shifted to the site that will be left by AAA. Staff will work with AAA in proposing a new concept plan to be presented to the Board if the Committee accepts this proposal.

Discussion

A member of the Committee asked if there were any safety concerns with the new location. Staff replied that before making a final decision all aspects of safety including current crosswalks and traffic signs will be evaluated.

A member of the Committee asked if staff have had any conversations about this move with existing stakeholders in the park. Staff replied that they want to get direction on this proposal before any conversations with the stakeholders take place.

A member of the Committee asked how this proposal is different than the one submitted a few months back. Staff replied that this model would retain the food and information booth which will allow AAA to capitalize on those services.

A member of the Committee asked if there was a rough estimate of the cost. Staff replied that there was not an estimate yet and that they would need to work closely with AAA to ensure that it makes sense for them and their business.

The Committee was in favour of giving direction to staff to investigate this new site option for AAA.

3. Komagata Maru Update

Staff presented an update on the proposed Komagata Maru memorial in Stanley Park. The Board received a proposal from the Khalsa Diwan Society to sponsor a monument in honour of the Komagata Maru incident that occurred on May 23, 1914.

The Komagata Maru was a ship that sailed from India to Canada in 1914. It arrived and sat in the Burrard Inlet for two months before being denied access to Canada as a result of the discriminatory 'Continuous Passage Act'. Only 20 of the 376 passengers were allowed to enter Canada. In 1989, a memorial plaque was placed in Portal Park to mark the 75th anniversary of the incident.

The new proposed memorial will be located in close proximity of the ships location and all costs associated with it will be borne by the proponents who have secured funding from the Federal Government's 'Community Historical Recognition' program. The target completion date is March 31st 2012. Staff introduced Erik Lees from Lees + Associates who will lead the process for the community consultation, site evaluation and concept design/review. Lees + Associates also carried out this process for the Air India memorial.

Lees + Associates will carry out this memorial in a six phase program which includes landing on two location options for the installation, a short consultation process which will include a posting on site as well as on the Park Board website, generating a summary of the consultations, preparing a series of memorial concepts and enough information that can be shown at a community open house, make any revisions to the design and finally ensure all site issues are addressed. It was added that two important issues which will be addressed are the First Nations and environment as keeping the integrity of the land is crucial.

Discussion

A member of the Committee asked the delegation to walk the Committee through the consultation process that occurred during the Air India memorial. The delegation replied that the Commissioners were very engaged in the overall process however there was only one formal meeting with the Board that took place.

A member of the Committee stated concern about media and public backlash if the memorial is proposed in a prime location in Stanley Park and asked whether there could be a public component added to the memorial as was done with the addition of a playground for the Air India memorial. Staff replied that there are options available, however the consultation process will help clarify all the details.

A member of the Committee asked staff whether there was any thought to alternate locations to Brockton Point. Staff replied that a number of locations were discussed but thought that the most appropriate location would be nearest to where the Komagata Maru was docked. A member of the Committee commented that the location should be a place that people can come together and respect that part of our history like Victory Square does on November 11th.

A member of the Committee stated that the memorial needs to be done in a way that it is recognized as a historical mark and should be done in good taste regardless of where it is located and how much of the federal money goes towards it versus a public amenity.

The Committee added that they are very passionate about this proposal and are looking forward to its completion. Staff added that they anticipate returning to the Board at a meeting in early 2011 with recommendations.

4. Celebration of Light -2011 Event Proposal

Staff presented an event proposal for the 2011 Celebration of Light. This year will mark the 21st Celebration of Light fireworks festival. It attracts 1.3 million people each year and has an estimated \$37 million economic impact.

In 2010 enhancements were made with the addition of a Sunset Beach stage, a PowerSmart family zone and a bike valet at two locations. Additionally, noise issues from the Short Fest stage and Bathhouse sound system were resolved after the first day. Two new elements that will be introduced in 2011 are a hospitality area and reserved seating in bleachers just south of the Bathhouse.

Staff introduced Paul Runnals from brand.LIVE which is a Vancouver based company that has signed a three year deal with Vancouver Fireworks to help them make the event viable and sustainable. Brand.LIVE aims to improve the over-all experience of this long-standing civic event, increase the levels of sponsor satisfaction and retention and increase national and international media.

Brand.LIVE is proposing a reserved seating section which was done in the late 90's. The proposed bleachers will be 120 feet by 30 feet with 1000 seats and will be located just

south of the Bathhouse. It will take up less than 1% of the viewing space on English Bay and will lose little capacity as people will be seated closer together than they would be on blankets on the beach.

The proposed hospitality area is similar to what is done at Bard on the Beach. There will be a reception in the Maritime Museum and then at a certain time the ticket holders will be escorted to the seating area. The aim of this area is to provide an elevated hospitality experience for sponsors and local corporate clients.

Discussion

A member of the Committee asked if construction of the new Cactus Club restaurant will impact this proposed location of the bleachers at the Bathhouse. Staff replied that this proposal will not be impacted by the construction; however it will impact the Short Fest stage.

A member of the Committee expressed concern over the height of the bleachers and whether it would impact people standing behind them. The delegation replied that with the preliminary construction plan, the highest point of the bleachers will be in line with the seawall and therefore should not impact people who are standing behind them.

A member of the Committee expressed concern over the magnitude of the event and the crowd that it creates and asked how brand.LIVE it would handle the large crowds heading to the bleachers. The delegation replied that there will be sufficient light for the building entry and exit points and the access to all entries and exits will be controlled.

A member of the Committee inquired about the accessibility of the bleachers and how they will accommodate wheelchairs. The delegation replied that there will be access off of Beach Avenue for wheelchairs.

A member of the Committee asked how brand.LIVE would deal with controlling the amount of garbage left on the ground. The delegation replied that they would like to collaborate with the Park Board so that garbage can be controlled. It was added that during the day the garbage is not an issue and it is only when people leave that it becomes overwhelming. The delegation proposed to illuminate waste stations, provided more bins and volunteers to help mitigate this problem.

Staff added that this proposal will come to the Board Meeting on November 1st with more details and a final recommendation.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Danica Djurkovic, Acting Director,
Planning & Operations

Commissioner Sarah Blyth,
Chair