

Hastings Park / PNE Community Advisory Group  
Monday, November 7, 2016  
5:00pm – PNE Hastings Room

## MINUTES

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In Attendance:

<b>PNE STAFF</b>
Jeff Strickland: Co-Chair
Kate Chong: Co-Chair
Rosa Chirico: Minute-taker

<b>COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP MEMBERS</b>
David Bornman
Darci Swinton
Linda Shuto
Pasquale Balletta
Patricia Barnes
Sal Audia (Regrets)
<i>Stephanie Lemmo (Regrets)</i>
<i>Steve Canofari (Regrets)</i>

### 1. Adoption of Agenda/Minutes

### 2. Housekeeping/Goals

Kate C. reiterated that Nov 7 is the official last meeting for this term, and would encourage all current members to reapply. The application deadline for the 2017 term is November 18, 2016. The application is available on the PNE website: <http://www.pne.ca/aboutus/community/community-advisory-group.html>

Notification was provided through the November electronic newsletter, contacting all current/previous applicants and listed on the City of Vancouver website under volunteer opportunity.

*Action:* Kate C. will send the link to the application again to current members

Kate C. reviewed the agenda and meeting goals, including Hastings Park Tree Report, PNE Open Board Meeting & Local Business Partnerships.

### 3. For Information

#### 3.1 Hastings Park Tree Report

Kate C. reviewed the background and park development of Hastings Park since the early 2000's and what PNE staff are involved in maintaining the green spaces. Colin Priddle, Horticultural Manager Tech Services oversees the gardening department which includes 4 year round, 1 operator and 4-5 seasonal staff. All which have many years of experience and variety of certificates/ diplomas and/or apprentices around Horticulture.

Kate C. advised that the PNE and City of Vancouver work hand in hand and have a close relationship with a number of departments. Colin Priddle works closely with the cities arborists, to make sure we are using best care practices and also study what is happening in other city parks to ensure we are aligned.

Kate C. discussed why trees are removed on site, including:

- Safety - removed if deemed dangerous to the public
- Dead - the tree has died
- Dying - tree becomes unhealthy and could become a danger
- Disease - tree is diseased and may spread to other trees
- Promote Vigor - may thin out small tree (trunk is less than 8 inches wide) to promote health of other trees

Kate C. reviewed what is required to remove a tree:

- If the tree is 20cm (8 inches) wide and measures 1.4 m above ground it requires a permit
- ISA arborist will create a report outlining why the tree requires removal
- Report goes to City for approval, and a permit is then issued

Kate C. reviewed some examples of trees which were removed in 2015.

Kate C. reviewed transplanting of trees. As Hastings Park continues to change and develop, at times trees may need to be relocated due to operational needs or a change in park plans. Kate C. reviewed examples of trees in Hastings Park which had been transplanted to new locations.

Linda S. asked if they could get a copy of presentation, as there is a lot of interesting information

*Action:* Kate C. to note request

Darci S. noted that during redevelopment of Empire Stadium numerous trees were planted but they removed numerous coniferous trees in the SE corner

*Action:* Jeff S. will inquire with Roslyn Chow from the Vancouver Park Board who oversaw the Empire redevelopment

Pasquale B. questioned the need for Beech trees. In his opinion Beech trees are dangerous and easily snap in windstorms. Believes there should be a certain look to site (i.e.: Dogwoods, Maple, Cedars) and we should not rely on fast growing trees only.

- Jeff S. advised that when we get to the point of adding trees onsite, we will get experts in that area to decide on best type of trees to plant.

Jeff S. stated the PNE works very closely with the Park Board's botanist. They share challenges of maintaining invasive species or critters (i.e. beetles) without pesticides. Confirmed everything we use is fairly natural. Policy is a public document.

David B. asked when Playland develops will greenspace grow with it?

- Jeff S. confirmed yes, developing greenspace is on the Playland Redevelopment Plan

David B. discussed that the Master Plan is to have a Fair within a park. David also noted his concern on the quick development of Playland.

- Kate C. stated that the Hastings Park Master Plan will develop the overall site to be more green space, not just Playland.

Linda S. asked the timeline for Playland Redevelopment

- Jeff S. stated staff are continuing to work on plans for Phase 1 in anticipation that Vancouver City Council will approve sometime in 2017. Once approved a more concrete timeline will be available.

Kate C. confirmed the HP Master Plan will continue to come back as a meeting topic.

#### **4. Topics to discuss**

##### **4.1 PNE Open Board Meetings**

Jeff S. reviewed the Open Board Meeting details and talked about the history of Hastings Park governance. A decision was made in 2013 to give the PNE governance of Hastings Park (excluding Race Track & Empire Stadium).

- There will be 3 public Board Meetings each year to ensure transparency and allow the public to speak to the PNE Board on topics determined by the board Chair;
- How to get involved – individuals may request an item be placed on the Agenda 3 calendar weeks prior to meeting via phone/online/in-person;
- Agenda is posted to PNE website one week prior to meeting;
- Individuals may request to speak to an agenda item up to 24 hours before the meeting.

Jeff S. reviewed meeting details: There is a maximum of 4 topics per meeting, 4 speakers per topic. Registered speakers have 5 minutes to speak and then 5 minutes to answer each question from the Board. PNE staffs are also available to answer questions.

Jeff S. talked about the comments from the public, that the meetings seem rigid. He further explained that the meeting does require a defined process in order to run in a clear and consistent manner. Both meetings so far were held in the Hastings Room which included a table for working media, none which have shown up to date, but are welcome to attend.

Kate C. confirmed next Open Board Meeting is Thursday December 8, 2016.

Jeff S. discussed further comments from the public regarding the Open Board Meeting, including the perception that the room set-up wasn't welcoming and did not include enough dialogue. Jeff confirmed that was not intentional, and more efforts will be made to ensure staff are present to have situational

dialogue with public who attend. Jeff S. also confirmed the Board does not get involved in daily operations, but their role is to guide the organization at a high level.

Pasquale B. inquired into the timeline for the agenda being posted. Does not feel one week is enough time for people to review the content and determine if they want to speak.

David B. discussed wanting to speak on a topic, but felt process was confusing and challenging. First impression was format is very formal which sends a negative message to people. However, he did confirm that he was warmly received when he did speak.

- Kate C. advised some of the confusion came from it being everyone's first time registering etc. Have worked with PNE administrative staff to make things more clear.

Pasquale B. questioned the goals of the Public Board Meetings. Believes if you want public input, we should take all staff reports and split into 3 meetings. This would give people time to review and create open dialogue. Pasquale B. confirmed he likes the idea that you have to apply to speak. Also thinks the agenda should be set sooner to address items at appropriate times.

David B. would like to see more involvement, getting input from community.

Linda S. believes the Open Board Meetings process needed better communication. Linda suggested there needs to be a reason given why a topic submitted is not on the agenda. Provided various suggestions:

- Welcoming people – Would like more human interaction. Not sitting at the table with the Board stops people from being abrasive, people become more reasonable;
- Venue is important – the School Board meetings are held in schools. Thinks PNE Board should hold meetings at Community Centres, would generate more interest and send positive message;
- Advertising is important – starts to build community partnerships with PNE Board;
- Timing – 1st week of July is not a good time. Also December is not a good time. Meetings need to be more accessible to public;
  - Kate C. confirmed July date has been changed;
- Content – people need a reason to come, has to have something of interest to them;
- Format – tough given the design of meetings, difficult to have any dialogue;
- Ask for specifics around major area i.e. programming in park;
- Need several ways for people to input their ideas and know they are presenting bigger ideas – need more ways to build partnerships in community;
- Doesn't believe people will get the idea of governance. Has to be some open ended questions that you ask for input in a broad way and invite people to come with their ideas and thoughts;
- Partnerships – Master Plan is far off, need to focus public meetings on community now. PNE Board needs to be open and clear about ideas, even with limitations;
- Idea of PNE providing space for community events (i.e. Christmas caroling/potluck dinner, Meaningful Movies). Need partnership between community centres, churches etc. Thinks a lot of potential for PNE to be that vehicle that brings the community together. If the Board isn't open

to these ideas, they will miss the opportunity for people to have a venue for that, even if just for consideration

- Have sheets available with topics on the wall, allow public in attendance to provide feedback

Patricia B. believes these open public meetings are not City Council, gives the impression of not being inviting to community. Suggests meetings be less formal and to have a question period between public and Board after the meeting concludes.

Pasquale B. suggested operational staff attend Open Board Meeting – would be more of an open process with staff present, gives them the opportunity to have dialogue with community. Suggest first 45 minutes opportunity to have staff and community to interact.

- Jeff S. commented that he thinks we are open to community, through other channels like our Community Relations Manager, CAG, Neighbourhood Focus Group, etc. but understands the concern on needing improvement around the open board meeting. He will bring all ideas forward as there is always potential for change.

Linda S. Perhaps there needs to be a motion at Board level about wanting the community in the Park. The Board needs to make it feel like there is an opening for people to have input.

David B. asked how the decision is made what agenda items are made public or not and how is the Board appointed.

- Jeff S. talked about the public portion vs. in-camera portion. The public do not attend regular meetings, only 3 open public meetings per year. The Board is appointed by Vancouver City Council.

Pasquale B. reconfirmed the Open Board Meetings are open to all, but can't speak unless you have applied to.

- Kate C. confirmed yes, that anyone from the public can attend, but if you want to speak to a specific topic you must register in advance. More information can be found: <http://www.pne.ca/aboutus/board-of-directors.html>

Stephanie L. (via email) –

- The open board meeting felt unwelcoming;
- Understands the need for such formality at that level, but if the goal is to have more organic community participation, then opening a sliding wall to reveal all directors already seated and mic'd is not the best way to go about it;
- Felt odd speaking to the Board with the "community" set-up behind;
- Would rethink the setup, perhaps place the seating in a more circular shape then rows and the community chairs facing, with a mic off to one side, so the speaker is talking to the whole room, not just the board
- Perhaps also board members can welcome the community members as they arrive to make it more personal;
- Idea of having a few town hall meetings once or twice a year instead of the Board Meetings.

Darci S – The Master Plan will take many years, but now is a good opportunity to engage the community. Darci would like to find more ways to put out topics in the community that are coming up at meetings.

Patricia B. questioned what is going to happen now that the Vancouver Giants hockey team are gone and if there is a strategy moving forward.

- Jeff S. confirmed we have a number of events booked within the venue in the coming months. The Vancouver Giants kept the building active throughout the winter, but limited us on booking other events or groups. Continuing to look at possible other anchor tenants and long term events.

Pasquale B. commented that parking is better at the Pacific Coliseum than Rogers Arena.

Kate C. appreciates all the input on all items today and that this is a great opportunity to open dialogue and bring forward ideas to start conversations. Will continue to grow and develop that dialogue within the community.

Linda S. advised that she would like to see the meeting presentations online, believes people would be interested in that.

Pasquale B. commented the current group is very diverse, and the benefit to the Board of using this group to help facilitate its growth.

- Kate commented that we are heading in the right direction, and will continue to finesse it.

#### **4.2 Local Business Partnerships**

Patricia B. commented that the PNE can reach out to the community regarding community partnership ideas.

Linda S. thinks this is a huge topic people would be happy to participate in.

- Kate C. advised we will discuss this in more detail at a future meeting.
- Jeff S. commented that the Farmers Market is one example of the community voicing suggestions to the Board, a collective win. The PNE would like to keep that going and have more community use in the Park.

#### **5. Questions/Community Feedback**

Kate C. reminder that November 18, 2016 is the CAG application deadline for the 2017 term. Note that December 8 is next Open Public Meeting and thank you to everyone for their time and effort on this first year.

This meeting concluded at 6:40pm

**Next Meeting: January, 2017**