

**MINUTES OF MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
HELD AT THE PARK BOARD OFFICE
ON MONDAY, JUNE 27, 2011**

PRESENT:	Chair	- Aaron Jasper
	Vice-Chair	- Constance Barnes
	Commissioners	- Sarah Blyth
		- Raj Hundal
		- Stuart Mackinnon
		- Loretta Woodcock
	General Manager	- Malcolm Bromley
	Deputy General Manager	- Peter Kuran
	Acting Director of Planning and Operations	- Danica Djurkovic
	Manager of Revenue Services	- Gordon Barber
	Arts and Culture Coordinator	- jil weaving
	Manager of Communications	- Joyce Courtney
	Recorder	- Barinder Lalli

The Chair advised that Commissioner Barnes and Commissioner Blyth would be substituting their original motions with new motions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Board held on Monday, May 30, 2011 were adopted as circulated.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair reported on several community events that occurred over the past few weeks including Senior's week, the Stay Active Eat Healthy Forum, Marpole Community Day, Mount Pleasant Days, A Witness Ceremony for missing Aboriginal Women, Point Grey Fiesta, Opening of the artificial turf field at Memorial South Park, Strategic Plan Consultations, Aboriginal Day, Strawberry Festival, Grand Opening of Klahowya Village. The Chair also reported on the passing of former Park Board Superintendent Stuart Lefeaux.

COMMITTEE REPORT

The next Planning and Environment Committee meeting will convene on July 7th, 2011. The agenda has not been finalized.

The last Services and Budgets Committee was cancelled. The next meeting will convene on July 19th, 2011.

City Council Report

The General Manager advised the Board that at the next City Council meeting the following items will be discussed: the first quarter review of the 2011 Operating and Capital Budget, the Annual review of the Development Cost Levies and the draft 2012-2014 Capital Plan.

STAFF REPORTS

McCleery Golf Course - Golf Professional Services Contract

Board members received copies of a staff report dated June 1, 2011 recommending that the Board approve a two year increase to the additional seven (7) year extension for the Golf Professional Services Contract at McCleery Golf Course, on terms satisfactory to the General Manager of the Park Board and Director of Legal Services for the City of Vancouver.

Staff advised that the recommendation to increase the contract by two years on top of the additional seven years, which was awarded in 2006, was to recognize further delays that took place in this project due to Park Board labour disputes in 2007 and washroom hookup issues in 2008.

A Board member inquired what the problem had been with the washroom hookups. Staff replied that the issue was regarding their location. After a study was completed, the decision was made to stay with initial hookup site.

The Board discussed the motion. A Board member thanked staff for the report and expressed support for the recommendation.

Moved by Commissioner Barnes,

THAT the Board approve a two year increase to the additional seven (7) year extension for the Golf Professional Services Contract at McCleery Golf Course, on terms satisfactory to the General Manager of the Park Board and Director of Legal Services for the City of Vancouver.

- Carried Unanimously

MOTIONS

Motion- Commissioner Blyth

Moved by Commissioner Blyth,

Whereas many field houses and other spaces in Vancouver's city parks that have remained unused for several years;

Whereas the Vancouver Park Board must be prudent with its resources, and thus be as creative as possible in fostering widespread usage of Park Board facilities;

Whereas there are several worthwhile arts, athletic, community and youth organizations across the city that would greatly benefit from access to these vacant properties;

Whereas the Vancouver Park Board's mandate identifies advocacy for the use of the city's parks and associated facilities as a core principle in order to "benefit people" and "communities";

Whereas these venues have so much potential to enhance our city for the benefit of all;

Be it resolved that staff explore the potential use of any surplus facilities such as closed field houses for re-purposing;

And be it resolved that this process is guided by consultation so that these spaces become expressions of the will of the residents of the City of Vancouver

A Board member advised that the original motion had been substituted with a new one to reflect feedback received from the public to create a motion that was inclusive to all groups.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Jamie Lee Hamilton
- Douglas Brooks, Vancouver Fire Dancers
- Elaine Carol, Artistic Director, Miscellaneous Productions Society
- Terry Hunter, Vancouver Moving Theatre and Roundhouse Community Centre Society
- Eleanor Hadley
- Naomi Singer, Secret Lantern Society
- Sharon Kallis, Art is Land Network
- Scott Clark, Aboriginal Life in Vancouver Enhancement(ALIVE)
- Korky Day
- Vivian Pan, COPE's Park Board Caucus
- Jeffrey Boone, Eastside Cultural Crawl
- Dave Duprey

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

- Happy that the motion has changed;
- Inquiring what happened to the Field House report which was promised by the previous Board;
- Must voice displeasure that the field house report has not been brought forward;

- Want to be assured that a public consultation will be brought forward on the use of the field houses.
- Representative of the Vancouver Fire Dancers and performed at the Olympics;
- There are so many fabulous artists who would like to entertain the public free of charge;
- Would like to have an open dialogue with the Park Board regarding safe places for fire dancers to perform.
- Support the motion with the caveat that no one is displaced;
- Miscellaneous Productions Society works with at-risk and high risk youth and has a very high success rate for those that complete the program;
- Many youth cannot afford the after-school programs that are currently being offered in Vancouver.
- There is a well documented need for spaces for artists in Vancouver;
- This motion will build on the park board mission and track record;
- Disappointed by the substituted motion as sports groups have so much more support than arts groups.
- Have spent decades attempting to protect Stanley Park and English Bay from abuse;
- Artists are problematic because they have loud speakers;
- Cannot enjoy the beach with all the gravel and cement and have asked the Park Board to power wash the area and no one listens;
- Artists receive a lot of grants from the government and do not need money from the Park Board.
- It is very heartening to see support for the arts;
- The focus of many arts events is integration with the community and celebrating together;
- Fieldhouses could provide space for storage and for workshops;
- There are many wonderful events that could take place in fieldhouses.
- Park Board investment in arts is much younger than its investment in sports;
- The City has incredible infrastructure for sports, it is not the same for the arts;
- With very little investment from the Park Board, arts groups could use use fieldhouses to deepen their practise and this would be immeasurable.
- The Park Board needs to start thinking about how they define community;
- Asking to build partnerships with the community;
- Support the motion with the caveat that it be inclusive.
- This is just a feel good motion which is meant to make the Park Board feel less embarrassed about why the facilities are empty in the first place;
- Wondering why caretakers being phased out;
- It looks like a lot of mismanagement at the Park Board and this Board has to justify their re-election.
- Support the motion and hope the process is guided by public consultation;
- There is definitely a void and a need for spaces for arts initiatives;
- Arts and culture are integral and it is worthy of staff to investigate this;
- This is a great chance for the Park Board to play a positive role in facilitating arts and culture.
- Often receive calls from artists who are in search of spaces or have lost their spaces.

- Space is very hard to come by in Vancouver and space for artists is even harder to come by;
- Support the motion in its current form as it is inclusive and it gives back.

The Board discussed the motion. A Board member thanked the delegations for their presentations and expressed gratitude for the overwhelming support received. A few Board members acknowledged the importance of arts in the community and were also pleased that the new motion was more inclusive than the original.

The motion was put forward and it was Carried Unanimously

The Chair called a brief recess at 8:41pm
The meeting reconvened at 8:51 pm.

Motion – Commissioner Barnes

Moved by Commissioner Barnes,

Whereas accessible, affordable and quality childcare is essential to the health and well-being of the city of Vancouver’s children and families;

And whereas child development and childcare play a crucial role in the economic stability of our city;

And whereas it is critical that all levels of government, including those at the local level, and the private sector take an active partnership in ensuring successful child development opportunities;

And whereas for these reasons the City of Vancouver has a long history of leadership and success in creating new childcare spaces with limited resources at the municipal level of government;

And whereas the establishment of a Joint Childcare Council between the Council, School Board and Park Board led to the creation of more than 600 new childcare spaces between 2002 and 2005, exceeding the original goal of a 5% increase; and through the re-establishment of the Joint Childcare Council in 2009 there will be a further 8.6% increase in child care spaces in Vancouver by the end of 2011;

And whereas the Joint Childcare Council will be presenting on these successes at the 2011 Lower Mainland Local Government Association Annual General Meeting;

Whereas the Joint Childcare Council also has a mandate and strong role to play in advocating for investment in Early Care and Learning by the provincial and federal levels of government.

And whereas the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation is a key stakeholder in the provision of Early learning and Child Care;

Therefore be it resolved that the Board endorse the following motion passed by the Greater Vancouver Regional District:

Metro Vancouver Support for a Provincial Early Care and Learning Program Regional Administrative Advisory Committee Recommendation:

a) endorse the "Community Plan for a Public System of Integrated Early Care and Learning" proposed by the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of British Columbia and the Early Childhood Educators of British Columbia, and urge the British Columbia Premier and the Minister of Education to commit to the Plan's vision and work with communities to immediately begin its implementation;

b) support the Resolution "Provincial and Federal Investment in Early Care and Learning" put forward to Union of British Columbia Municipalities by the City of Vancouver; and

c) circulate a copy of the Community Plan and the Resolution put forward by Vancouver to all member municipalities requesting their consideration and endorsement.

A Board member advised that the original motion had been substituted by a new motion to reflect the endorsement of this motion by the Greater Vancouver Regional District.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Sharon Gregson, Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC
- Eleanor Hadley
- Scott Clark, Aboriginal Life in Vancouver Enhancement (ALIVE)
- Korky Day
- Mary Sutherland
- Christa Norgren

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

- The Greater Vancouver Regional district has endorsed this motion and City Council has approved the motion in principal along with a whole list of other organisations;
- The current system is appalling;
- The Community Plan for a Public System of Integrated Early Care and Learning is a plan that we can change the current system;

- Childcare is the responsibility of the provincial government but municipalities have stepped up to help.
- There is a department of education that looks after the education of children;
- Healthy and safe parks are needed to create healthy and safe children;
- The Park Board does not have enough money to maintain its parks;
- Have a big concern about the component on the aboriginal community;
- Whatever takes place, there needs to be flexibility;
- Change happens in communities and there needs to be principles that guide everything we do;
- Have partnered with Ray-Cam which runs a childcare centre with no government money;
- Dividing programs means that kids must be bussed in from different communities to partake in the programs which mean they have no connection or roots in that community.
- This is a feel good motion which does not accomplish any goals;
- Education is not in the jurisdiction of the Park Board;
- This motion is begging the other two levels of government for money;
- This Board should demand money, not beg for it.
- Many Community Centre Associations provide space for childcare;
- Happy that the Council on Joint Childcare is back;
- Looking forward to our new operating space which will hopefully be on the next Capital Plan.
- Have seen many fluctuations and patterns with childcare issues;
- Everyone cares about childcare but no one seems to want to do anything to solve the existing problems;
- There are some shortfalls, such as what happened at Champlain and what is happening at Kensington.

The Board discussed the motion. A Board member advised that it is painful to hear the stories about the dire need for early learning and that endorsing this motion is acknowledging the need for it. A few Board members expressed support for the motion.

The motion was put forward and it was Carried Unanimously.

Motion – Commissioner Mackinnon

Moved by Commissioner Mackinnon,

Whereas there is a need within the City of Vancouver for citizens to fully enjoy public lands;

And whereas there are public spaces within the City that are not being used for useful purposes including verges, boulevards and empty lots;

And whereas the Park Board budget for maintaining these spaces has been reduced and a policy of naturalization of these spaces been adopted;

Be it resolved that the Park Board work with the City and its unions to identify underutilized public verges, boulevards and other spaces not already used as parkland, to partner with neighbourhood groups to use this land for neighbourhood gardens. And be it further resolved that the Park Board assist neighbourhood groups in the clearing of this land in preparation of the gardens.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Eleanor Hadley
- Korky Day
- Mary Sutherland, Friends of Windsor Castle

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

- The Park Board does not have enough money to look after its parks;
- Using the streets will endanger people and it is not the right place to grow wheat;
- Do not understand why the Park Board is getting involved in traffic.
- Support this motion as there is no money involved in it;
- The gardening movement is big and people of all ages are enjoying it.
- Friends of Windsor Castles is one of the original projects in the green streets project;
- Green streets is one of the best projects that the City has put in in the past 25 years;
- The project gives ownership to people and it builds communities;
- This project is the best thing that has happened to the neighbourhood.

Commissioner Blyth left the meeting at this time.

A Board member advised that this motion will allow communities the opportunity to beautify their neighbourhoods. The motion is in reference to small underutilized areas and would not need to be managed by any organization or group. This would also allow for those citizens who live in high-rises to have access to gardens and to be involved in their neighbourhoods.

A Board member inquired how the areas would be selected. Another Board member replied that the areas would be chosen in conjunction with the City and its unions so that everyone would feel a sense of ownership.

A Board member inquired about the purpose of having community garden groups manage community gardens. Staff replied that it would provide some ownership, some liability and some sense of order. Staff added that it is not that only model that works and that there are community gardens that do not have community garden societies.

A Board member stated that there have been cuts to Park Board maintenance and that although that has provided this opportunity, it also creates some restrictions. Another Board member replied that they had spoken to the General Manager who had advised that this motion was doable.

A Board member suggested that the motion be amended.

Moved by Commissioner Jasper,

Be it resolved that the Park Board work with the City and its unions to identify underutilized public verges, boulevards and other spaces not already used as parkland, to partner with neighbourhood groups to use this land for neighbourhood gardens. And be it further resolved that the Park Board work with the City to identify resources for the purpose of assisting neighbourhood groups in the clearing of this land in preparation for gardens.

The Board discussed the amendment. A few Board members stated that the amendment allows for some flexibility with the motion.

The amendment was adopted by Unanimous Consent.

The motion as amended was put forward and it was Carried Unanimously.

Enquiries, Other Matters and New Business

A Board member asked for an update on initiatives being brought forward regarding Earthquake response. Staff replied that they would find out and report back to the Board.

In-camera Meeting

Moved by Commissioner Barnes,

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:

(g) litigation or potential litigation affecting the city.

- Carried Unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 pm.

Malcolm Bromley
General Manager

Commissioner Aaron Jasper
Chair