

**MINUTES OF MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
HELD AT THE PARK BOARD OFFICE
ON MONDAY, JANUARY 17, 2011**

PRESENT:	Chair	- Aaron Jasper
	Vice Chair	- Constance Barnes
	Commissioners	- Sarah Blyth
		- Raj Hundal
		- Stuart Mackinnon
		- Ian Robertson
		- Loretta Woodcock
	General Manager	- Malcolm Bromley
	Deputy General Manager	- Peter Kuran
	Acting Director of Planning and Operations	- Danica Djurkovic
	Acting Director of Corporate Services	- Meg Elliott
	Environmental Planner	- Alan Duncan
	Manager of Communications	- Joyce Courtney
	Recorder	- Barinder Lalli

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Board held on Monday, December 13, 2010 and minutes of the special meeting of the Board held on Thursday, December 16, 2010 were adopted as circulated.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair reported on several community events that occurred over the last few weeks: The 91st annual Polar Bear swim which had a record 2200 swimmers and the CitizenU initiative designed for young people to develop leadership skills to combat racism and discrimination. The Chair also reported that on January 11th, Marty Zlotnik, a former Park Board Commissioner was inducted into the BC Hall of Fame.

COMMITTEE REPORT

The last Planning and Environment Committee meeting convened on Jan 13, 2011. On the agenda were: Telus Wireless upgrade at Nat Bailey, Shaw Wireless proposal at Nat Bailey, Dog-off leash at Memorial West and the BC Hydro Transmission Project. The next meeting will convene on Feb 10, 2011.

The next Services and Budgets Committee meeting will convene on Jan 25, 2011. The agenda has not been finalized.

City Council Report

The General Manager advised the Board that, at its next regular meeting, Council will discuss: CitizenU Anti-Racism and Inter-cultural leadership program, the draft greenest city 2020 Action Plan, and the amendments to False Creek North official development plan.

STAFF REPORTS

2011 Budget Approval

Board members received copies of a staff report dated January 6, 2011 recommending that the Board approve the proposed 2011 Park Board Global Budget of \$55,625,906.

Staff provided a background on the Budget timeline and the process. City Council approved the budget in principal on November 30, 2010. On December 14, 2010 Council approved the city-wide budget. On December 16, 2010 the Park Board approved \$730 000 in service reductions to balance the budget.

Staff discussed changes between the 2010 and 2011 budget which included the elimination of the NNR budget, the inclusion of the added basic budget which addresses the costs for new or expanded facilities which were opened in 2010 or will be opened in 2011, the transfer of certain costs to the City, such as the final transfer of 311 funding and other transfers associated with the Vancouver Services Review.

The city added 1.5 million to the Park Board budget for inflation adjustments in three main areas which are salaries, supplies, utilities and city equipment and a 2.75% inflation increase for revenue and recoveries which decreases the net budget because the Park Board is expected to increase fees to cover some of the cost increases.

A Board member inquired whether any Community Centre Associations have expressed interest in hosting a Park Board meeting and what the cost associated with that would be. Staff replied that an invitation to host Board Meetings at Community Centres has been drafted which details how they can host the Park Board. The hosting package is being drafted in a way that will not be financially demanding by mobilising the resources that are available at the Park Board office, such as the Public Address (PA) system.

A Board member asked what percentage of the net operating budget does the \$730 000 for service reductions equate to from last years net operating budget. Staff replied that the \$730 000 equals 1.2% of last years net operating budget.

A Board member inquired whether money had been allocated for the budget gap and whether the public will be consulted for input. Staff replied that the \$130 000 gap, which includes an estimated cost for the shower program, could be accomplished by deferring a portion of the Langara Drainage Reserve payment as all is not necessary this year. A permanent solution to this gap will have to be addressed in the future.

The following delegate requested to speak to the Board:

- Eleanor Hadley

The following is a summary of the foregoing delegate:

- The cost of maintaining Stanley park should be re-evaluated and the Provincial government should pay for the cost of English bay and the seawall since it is a global park
- Stanley Park should be left in its natural state
- Opposed to having a shower program for the homeless, the homeless should use public washrooms or jump in the bay.
- A new concession stand should be built instead of a Cactus Club.

The Board thanked the delegate for her comments.

The Board discussed the motion. A Board member thanked staff for preparing the report and expressed confidence that the 2011 global operating budget would provide for new and expanded facilities in the Park Board as well as protect its core services and allow Council minimize the tax increase.

Moved by Commissioner Hundal,

THAT the Board approve the proposed 2011 Park Board Global Budget of \$55, 625.906.

-Carried

(Commissioner Mackinnon, Commissioner Robertson and Commissioner Woodcock opposed)

Stanley Park Ecological Action Plan

Board members received copies of a staff report dated January 10, 2011 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A and B.

Staff advised that at the May 6, 2010 Planning and Environment Committee meeting they were directed to identify and prioritize different options for action in Stanley Park to restore and improve the ecological health and biodiversity of the park's ecosystems in partnership with the Stanley Park Ecology Society.

Staff, in conjunction with the Stanley Park Ecology Society, determined five priority areas for action which are Beaver Lake's rapid infilling, Lost Lagoon's water quality, Invasive plant species, Fragmentation of habitat and Species of Significance. Staff discussed remedial strategies for each of the five priority areas.

Staff advised that of the priority areas the majority of the costs are associated with Beaver Lake and Lost Lagoon and that there are no additional costs for procedural changes

which would happen through the operational budget. Beaver Lake is the top priority for 2011 and will be funded through the 2011 Capital Plan. The remaining actions will be included in the 2012-2014 Capital Plan through the Stanley Park submission. Staff will also pursue new or additional funding from other agencies and levels of government.

A Board member asked whether there was any legacy money left from the windstorm fund and whether that could be used for this project. Staff replied that any remaining money raised from the windstorm is for forest planning and thinning practices and cannot be used for ecological work.

A Board member inquired what kind of habitat will be preserved by doing the work mentioned regarding Rawlings and Cathedral trails. Staff replied that Cathedral trail currently goes through and divides an existing wetland so if that trail were decommissioned and raised with a boardwalk a very fragile and valuable eco-system could be recreated. Rawlings trail will be connected to it because it is considered a safety hazard as a result of its bad site lines which will be corrected when the trails are connected.

A Board member inquired when the Stewardship Plan would be coming to the Board. Staff replied that they are looking for direction from the Board on that and assume that it will come to a future Planning and Environment Committee meeting before it comes to the Board.

A Board member inquired about the type of chemical that will be used to eradicate the invasive plants and whether there are any concerns with it as staff mentioned signs will be posted to notify people of its presence. Staff replied that there is a very minimal risk and that signs will be posted to limit the liability.

A Board member asked for clarification regarding the \$100 000 for consultancy and whether that was just for Beaver Lake or if it also included Lost Lagoon. Staff replied that the consultancy is for Beaver Lake only and the cost for a consultancy at Lost Lagoon would be a different unknown cost as the terms of reference have not been determined.

A Board member inquired whether the mandatory 10 year clearing of Lost Lagoon biofiltration pond would have happened anyway and if it was budgeted for regardless of this proposal. Staff replied that it would have happened regardless and that the cost associated is only \$8500.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Patricia Thomson, Executive Director, Stanley Park Ecology Society
- Robyn Worcester, Conservation Programs Manager, Stanley Park Ecology Society
- Laurence Brown, Camosun Bog Restoration Group
- Dr. Andre Zimmerman
- Spencer Chandra Herbert, MLA
- Kristine Webber, Young Naturalist Club of British Columbia
- Joan Reekie
- Andrew Appleton, Evergreen
- Britta Ng

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

- This plan is in line with the Park Board Strategic Plan and the City's Greenest Action Plan
- Stanley Park has been deeply impacted by logging and the associated skid roads, plantations, and intentional and unintentional introduction of invasive species. .
- The accelerated rate that Beaver Lake is disappearing is not nature's course.
- Beaver lake is a valuable rare true wet land.
- People will pull together to make this plan a success
- Stanley Park Ecology Society supports the plan and the viable actions listed in the report.
- Have been working with staff since last June to build the plan and determine the top five priority areas.
- By approving this, the Board will restore the ecological integrity of Stanley Park.
- If nothing is done, animals such as frogs, salamanders, fish and turtles will be first to go.
- The loss of Beaver Lake would mean the loss of an important refuge as it is an oasis in the heart of Vancouver.
- Beaver Lake is an outdoor classroom.
- All recommendations in the report are integral.
- Have been involved in bog restoration of 50 years and is extremely interested in the restoration of this bog
- Have been walking around Beaver Lake for the last 40 years and it is getting worse with each visit.
- Beaver Lake is very similar to Camosun Bog and would like to assist in its restoration and there is a lot of interest from within the Camosun Bog Restoration Group to help
- Did hydrology and core work with Beaver Lake in 1999.
- The lake is infilling at a much faster rate.
- Beaver Lake may have been 2 metres deep
- Inorganic sand and silt has been increased in Beaver Lake by 200% which used to be which could result from the causeway, the atmosphere, and trails and roads.
- There is a tendency to think the causeway split the watershed up and divided it. However, the water was turned onto the lake in 1916 and the causeway was not built until the 1930's.
- This will be a great display of ecology but it is hard it will be restoring nature.
- Lost Lagoon has a great diversity of creatures
- People appreciate living in a densely packed area, but then are able to be in the park and be involved with nature.
- This plan and this work for the years ahead are exciting.
- People will rally around this project.
- Congratulations on this report, it has taken years to get to this point
- Part of an organisation that connects children and their families to nature and do explorer days in Stanley Park
- This will have a really positive impact on the biodiversity in the community.
- Put coho into Beaver creek with classmates and hopes other children will have the opportunity to do the same

- Oppose the walkway for Cathedral trail as this is the first and only construction in a huge natural park.
- It seems that this area targeted for fragmentation and habitat has been chosen to provide authorisation for a raised walkway.
- The ecology of the area is already tarnished.
- This is an excuse to use the mess already created to create a raised walkway.
- The model of cooperation is between Stanley Park Ecology Society and the Park Board is exceptional and hope that it can be replicated elsewhere.
- This initiative helps the city's greenest city 2020 action plan.
- There is an environmental benefit and a connection to a non-profit.
- Urges the Board to adopt the recommendations as proposed.
- Fully supports the work of Stanley Park Ecology Society.

The Board thanked the delegations for their comments.

The Board discussed the motion. A Board member expressed satisfaction to be part of the first Board in 82 years that is responsive to restoring this piece of Stanley Park. A Board member discussed the huge role that Stanley Park plays in the lives of Vancouverites and that the Board has an obligation to fix what is happening at Beaver Lake for future generations. A Board member stated that Stanley Park is an urban park which is interfered with constantly but the intervention can be mitigated by repairing it and doing it in the most natural way possible.

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock,

A. That the Board approve the recommended actions identified in this report and summarized in Appendix E to improve the ecological integrity of Stanley Park in the following five priority areas of concern: Beaver Lake's rapid infilling; Lost Lagoon's water quality; invasive plant species; fragmentation of habitat; and Species of Significance.

B. That the Board approve a consultancy to develop a vision and implementation strategy for Beaver Lake in 2011 to ensure the lake's long-term viability, to be funded from the 2011 Capital Budget.

-Carried Unanimously

The Chair called a short recess at 9:13pm.

The meeting reconvened at 9:20pm.

Metro Regional Growth Strategy Recreation and Conservation Designations

Board members received copies of a staff report dated January 6, 2011 recommending that the Park Board endorse the recommendation of Council, approved April 8, 2010, regarding

the designation of lands protected from development as part of a new Conservation-Recreation land use designation (what was known as the “Green Zone”) as clarified in this report.

Staff advised that as the regional population in Vancouver grows from 2.2 to 3.4 million by 2041, Metro has been working on adopting a new Regional Growth Strategy to improve the livability and sustainability of the region. New designations will also be extended to include new parks and walkways when they are built in the east Fraserlands.

Council endorsed the current draft on October 7, 2010. Park Board endorsement for the recommendations regarding Conservation-Recreation designations are required for this proposal. Staff introduced Randy Pecarski, Senior Planner for City-Wide and Regional Policy and Projects to answer questions from the Board.

A Board member inquired whether the Southlands were still designated as agricultural land. The delegation replied that the municipality does not have the authority to de-designate it and that it has very little development potential.

A Board member inquired whether the groups concerned with Crab Park have been notified. Staff replied that they had not been notified because the plan has not been approved yet but that they will be notified.

The Board discussed the motion. A Board member discussed the importance of protecting green space and expressed support for this project.

Moved by Commissioner Blyth,

That Park Board endorse the recommendation of Council, approved April 8, 2010, regarding the designation of lands protected from development as part of a new Conservation-Recreation land use designation (what was known as the “Green Zone”) as clarified in this report.

-Carried Unanimously

Enquiries, Other Matters and New Business

A Board member inquired about money that a previous Board had tucked away for a master plan for John Hendry Park and asked when that master plan might occur. Staff replied that the master plan happened about 3-4 years ago. Some aspects were established while others can be looked at again in 2012. There are no plans for it in 2011. The Board member requested a copy of the master plan.

A Board member stated that last year a request for a washroom study was requested and inquired when the results of that washroom study would be communicated to the Planning and Environment Committee. Staff replied that the washroom study is tentatively scheduled for a future staff briefing and then it will come to the Planning and Environment Committee.

A Board member inquired when the aquatic review will be taking place. Staff replied that a Request for Proposals was issued and out of three consultants, two responded. The proposals will be reviewed this week and the short term goal is to have direction by the end of March.

In-Camera Session

Moved by Commissioner Jasper,

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:

(e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the Board considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the city;

- Carried Unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 9:48pm.

Malcolm Bromley
General Manager

Commissioner Aaron Jasper
Chair