

**MINUTES OF MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
HELD AT THE PARK BOARD OFFICE
ON MONDAY, MAY 16, 2011**

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

The Chair advised that staff had withdrawn the Administrative Position Changes Board Report and that the item would be returning to the May 30th Board meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Board held on Monday, May 02, 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 Seawall thank-you event, Summer Live press launch, Klahowya Village reception, Cherry tree planting, Sport court opening in Grandview Park and World migratory bird day. Upcoming events include the planting of an orchard at Memorial West Park.

COMMITTEE REPORT

The next Services and Budgets Committee meeting will convene on May 24, 2011. The agenda has not been finalized.

The last Planning and Environment Committee meeting was cancelled. The next meeting will convene on June 2, 2011. The agenda has not been finalized.

City Council Report

The General Manager advised the Board that at the next City Services and Budgets Committee meeting there will be a presentation on a Community Plan for a Public System of Integrated Early Care and Learning which was endorsed by the Joint Council on Childcare of which the Park Board General Manager is Co-Chair. On a personal note, two staff members welcomed babies to their families in the last week. Thomas Soulliere and his wife welcomed a baby girl Joelle and Virgil Soh and his wife welcomed a baby girl whose name has not been determined. The Deputy General Manager informed the Board that Park Board Strategic Plan process was officially underway and workshops with staff members are planned for this week.

STAFF REPORTS

Construction Contract Award –West End Community Centre Roof Replacement

Board members received copies of a staff report dated May 9, 2011 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A to D.

Staff advised that the 39 000 square foot roof on the West End Community Centre has deteriorated over time and has reached its serviceable life. Seven bids were received for the construction of a new roof and staff recommend that the contract be awarded to Mack Kirk Roofing and Sheet Metal Ltd.

Staff have informed stakeholders of the upcoming construction and will also be posting signs on site in advance of project initiation.

A Board member inquired whether the new roof would be structurally conducive for a community garden. Staff replied that there would be no structural problem in using the roof for a community garden.

A Board member asked why there was such a large gap between the highest bid and the winning bid. Staff replied that they do not like to see such a large gap between bids but that it was reassuring that the first six bids were quite aligned.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Brent Granby
- Linda Rubuliak, YMCA of Greater Vancouver
- Daylce Epp
- Tara Carmichael

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

- Excited to see that a community garden is a possibility for this roof;
- There is a lot of community desire for community garden spaces;
- The hardest part of creating community gardens is finding a good location and the roof-top at the West End Community Centre would be a great space for this.

- Supports the initiative for having a roof-top community garden at the West End Community Centre;
- There are multiple outcomes that can happen from planning the garden in a certain way;
- Building gardens builds communities and helps cement a web of relationships;
- Can create a sense of belonging and sense of ownership;
- Funding can be available to support initiatives surrounding this.
- The West End is a high density area and the closest community gardens are at least 1 km away;
- This would fit in with the Greenest City Action Team 2020 initiatives.
- Garden coordinator for Molehill Community Garden;
- There is a high demand for community gardens in the West End;
- There is a 5 year waitlist at Mole Hill Community Garden with 105 people on the list;
- The West End is in dire need to more plots.

The Board discussed the motion. A Board member stated that having a roof that could accommodate a community garden was important and was happy that the infrastructure was sound if the Park Board considered going down that route. Another Board member added that a community garden for this roof should be considered as there is such a high demand for it in the area.

Moved by Commissioner Barnes,

THAT the Board approve recommendations A to D.

- Carried Unanimously

Financial Statements to March 31, 2011

Board members received copies of a staff report dated May 5, 2011 recommending that the Board receive this report for information.

Staff advised that the Park Board is in the same position financially this year as it was last year. There is a decrease in revenue which can be attributed to the poor weather and expenses appear to be higher but that is a result of making transfers in a timelier manner. The savings from the Vancouver Shared Services are concentrated in the later part of 2011 due to the timing of the project's implementation.

A Board member inquired what the user fee increase was last year. Staff replied that it was a 4% increase. The Board member asked why the slide was showing a cost increase of 2%. Staff replied that the slide does not reflect the increase in cost but the increase in the

percent spent compared to last year. The Park Board is not spending more, it is just spending faster due to timelier accounting practices.

A Board member inquired what the Vancouver Services Review Savings would be. Staff replied that it would be close to 4 million.

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock,

THAT the Board receive this report for information

- Carried Unanimously

Motion

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock,

Whereas the Vancouver Green Action Plan recognizes under “Easy Access to Nature” that green and blue natural spaces need to be protected and well managed, and that the City should contribute to, and influence, the development of Metro Vancouver’s Regional Biodiversity Strategy, which includes emphasizing guidelines to attract and sustain songbirds, the protection and recovery of endangered species and ecosystems, creating or re-establishing wildlife corridors and that the City be a pioneer in identifying, monitoring, protecting, and enhancing urban ecosystem services.

Whereas Canada’s ‘Important Bird Areas Program’ is a science based initiative to identify, conserve and monitor a network of sites that provide essential migrating, feeding, resting and nesting habitat for Canada’s bird population, of which BC has 84 of the 600 designated sites; of which the most important on the Pacific Flyway being the Fraser River Delta, adjacent to Vancouver, that is an area of refuge for millions of birds.

Whereas BC is home to 500 recognized bird species, of which Metro Vancouver, including Vancouver, supports 407 species, most of which are migratory

Whereas through their dependence on many habitats along their migrations, birds often feel the effects of changing habitats first before many other species, making birds key indicators for the health of our environment, which in turn through a connection with nature, contributes to the health of city residents,

Whereas World Migratory Bird Day is a program of the United Nations Environmental Program taking place May 14 & 15, 2011 with world wide participation, highlighting the need for the protection of migratory birds and their habitats, where people around the world take action and organize public

events such as bird festivals, education programs and birdwatching excursions (www.worldmigratorybirdday.org)

Be it resolved that Park Board direct staff to report back on the feasibility of mapping important bird migration, feeding, resting and nesting areas within the City of Vancouver, with the goal of applying this information in Park Board's tree planting and planting arrangements, and in park redevelopment programs, in order to attract and sustain habitat for migratory birds to the city as a source of food, nest sites and shelter.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Rob Butler, Bird Studies Canada
- Pamela Zevit
- Don Larson, Crab-Water for Life Society
- Terry Slack
- Ian Thomas
- Adrian Grant Duff
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The following is a summary of comments made by the foregoing delegations:

- It is exciting to know that Vancouverites are becoming more aware of the birds in this City;
- The Fraser River Delta is the number one site in Canada for birds in Canada and is a wildlife management area;
- It has been estimated in the USA that 32 billion dollars is spent on bird watching;
- People are drawn to this city because of birds;
- Vancouver has clusters of beautiful parks and these are the places that wildlife can come to;
- The way parks are planned are important because it will that dictate what species will inhabit it.
- Declines are happening in bird species;
- A well planned truly green city can be a sanctuary for biodiversity;
- Vancouver is leading the way in urban farming and green street planning but it can also lead the way for protecting urban biodiversity;
- Been involved in park issues since 1992;
- Wondering where the 1.14 million that was earmarked for new park land in Marpole is;
- Marpole is an area that is undernourished for parks for a long time;
- Marpole is becoming inundated with high-rises.
- Oak Meadow Park was the beginning of building a bird habitat;
- The City does have a wild bird strategy and hopefully the Park Board is using this strategy;
- There is a tree cutting bylaw that allows the clear-cutting of small trees at chest level to be cut down any time of the year and this is counter-productive to a bird strategy;
- The Park Board needs to look at these conflicting strategies;
- Happy to hear that the Park Board will be planting fruit trees;

- Fruit trees need natural pollinators and when you put these trees on boulevards there needs to be a study done on how many pollinators are in the area.
- Queen Elizabeth Park is an amazing park for birds and have been doing weekly bird counts;
- Have seen reckless use of Queen Elizabeth Park from park management as areas that were bird abundant have been cut down;
- It is our responsibility to ensure that birds have resting areas on their long journey;
- Making bird habitats a priority would democratise peoples' access to nature.
- Birds have enhanced peoples' quality of life.
- Frequent city parks to see birds in their natural habitat;
- Knowledge of the birds that frequent our parks can be found from various groups of birders;
- Must control invasive plant species;
- Timing of activities for controlling invasive species must be done so that it does not affect bird nesting times.
- Have studied Bald Eagles for ten years;
- Bald Eagles are having an increasingly difficult time to find nesting and perching trees;
- The Bald Eagle population is static;
- Propose that particular care be given to Douglas firs and Black Cottonwoods for Bald Eagles.
- SPES runs about eight different bird monitoring programs in Stanley Park;
- Did 65th monthly bird count in Stanley Park;
- The park is full of various species of birds and the restoration plan after the storm is a huge contributor to that;
- Birds live at all levels of trees.
- Coordinated the breeding bird surveys for the last 4 years in conjunction with SPES;
- There is a higher diversity of birds in Stanley Park than most other areas in British Columbia;
- Mapping areas important for bird migration is vital but the areas must be managed and maintained as well and there needs to be connectivity between them;
- If habitats are not managed then monocultures of 'feathered rats' such as crows and gulls will result;
- Habitat diversity is important for resilience against unforeseen catastrophic events such as disease and pest outbreaks.

The Board discussed the motion. A Board member stated that there is a hidden group of people in the city that are interested in birds. A few Board members expressed gratitude for the wealth of knowledge that was presented to them by the delegations. A Board member discussed the possibility of using street boulevards to bring birds into park deficient areas. A Board member acknowledged the need to see parks through a different lens to create habitats for birds.

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

Enquiries, Other Matters and New Business

A Board member advised that there will be a Homeless Street Soccer Fundraiser to send women to the Homeless World Cup on Friday May 20th, 2011 and invited all of the Commissioners to attend.

In-Camera

Moved by Commissioner Barnes,

(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 9:30 pm.

Malcolm Bromley
General Manager

Commissioner Aaron Jasper
Chair