

**Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Parks and Recreation
Planning & Environment Committee Meeting
Held at the Vancouver Park Board Office on
Thursday, February 10th, 2011**

ATTENDEES:

Park Board Commissioners

Sarah Blyth, Chair
Raj Hundal, Vice Chair
Stuart Mackinnon
Ian Robertson
Constance Barnes
Aaron Jasper

Park Board Staff

Danica Djurkovic	Acting Director, Planning & Operations
Thomas Soulliere	Manager of Recreation Services
Peter Kuran	Deputy General Manager
Jenny Jung	Special Events and Filming Coordinator
Jil Weaving	Co-ordinator, Arts and Culture

Delegations:

- Eleanor Hadley
- Muneesh Sharma
- Erik Lees, Lees + Associates
- Margaret Specht, Grants, Awards and Support Programs (COV)
- Robert Kerr, Producing Artistic Director, Celebrate Vancouver 125
- Louisa Murgatroyd, Parks Canada

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

1. Approval of Minutes of the January 13, 2011 Meeting
2. 2011 special Events
3. Komagata Maru Memorial
4. Federal Infrastructure Projects Update

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Planning & Environment Committee held on Thursday, January 13, 2011 were adopted as circulated.

2. 2011 Special Events

Staff presented a brief synopsis of permit volume in 2009, 2010 and projected 2011 numbers, as well as a look at the two major upcoming events in Stanley Park: the Vancouver 125 Celebration and the Parks Canada Centennial celebration.

In 2008, the permits operation was identified for potential growth as a business unit. At the time the operation was understaffed and could not keep up with the demand for special events and filming permits. In 2009 staff began improving the system by adding more professional staff, offering new services – such as wedding permits and private recreation opportunities – and updating the rate schedule to reflect successful practices in other jurisdictions.

The large increase in total revenue from 2009 to 2010 is attributed in part to the Olympics; approximately \$35,000 was directly related to business accrued from the Olympics. Over the past two years the operation has moved from a subsidized service to providing a net income back to the Park Board system.

Two large events coming to Stanley Park in 2011 include the Vancouver 125 Celebration from July 8th to 10th and the Parks Canada Centennial on July 16th. Each will be held at the Brockton Oval and the surrounding field. The two events are expected to provide a family-friendly atmosphere and accommodate large volumes of visitors. Both events will involve coordination with the VPD and other service agencies to ensure a safe environment at the venue locations and the rest of the park. A transportation plan will be designed with input from the City's FEST committee for both events. Options including bike valets, increased transit service and temporary way finding measure will be implemented to assist visitors and reduce vehicular traffic.

Both events will be using similar infrastructure and footprint to minimize the amount of work required to construct and dismantle the stages and surrounding structures. Crews from both celebrations will be working together to ensure the work is completed as efficiently as possible.

Discussion

The following delegations were available to answer any questions by the Committee:

- Margaret Specht, Grants, Awards and Support Programs (COV)
- Robert Kerr, Producing Artistic Director, Celebrate Vancouver 125
- Louisa Murgatroyd, Parks Canada

A member of the Committee asked what the expected attendance will be for the event. The delegation answered that they expect between 10,000 and 20,000 per day during the Vancouver 125 Celebration, whereas the Parks Canada Centennial expects 8,000 to 10,000. The Committee suggested that staff come back to the Board with more details about how transportation challenges will be met.

A member of the Committee asked how the park stakeholders will be involved and if they are taking part in the festivities. Staff responded that they have emailed the stakeholders to let them know of the events and invited them to tonight's meeting. A meeting of all stakeholders has also been scheduled for next week to discuss the events.

A member of the Committee asked if there are plans for 125 celebrations in all pockets of Vancouver ensuring that all areas are represented. The delegation responded that the celebrations are all encompassing, and that they are working with other departments of the city to provide celebrations to other areas of the city. While the city is only producing two events, there are a number of other events from small groups that the city is supporting through grants.

A member of the Committee asked why there is a beer and wine garden in the Vancouver 125 Celebration, but not in the Parks Canada Centennial celebration. The Vancouver 125 delegation answered that the provision of a licensed area at the festival is in keeping with similar events across the city and country for this type of event. It would be a well-controlled and contained provision with a capacity for 250 people in the south oval area, and 500 in the main field location. The licensed area is helpful because it helps generate sponsorship revenue, and net profits from the event will be donated to the United Way.

The delegation representing Parks Canada responded to the same question indicating that at this time they were not confident that a beer and wine garden would fit with their event given the anticipated focus.

Staff advised the Committee that the item would come to a Board Meeting scheduled for February 28th.

3. Komagata Maru Memorial

Staff presented an update on the Komagata Maru Memorial project to inform the Committee of the progress of design and feedback received from the public. The Khalsa Diwan Society (KDS) came forward to the Park Board with the proposal for the memorial, and upon approval received funding from Citizenship and Immigration Canada of the federal government through the Historical Recognition Program.

There are timelines associated with the federal funding, so the KDS forwarded money to the Park Board to begin contracting with Lees + Associates to expedite the process. Through the initial review of sites, all parties involved realized there was no leeway to choose one site, and if problems arose, move on to another site. So two sites were proposed after technical and feasibility reviews were conducted, which eventually moved through stakeholder and community consultation.

During the stakeholder engagement process it was determined the Stanley park site required a timeline that would not work with the timeline outlined by the KDS; the Harbour Green Park site was chosen instead.

The project moved into the concept development phase with an afternoon and evening open house at the Coal Harbour CC and ongoing feedback from the community through the Park Board website. During this time some press indicated the open house was an unveiling rather than a consult; staff is curious how this discrepancy effected reactions.

On February 14th they will move to an aesthetic, importance, and impact review of the site. This process is important because the site was chosen largely because the monument could fit in the park without disturbing the overall common space and green of the park. The goal is to enhance the utility of the space, without interrupting bicycle traffic, while creating something of significance.

There are two options concerning landscaping around the memorial: the first includes removing the plantings around the site, while the second, more favoured option, is to add to the existing planting which would result in a net increase of planted area.

Consultants wanted to evoke the spirit of the ship and its passengers through the design of the memorial without being as literal as replicating the ship. This will be achieved through subtle integration of ship-like pieces, such as a walkway that resembles a gangway that leads to a deck-like structure, and portholes and textures carved into the standing portion of the monument. Overall the memorial will require very little, if any, maintenance.

Throughout the concept design process consultants have been in constant contact with the KDS to fine-tune suggestions; possible additions to the design are representations of the passengers on the memorial, names of the passengers included on the piece, and the addition of more benches around the site. It is stressed that consultants have not finalized the design of the entire memorial, and that the design development phase will build on concept solutions.

A full design package should be ready for costing purposes by March 2011 so the KDS can apply to the minister for adequate funding. The memorial should be built by March 2012.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Committee:

- Muneesh Sharma
- Eleanor Hadley

The following is a summary of the foregoing delegations:

- Vary happy with the approval of the memorial by the federal government, and the work done by the Park Board to facilitate it.
- Wants to honor the issue properly, and is in full support of the possible inclusion of passenger names on the memorial.
- Opposes the construction of all memorials in Vancouver parks.
- Wants to know the final dimensions and material of the memorial, because they believe it will be far too big and an eyesore.

Discussion

The following delegation was available to answer questions from the Committee:

- Erik Lees, Lees + Associates

A member of the Committee asked how many people attended the open house at Coal Harbour CC and what their main concerns were. Staff answered that approximately 30 – 35 people came and that they were pleased to see specific stakeholders and members of neighbourhood groups attend. Various issues came forward, one being the concern for coloured plantings; people liked the proposed coloured flowering grasses, and thought the existing flower bed and shrubs were very important as well. Another concern was for the possibility of anti-social behaviour and public safety. The community is afraid people may hide behind the monument, though staff reassured that the monument allows for good visibility of people around it, and that possibilities for lighting have been discussed. There have also been concerns for historical accuracy as some of the public found the issue is presented from one community's perspective; the delegation felt it is a Canadian issue that affects all of Canada, and represents a shared hope for similar events never to happen.

A member of the Committee asked if there is an area where marigolds can be included around the memorial since it has great significance within the community, and if the design can keep in mind accessibility. The delegation answered they could include marigolds. Concerning accessibility, they tucked the monument into the side of the hill, reducing the incline and keeping it accessible. They could consider brail or embossed/engraved lettering.

A member of the Committee asked if staff is confident the memorial will be completed by the projected end date of March 2012. Staff answered that despite initial setbacks in previous years, they are currently moving quickly through the processes, and that the KDS is considering working with Lees + Associates to the end of completion. This will shorten the timeline and help the KDS meet their March 31st 2011 deadline. It will take a few months after this to prepare the proposal for the minister to approve the federal funding, leaving them with approximately 6 to 9 months for construction of the memorial, with the majority of the work being completed before the winter months.

A member of the Committee asked if the final height and length had been decided. The delegation answered that the length and width have not been finalized, but the material has.

The Committee stated that the item will come to the Board at the February 28th meeting.

(At 7:40 a break was taken, and Commissioner Jasper and Commissioner Robertson left the meeting. The meeting came back into session at 7:48)

4. Federal Infrastructure Projects Update

Staff presented an update on all current infrastructure projects, noting that they were fortunate enough to get an extension approval by the federal government which helped with some challenging projects that were already underway. Out of the \$48 million available for these projects, \$16.5 was funded by the federal government.

All of the projects are funded by the federal government, the majority of them received funds equal to one-third the overall cost, and the Stanley Park projects received 50% cost share by the federal government. Van Dusen Garden Pavilion will cost \$21.8 million and is expected to be completed by September 2011. The Roundhouse Community Centre Plaza upgrade and Malkin Bowl are both projected to be completed June 2011, costing \$1.8 million and \$850,000 respectively.

The Stanley Park Pavilion and field house upgrades are projected to be complete by April 2011, costing \$390,000 with a focus on accessibility and washroom renovations. The Queen Elizabeth Park road resurfacing will cost \$1 million, and the Stanley Park road repaving will cost \$3.6 million; both projects are estimated to be completed in March 2011.

The English Bay seawall project is ongoing and will cost \$3 million with a projected completion date of May 2011, whereas the Stanley Park seawall project and Brockton Point Lighthouse upgrade has been completed at a cost of \$3.4 million. Park lighting and various field house upgrades will cost \$2.1 million with an estimated completion date of May 2011. The Stanley Park Sewer Pump upgrade will cost \$1 million and is estimated to be completed in May 2011. Grandview, Fraserview, and Norquay Park upgrades will cost \$3 million, and completion is forecasted for March to June (phased opening).

The Memorial South and Jericho West Synthetic turf Fields will cost \$6 million combined, and while both were projected for March 2011 completion, the memorial South fields are already completed.

Discussion

A member of the Committee asked if there is a life expectancy associated with the newly renovated seawall. Staff answered that they are hopeful for a 100 year lifespan. There is bigger concern for the change of sea levels, although the height of the new seawall has been increased from the previous one.

A member of the Committee asked if all the proposed completion dates are the absolute latest each project will be completed. Staff answered that the projected dates are accurate at this time but there is a possibility they will be finished sooner.

The meeting adjourned at 8:09 PM.

Danica Djurkovic, Acting Director,
Planning & Operations

Commissioner Sarah Blyth,
Chair