

**MINUTES OF MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
HELD AT THE PARK BOARD OFFICE
ON MONDAY, APRIL 04, 2011**

PRESENT:	Chair	- Aaron Jasper
	Commissioners	- Sarah Blyth
		- Raj Hundal
		- Stuart Mackinnon
		- Ian Robertson
		- Loretta Woodcock
	Deputy General Manager	- Peter Kuran
	Acting Director of Corporate Services	- Meg Elliott
	Manager of Revenue Services	- Gordon Barber
	Manager of Recreation Services	- Thomas Soulliere
	-Stanley District	
	Manager of Business Development	- Octavio Silva
	Manager of Planning and Research	- Tilo Driessen
	Supervisor of Business Services	- Ken Maguire
	Special Events and Filming Coordinator	- Jenny Jung
	Manager of Communications	- Joyce Courtney
	Recorder	- Barinder Lalli

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Board held on Monday, March 14, 2011 were adopted as circulated.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair reported on several events that had taken place over the last few weeks including a Winter Games Recognition Event, the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Riley Park farewell skate. The Chair also reported that a fruit tree planting ceremony will take place at Ross Park on Thursday April 7th at 2pm.

COMMITTEE REPORT

The last Services and Budgets Committee meeting convened on March 23, 2011. On the agenda was the Klahowya Village Event in Stanley Park. The next meeting will convene on April 26, 2011.

The next Planning and Environment Committee meeting will convene on April 7, 2011. On the agenda are a presentation from 'Save our Elms' regarding the Elm Trees on East 6th Avenue, the Indoor Tennis Feasibility study and a Boathouse Restaurant Patio proposal.

A Board member raised a point of privilege requesting the address for the location of the Elm Trees on East 6th Avenue. Staff replied that the information would be provided to Commissioners.

City Council Report

The Deputy General Manager advised the Board that at its next meeting Council will provide its Annual Procurement Report.

STAFF REPORTS

Strategic Plan Update

The Deputy General Manager introduced Lynn Hoover and Joanne O'Shea from SAIT Polytechnic Strategic Planning Consultancy Services who will lead the Strategic Planning process for the Park Board. SAIT Polytechnic is a successful operation which has worked with federal agencies as well as in the social services sector. Its focus is on creating an integrated planning system which will align the Strategic Plan with higher level plans.

The Park Board Strategic Planning process will begin in April and run until Fall 2011. The stages involved in this project include design and initiation, stakeholder engagement, planning, options and strategic choices, strategic framework and finally communications and rollout.

The Park Board Strategic Plan will align with the Greenest City Action Team 2020 Initiative, the City of Vancouver Strategic Plan as well as the City of Vancouver Corporate Human Resource Plan.

The immediate next steps include developing and finalizing a stakeholder engagement plan, undertaking a consultation with the Park Board leadership team and key stakeholder groups and conducting a Board strategic planning workshop.

A Board member inquired how the Strategic Plan process will fit into the Capital Plan process as the Capital Plan will be underway in the summer while the Strategic Plan will not be ready until the fall. Staff advised that some initial direction from the Strategic Plan will be provided mid-July. Staff added that the Capital program is under review at the City which will change the 3 year Capital Plan into a 10 year financial outlook. The expectation is that the Capital Plan format will change and that the new format will not be as specific and detailed as previous Capital Plans have been. Therefore Strategic Plan priorities can be incorporated easily as the yearly capital budgets will determine where money will go.

A Board member inquired how public engagement will take place. Staff replied that the plan to engage different groups will be discussed during the staff briefing which will follow the regular Board meeting however in the past public engagement has been done through the Park Board website and newspapers.

A few Board members added that they were looking forward to learning more about this process during the staff briefing.

2011 Major Special Events

Board members received copies of a staff report dated March 22, 2011 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A to D.

Staff advised that there are four major special events scheduled for 2011 including the Vancouver International Jazz Festival at David Lam Park, Volleyball BC Open at Kitsilano Beach, Vancouver 125 Celebration 'Summer Live' at Brockton Point in Stanley Park and the Parks Canada Centennial Celebrations also at Brockton Point.

The Jazz Festival organizers are requesting to combine three separate licensed areas into one and increase capacity by 100. Volleyball BC is asking to increase their licensed area from 200 to 250 and Parks Canada Centennial Celebrations will be adding a licensed area for cost recovery reasons.

A Board member inquired whether there was any feedback from the Kitsilano neighbourhood regarding the licensed Volleyball BC event from last year. Staff replied that the event is very well run and that they have confidence that the organizers will address any issues that may arise and added that there have not been any problems in recent years.

A Board member inquired whether the police are involved in deciding capacity sizes for these large events. Staff advised that the police are involved however initial approval is provided by the festival committee before the police are incorporated.

A Board member asked whether staff have engaged stakeholders that will be affected by these events. Staff replied that stakeholders were advised of the upcoming events during the February stakeholder meeting. Staff added that concerns were raised about traffic for the Vancouver 125 Celebration in Stanley Park during the Planning and Environment Committee but that the Director of Transportation at the City has approved the plan that Vancouver 125 has put forward.

The Board discussed the motion. A Board member expressed excitement to see the Park Board's participation in these events and stated confidence that the due diligence had been done.

Moved by Commissioner Robertson,

- A. THAT the Board grant permission for a maximum capacity 600-person Public Special Occasion License for the Coastal Jazz Vancouver International Jazz Festival, July 2 – 3, 2011 at David Lam Park.**
- B. THAT the Board grant permission for a maximum capacity 250-person Private Special Occasion License for the Volleyball BC Open, July 15 – 17, 2011 at Kitsilano Beach.**
- C. THAT the Board approve a major civic event application from Vancouver 125 Celebration - “Summer Live”, July 8 – 10, 2011 at Brockton Point in Stanley Park, including a maximum capacity 750-person Public Special Occasion License, with all arrangements to the satisfaction of the General Manager.**
- D. THAT the Board approve a major event application from Parks Canada – “Parks Canada Centennial”, July 16, 2011 at Brockton Point in Stanley Park, including a maximum capacity 500-person Public Special Occasion License with all arrangements to the satisfaction of the General Manager.**

- Carried Unanimously

Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2010

Board members received copies of a staff report dated March 10, 2011 recommending that the Board receive this report for information.

Staff provided an update on the 2010 operating statement, donation statement and the Stanley Park Restoration Fund.

The Park Board revenues were \$3.6 million above budget however the gross expenditures were also above budget by \$2.7 million. Reserve funds and recreation saw a large surplus however there were large shortfalls in weather dependent areas such as concessions, golf and pitch and putts. The Park Board was left with a net over expenditure of \$338 000 as a result of the Global Budget funding arrangement with the City which states that the Park Board cannot keep surpluses in areas that are not under the direct control of the Board including utilities and city equipment.

The Donation Program had an opening balance of \$2.69 million at the start of 2010 and closed at \$3.2 million at the end of 2010. This program includes donations for park amenities, park monuments, park conservation, recreation programming, special projects and the endowment program.

The Stanley Park Restoration fund has received over \$10 million in donations since its inception. The only addition to the fund in 2010 has been from interest accrual as the program

is now winding down. The balance remaining in the account will be spent on the Forestry Management Program.

A Board member asked how much the Park Board subsidizes the Community Centres and whether the figure went down in 2010 compared to 2009. Staff replied that the net budget for Community Centres was \$13.7 million in 2009 and \$13.9 million in 2010. However, the Park Board spent marginally less than that with \$13.18 million in 2009 and \$13.16 million in 2010.

A Board member inquired whether the golf and pitch and putt industry is in a general decline or if this is a one off year. Staff replied that the golf industry is experiencing a general decline however there was a larger decline in 2010 as a result of the weather.

A Board member inquired what the Recreation Programming fund in the donation program was allotted for. Staff replied that there are three programs that run under that umbrella and those are Active Communities, Fraserview Junior Golf Program and the Granville Lawn Bowling Club. The Board member asked if certain groups donate money with the intention that it goes to specific programs. Staff replied that people have donated with the intention that money benefit certain programs. An example of this is the Granville Lawn Bowling Club.

A Board member inquired whether money in the Recreation Programming fund could go towards summer programs that have been cut at Burrardview or Balaclava. Staff replied that all the funds that are in the donation account are currently earmarked for specific programs and there is not a general recreation account however that is something that could be pursued.

A Board member inquired whether there are any rules or grounders surrounding the donation program. Staff replied that donations have a lot of restrictions but also that it is a good faith exercise and that the Park Board endeavours to spend money where the person donating it would like for it to be spent. The Board member stated that there should be a discussion about whether money in the donation account will go to operating accounts, capital projects or other areas.

A Board member requested that the operating statements for Stanley Park, Queen Elizabeth Park and Van Dusen Gardens be presented at an upcoming Services and Budgets Committee meeting.

The Board discussed the motion.

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock,

THAT the Board receive this report for information.

- Carried Unanimously

Klahowya Village Event in Stanley Park

Board members received copies of a staff report dated March 24, 2011 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A to D.

Staff advised that this event, which is run by Aboriginal Tourism BC (AtBC), had its inaugural year last year. 160 000 people attended which was 40 000 more than expected. The event had positive customer experience ratings and increased Park Board revenues for the train, parking and concessions.

This year the event will take place from May 16, 2011 until September 11, 2011 and AtBC is expecting 192 000 attendees. This event will be gated with flexible ticket prices which will include a train only and village only price as well as a family rate, a group rate and a seasons' pass. Staff introduced Henry Tso and Keith Henry from AtBC to answer questions from the Board.

A Board member asked whether the various park partners have been shown this plan. Staff replied that stakeholders were shown an overview of it and there is excitement for its return. Staff added that the Fish House restaurant had a themed menu during the event last year.

A Board member noted that there is only fencing around the perimeter of the area and that there is no fencing within the area and asked how a person who buys a train-only ticket would be kept from entering the village as well. The delegation advised that there are still ongoing discussions with Park Board staff regarding how the site and flow of traffic through the gates will be managed.

A Board member asked if the train-only pricing was the same as the Bright Nights and Ghost train. Staff replied that the Ghost Train is \$11 for adults and \$7 for seniors/children, the Bright Nights train is \$9 for adults and \$6 for seniors/children while the Klahowya train will be \$10 for adults and \$8 for seniors/children.

A Board member inquired about the impact this event has had on the youth leaders that were involved with it last year. The delegation replied AtBC's trailblazer training program is an entry level program that allows youth to get involved in the tourism industry. Last year the goal was to have 19 participants but that expanded to 60 part-time and full-time participants. Klahowya Village allows a hands on practicum experience for these youth and resulted in a number of success stories. A number of the youths involved now work in the tourism industry. The delegation added that words or money can not account for the positive impact this event has had on the Aboriginal community.

The Board discussed the motion. A few Board members expressed support for the motion as the event was successfully organized last year. A Board member stated that the event is in its second year but hopes that it will become a permanent experience in Stanley Park. Another Board member thanked the delegation for bringing this event to Stanley Park.

Moved by Commissioner Hundal,

- A. THAT the Board approve the use of the Stanley Park Miniature Train site for the Klahowya Village cultural tourism event in 2011 with an option to extend the agreement for up to two additional one year terms subject to the approval of the General Manger.**
- B. THAT all legal documentation is to be in a form which is satisfactory to the Director of Legal Services for the City of Vancouver and the General Manage Vancouver Park Board.**
- C. THAT the General Manager be authorized to execute and deliver such documentation on behalf of the Board.**
- D. THAT no legal rights shall arise and no consents, permissions or licenses are granted hereby and none shall arise or be granted hereafter unless and until all contemplated legal documentation has been executed and delivered by all parties.**

- Carried Unanimously

The Chair called a short recess at 8:17pm.
The meeting reconvened at 8:27pm

Motion

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock,

Whereas Japan is a leader in having organized its citizenry in earthquake preparedness, and Christchurch has organized a Civil Defence Emergency Management plan involving a series of partnerships between City Council, emergency services, community agencies and neighbourhood volunteers for effective emergency response and relief, and were immediately deployed after the feb.22, 2011 earthquake, and

Whereas Vancouver's Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Program (NEPP) delivers sessions on family emergency Preparedness through community centres; while at the same time there is no coordinated Response measures in effect

Whereas Vancouver actively supports volunteers in Emergency Social Services and Amateur Radio through the Office of Emergency Management and the Police Department, however does not have programs in place to engage women's and disability organizations to address more specific family needs

Whereas there is no single program that consolidates neighbourhood emergency Preparedness with Response teams through the Office of Emergency Management, the Police Department and Community Centres across the City

Be it resolved that in order to provide the most effective earthquake crisis relief, the Park Board work with the City to expand Emergency Preparedness and Response services at community centres, which includes providing tools, training, and support to a network of neighbourhood volunteers.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Karen Martin, BC Coalition of People with Disabilities
- Naoko Scherb
- Tim Johnson
- Barry Growe
- Randy Helten

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

- Is the emergency preparedness coordinator for the BC Coalition of People with Disabilities and supports this motion;
- BC Coalition has been working on emergency preparedness since Hurricane Katrina for people with disabilities and people with functional needs;
- The City NEPP program needs to be expanded;
- There needs to be more resources and support to create neighbourhood networks and first responders.
- I am from Japan and used to live in Tokyo for 30 years;
- In Japan, people are raised with a culture of disaster awareness however in Vancouver people take very little interest in it therefore the government needs to take the initiative to educate the public;
- Now is the best time to create a community response network;
- Japan has many sister city agreements with many other cities in Japan to assist each other in times of disaster. Vancouver should do this with other cities in BC as well.
- Is an ex-resident of Christchurch, New Zealand and would like to commend the Board for considering this issue in advance;
- Quote from a friend in the hardest hit area of Christchurch: 'We did not survive this earthquake through conventional aid we survived it through neighbourhood support and kindness';
- Disasters break down barriers within communities;
- Some communities might not see first responders for 48-72 hours, communications will be non-operational, and transportation will be extremely difficult;
- Urge you to give the communities what they need so that they can respond with confidence.
- Was the Disaster Manager for the Canadian Red Cross for 20 years;

- The public's enthusiasm in wanting to participate in this will wane and therefore a sustained commitment is needed from the City to encourage the public that it can make a difference;
- People return to a feeling of indifference because its scary to think about;
- Only put efforts into research based methods that have worked;
- Need to address cultural issues. In Japan there is more of a commitment to disaster awareness.
- Support the motion but urges the Board to go twice as far;
- Community Centres will be places that people will be coming to for information in a disaster;
- Urge the Board to be vocal in all levels of discussion with the city;
- Having a good system in place where people know what to expect will benefit the young in the community;
- People will be looking to Community Centres for information and will be setting up tents in parks if they cannot live in their homes.
- There should be a seamless response from all levels of the government;

A Board member asked what additional emergency supplies would be required for people with disabilities in a disaster. The delegation replied that Communication aids and wheelchairs would be some of the items that would be required.

A Board member asked staff to elaborate on how the community centres are used during emergency disasters. Staff replied that community centres are areas of muster. Staff added that emergency response is a City-led function and that the City is sending three staff to Christchurch to learn from that earthquake and create a comprehensive plan.

A Board member asked if the Park Board participated in the Province wide shake-out earthquake drill that took place in January. Staff replied that the Park Board was part of that.

A Board member asked whether schools and community centres could coordinate their disaster response efforts. Staff replied that there is a motion that will be brought to Council tomorrow to propose that.

The Board discussed the motion. A Board member stated that there is a significant difference between emergency preparedness and emergency response and that this motion speaks to create a coordinated response that makes a difference. There are many different groups that deal with emergency response but the partnerships in the community need to be consolidated. A Board member expressed support for the spirit of the motion and its intent but cautioned that the Park Board not stray from its mandate as earthquake preparedness falls under the umbrella of the City of Vancouver. A Board member expressed support for the motion and asked to learn more about this issue during an upcoming Planning and Environment Committee.

Moved by Commissioner Hundal,

THAT the motion be referred to the May Planning and Environment Committee Meeting.

The Board discussed the motion to refer the main motion. A Board member felt that the motion to refer provided no benefit as the main motion was only asking for Park Board staff to work with City staff on this initiative. If this motion were to go to a Committee level then it would be asking staff to come back to the Board with an action plan.

The motion to refer the main motion was put forward and it was DEFEATED. (Commissioner Blyth, Commissioner Hundal and Commissioner Jasper contrary).

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

Enquiries, Other Matters and New Business

A Board member asked for an update on the Bloedel Business Plan that was approved by the Board in September. Staff advised that they approved and endorsed the Joint Business Plan and are currently working on drafting an annex to the existing Joint Operating Agreement to formally integrate it into the VanDusen Joint Operating Agreement. A Board member asked if this item will be returning the Board. Staff replied that it was subject to the General Manager's approval so it will not return to the Board.

A Board member asked when Trillium Field will be ready for use. Staff replied that the field will be ready at the end of next week and the field house will be ready by the end of May.

A Board member asked if there have been any discussions with Metro Vancouver regarding compensation for the Bloedel Conservatory as a result of the ongoing water main work at Queen Elizabeth Park which has been impacting business. Staff replied that they will contact Metro Vancouver to have that discussion.

A Board member inquired when all the lights imbedded in the cement wall at the Bloedel Conservatory will be fixed. The Board was told that the lights had been fixed but have now found out that not all the lights had been replaced. Staff replied they will look into it.

A Board member learned that Stratford Halls, a private school, was using Clark Park for their daily playground and physical education needs and asked if there were any rules or fees surrounding private schools using public parks and playgrounds. Staff replied that all schools, including private schools, are allowed to use the grass fields and playgrounds at no charge.

A Board member asked who is responsible for the grass/planted verges on either side of the fence along the CN tracks. Staff replied that they would look into it.

The meeting adjourned at 9:41pm.

Peter Kuran
Deputy General Manager

Commissioner Aaron Jasper
Chair