

**MINUTES OF MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
HELD AT THE PARK BOARD OFFICE
ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2011**

PRESENT:	Chair	- Constance Barnes
	Vice-Chair	- Aaron Jasper
	Commissioners	- Sarah Blyth
		- John Coupar
		- Melissa De Genova
		- Trevor Loke
		- Niki Sharma
	General Manager	- Malcolm Bromley
	Deputy General Manager	- Peter Kuran
	Director of Recreation	- Thomas Soulliere
	Acting Director of Corporate Services	- Meg Elliott
	Acting Director of Planning and Operations	- Danica Djurkovic
	Manager of Recreation	- Diane Murphy
	- Queen Elizabeth District	
	Manager of Park Development	- Tiina Mack
	Manager of Communications	- Joyce Courtney
	Landscape Architect	- Joe McLeod
	Recorder	- Barinder Lalli

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Board held on Monday, December 5, 2011 were adopted as circulated.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair reported on several community events that occurred over the past few weeks including Bright Nights in Stanley Park, International Day of persons with disabilities and Bloedel Jewel Box of Lights. The Chair also reported on the 5 year anniversary of the wind storm that closed Stanley Park for the first time since its opening.

Commissioner Loke raised a point of privilege requesting to provide live tweets throughout Park Board meetings. The Commissioners agreed to allow Commissioner Loke to do this.

City Council Report

The General Manager advised that at Council the preliminary estimates for the 2012 operating budget and the 2011 capital budget funding reallocation would be presented.

The General Manager also presented outgoing Commissioner Ian Robertson with a gift as he was not present at the December 5th, 2011 inaugural meeting.

STAFF REPORTS

New Park at Main Street and 18th Avenue

Board members received copies of a staff report dated November 18th, 2011 recommending that the Board approve the concept plan for the proposed new mini-park located at the junction of Main Street and 18th Avenue, as described in this report and illustrated in the Appendices.

Staff advised that the final concept plan has large spaces for social gathering, bright tables, moveable chairs, an overhead trellis, seat-walls, maintains trees and infiltrates rainwater. Staff added that this park is part of the Greenest City Action Team (GCAT) initiative of having a green space within a five minute walking distance to all Vancouver residents.

A Board member inquired whether the park will be accessible. Staff replied that the ground plan will be accessible.

A Board member asked whether a washroom could be added. Staff replied that there was no real community support for it as the space is small.

A Board member asked of the number of participants in the consultation. Staff replied that the first open house had 50 participants, the second had 150-200 participants and the final open house had 40 participants.

A Board member asked how probable it was that the moveable chairs would get stolen and whether the tethers for the chairs would cause accessibility issues. Staff replied that tethers will be short enough that they will not interfere with accessibility and that they do not believe the chairs will get stolen as they will be tethered to an anchored table.

The following delegation requested to speak to the Board:

- Joan Reekie
- Norm Dooley, Riley Park South Cambie

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

- This project is a huge waste of time;
- The Park Board should not spend money from the Development Cost Levy account;
- It is a very small space and no one will go there;
- The tenants of the building will use the area as a pooping ground for their dogs.
- Speaking in favour of the park and think it will be a positive addition to that part of Main Street.

The Board discussed the motion. A few Board members spoke in favour of the motion as it expands green space. A Board member shared concerns about having enough of a maintenance budget to maintain the park.

Moved by Commissioner Loke,

THAT the Board approve the concept plan for the proposed new mini-park located at the junction of Main Street and 18th Avenue, as described in this report and illustrated in the Appendices.

- Carried Unanimously

Financial Statements to September 30, 2011

Board members received copies of a staff report dated November 16, 2011 recommending that the Board receive this report for information.

Staff advised that there is far less revenue coming in for 2011 than there was for 2010. The Board's revenue is weather dependent and unfortunately the weather was not good this past summer. City Hall has agreed to cover 1.2 million of the shortfall, however the Park Board is expecting a 1.5 million shortfall by the end of 2011.

A Board member asked why the administrative costs were so high in the Donations area. Staff replied that is mainly the staffing costs of two employees and for software.

A Board member asked which areas were the most overrun. Staff replied that there was no specific area that had that problem. The losses were spread through all the departments as staff tried to mitigate the losses earlier in the year in any one department.

A Board member asked that although revenue has been affected by bad weather, whether it was time to be more realistic about the Park Board revenue budget and whether it was time to go to City Hall and ask for a bigger percentage of money next year. Staff replied that this year they will be looking to be more conservative with the revenue budget.

The following delegation requested to speak to the Board:

- Eleanor Hadley

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

- The Park Board is sounding like a corporate company;
- Parks should not make revenue;
- The real issue of losing money is not due to the weather, it is because of the restaurant in the middle of English Bay.

The Board discussed the motion.

Moved by Commissioner Jasper,

THAT the Board receive this report for information.

- Carried Unanimously

2011 Capital Budget Funding Reallocation

Board members received copies of a staff report dated December 7, 2011 recommending that Board approve recommendations A and B.

Staff advised that three Park Board projects for the 2011 capital budget expenditures require additional funding to complete. Surpluses from existing Park Board projects will provide the source of funding.

The following delegation requested to speak to the Board:

- Eleanor Hadley

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

- The Park Board is not about preserving parks, it is about making money.

The Board discussed the motion.

Moved by Commissioner Blyth,

A. THAT the Board receive the attached City Council report entitled 2011 Capital Budget Funding Reallocation for information.

B. THAT the Board approve the Park Board Capital reallocations in the amount of \$2,320,790 as detailed in the Park Board section of Appendix A of the attached City Council report.

- Carried Unanimously

Administrative Report – Position Changes

Board members received copies of a staff report dated December 1, 2011 recommending that the Board approve the creation of 3 CUPE 15 regular part time positions with the financial impacts and sources of funds as noted in the body of the report. All positions being created are subject to classification by the General Manager of Human Resources.

Staff advised that this was the third report to come forward as a result of a requirement of the collective agreement which maintains that any auxiliary position that shows a consistent year round pattern of work allows for the creation of a regular position.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Oscar Bisnar, Kerrisdale Community Centre Society
- Joan Reekie

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

- Kerrisdale has forgiven 121 000 dollars of payments in the last four years from the Park Board;
- The Park Board has selectively used the Letter of Understanding to suit its purposes;
- This change takes away Kerrisdale's ability to move auxiliary employees to different positions around the community centre where they are needed and will impact the ability to manage programs;
- If this change takes place, it will mean that competency will compete against seniority;
- Kerrisdale refuses to fund this position;
- The Park Board should have a collaborative attitude with Kerrisdale, the Park Board's partner;
- Staff should go back to the drawing board without impeding Kerrisdale positions.
- There should be an effort to find the common ground between the Park Board and Community Centre Associations;
- This is nothing more than a demand from administration that the Board give them a rubber stamp.

The Board discussed the motion. A Board member stated that the Letter of Understanding states Community Centre Associations must comply with the Park Board's union agreements and that this is a part of that agreement that must be honoured. Another Board member expressed support for the motion but stated that the relationship between the Park Board and Associations needs to be re-evaluated and that consultation should be done more effectively.

Moved by Commissioner Jasper,

THAT the Board approve the creation of 3 CUPE 15 regular part time positions with the financial impacts and sources of funds as noted in the body of the report. All positions being created are subject to classification by the General Manager of Human Resources.

-Carried Unanimously

Kitsilano Showboat Licence Renewal

Board members received copies of a staff report dated December 1, 2011 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A and B.

Staff advised that the Showboat provides a variety of artistic, cultural and theatrical performances in Kitsilano for minimal cost to the Board. Staff added that the lease renewal does not have any significant changes to the current terms.

A Board member asked if there would be an opportunity to put in terms surrounding zero waste in the agreement. Staff advised that those terms could be built into the agreement.

A Board member inquired about the accessibility of the area. Staff replied that there was a large railing area for accessible seating and there were washrooms in that area at the top of the concession pathway.

A Board member asked whether there would be an opportunity to provide a liquor license. Staff replied that the proponents have not asked for one, but it could be looked at if they requested it.

The Board discussed the motion.

Moved by Commissioner Sharma,

A. THAT the Board approve the renewal of the licence agreement with the Kitsilano Showboat Society for a further 5 year term commencing January 1, 2012.

B. THAT once the licence has been approved by the General Manager and the Director of Legal Services for the City of Vancouver that the General Manager be authorized to execute and deliver such documentation on behalf of the Board.

- Carried Unanimously

(Commissioner Blyth was absent for the vote)

Funding Application to B.C.'s Community Recreation Program for Southeast Vancouver Seniors' Centre

Board members receive copies of a staff report dated December 9, 2011 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A and B.

Staff advised that the Park Board submitted, in conjunction with the City, a funding application for a Southeast Vancouver Seniors' Centre. The project has been on the Park Board radar for a few years and this is a good opportunity to apply for funding.

A Board member asked why the location of the potential seniors' centre is in a spot that is furthest from the parking lot. Staff advised that it is the area that is closest to the commercial kitchen which would save the cost of building an additional commercial kitchen.

A Board member asked how staff would proceed if the grant application was declined. Staff replied that the Park Board has the land and that the City will provide 2.5 million dollars.

The Board discussed the motion. A few Board members expressed support for the motion.

Moved by Commissioner Jasper,

A. THAT the Board approve a funding application to British Columbia's Community Recreation Program for \$1.0 million for the Southeast Vancouver Seniors' Centre.

B. AND THAT, should the funding application be successful, staff report back to the Board on project details, budget estimates and funding sources.

- Carried unanimously

MOTION

Joint Council on Childcare

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;

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

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;

Whereas the establishment of a Joint Council on Childcare 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, since being re-established in 2009 has exceeded the goal of a 5% increase in the number of childcare spaces;

Whereas the Joint Council on Childcare has played an important advocacy role for early care and learning policy and increased funding from other levels of government;

Therefore be it resolved that the Board direct staff to reinstate the Joint Council on Childcare and renew its goals, and previously adopted Terms of Reference, along with an objective of an increase of 500 childcare spaces, at a minimum, in the next three years.

A Board member stated that this is an opportunity to work with the School Board and the City to help parents find affordable childcare.

A Board member asked for the number of childcare spaces that were delivered between 2005-2008. Staff advised that they did not have that number. Staff added that a staff briefing to provide the Board with a background on the Joint Council on Childcare could be provided in the New Year.

A Board member asked for Park Board costs related to the Joint Council on Childcare. Staff advised that there were no costs other than the General Manager's time as he was the co-chair on the committee.

A Board member asked whether the Board should wait until the strategic plan was completed before making a decision on this item. Another Board member stated that childcare could not wait and this is something that the Park Board should advocate for.

A Board member asked what the cost of 500 childcare spaces would be. Staff advised that they did not have that figure. Another Board member added that the Board would not be responsible for that cost, the Joint Council on Childcare is an advocacy group which helps determine how more childcare spaces could be made. The Board member added that if there was a potential cost to the Board then that would have to be approved by the Board in the future.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Joan Reekie
- Norm Dooley, Riley Park South Cambie
- Jesse Johal, Riley Park South Cambie

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

- The Board should apply amend the make-up of the Joint Council on Childcare to include at least one representative from the business sector of daycare;
- The city and non-profits have the luxury can forget about capital costs once facilities are built, the business sector can not forget these costs;
- The City is intruding in the free markets and putting businesses out of business.
- Here to speak in favour of the motion and to resurrect a proposal put forward a few months ago to save Riley Park Community Centre;
- One of the areas mentioned in our proposal was to increase childcare in the area;

- The little mountain area is scheduled for enormous growth and in the Cambie corridor phase II policy, approved by Council, it aims to increase childcare spaces in areas of growth and ensuring community facilities are maintained and expanded;
- There is currently no day-care centre in that area;
- Based on the information collected, the space at Riley Park could create 10 % of the goal of 500 childcare spaces in the next three years.

The Board discussed the motion. A Board member advised that the motion should have language regarding the reporting of costs and suggested an amendment to the motion.

Moved by Commissioner Coupar,

THAT staff be directed to present to a report to the Board detailing all costs related to the Park Board involvement in the Joint Council on Childcare bi-annually.

The Board member stated that it was important to be prudent about how Park Board dollars are spent. Another Board member stated that it would create more costs to track these costs.

(Commissioner Blyth left the meeting at this time)

The amendment was put forward and it was DEFEATED.

(Commissioners Barnes, Jasper, Loke and Sharma opposed)

A Board member proposed another amendment to the motion.

Moved by Commissioner De Genova,

THAT after the public consultation on the strategic plan is concluded that the Board review the strategic plan before the Joint Council on Childcare is reinstated.

The Board member stated that the Board should listen to the feedback from the strategic plan and make a decision based on what the public wants before moving forward. A Board member stated that this motion advocates for different levels of government to come together for a discussion on childcare that is needed right away.

The amendment was put forward and it was DEFEATED.

(Commissioners Barnes, Jasper, Loke and Sharma opposed)

The Board discussed the main motion. A Board member stated the Park Board has the space to provide this service and that the Board has a moral obligation to provide endorse this

committee. A Board member expressed support for the motion and stated that it addressed a community need and will bring people together to work on it.

The main motion was put forward and it was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Enquiries, Other Matters and New Business

Commissioner De Genova gave a notice of motion for the January 16, 2012 Board meeting to defer the demolition of Riley Park Community Centre for 90 days to give the new Board the opportunity to review the decision for demolition of the center and also to give the community time to present their new business plan for Riley Park Community Centre.

A Board member asked whether it was possible to keep the Curtis Brick water fountain running during the winter. Staff replied that the request has been put to technical staff to work out a solution that could keep the fountain running without having the pipes freeze.

The meeting adjourned at 9:52 pm.

Malcolm Bromley
General Manager

Commissioner Constance Barnes
Chair