

Hastings Park / PNE Community Advisory Group
Tuesday – April 5, 2016
5:00pm – PNE Operations Boardroom
MINUTES

In Attendance:

PNE Staff
Jeff Strickland: Co-Chair
Kate Huffman: Co-Chair
Rosa Chirico: minute taker

Community Advisory Group Members
Sal Audia
Pasquale Balletta
Patricia Barnes
Steve Canofari
Stephanie Lemmo
Linda Shuto
Darci Swinton
<i>David Bornman (Regrets)</i>

1. Adoption of Agenda/ Minutes

Note that CAG will not have the opportunity to visit the Hastings Park Model due to a tradeshow being held in the Coliseum. Will try to arrange for future meeting.

Changes to February 23, 2016 minutes:

- Darci S. - Learn to Fish comment, change to concern was number of adults vs. children fishing. Kate confirmed the Learn to Fish program is geared towards kids, but daily use of pond has more male adult users.
- Linda S. – is non-supportive as she feels it is not part of the original goal of Sanctuary. The Sanctuary should look more natural. Concern for extensive clearing of the underbrush, cutting down trees and replacing areas with low growing ferns. What drives the decisions of how to manage the Sanctuary foliage--safety/security issues or maintaining natural habitat? A bigger question is what is the long term vision/plan for the Sanctuary.
- Pasquale B. – Actions vs. questions for more in depth research. Having the ability to use either depending on the item.
The comment was mention after looking into second dock in Sanctuary was noted in last minutes. Jeff advised there are no additional long term plans other than what is currently in place for the Sanctuary.
- Stephanie L. – Correct comment to: Continue ongoing interaction with nature at Hastings Park/ PNE.

Action:

- Kate H. – Will post minutes after everyone accepts the changes

2. Housekeeping/ Goals

Goals- Kate H. reviewed this meeting goal(s); Farmers Market, Park Safety & Security & Hastings Park/ PNE Master Plan.

The overall goal of the CAG group is to keep this group well informed and up to date regarding activities in Hastings Park/ PNE.

Housekeeping-

- An ongoing action List will be done up to reference items as need/ or require follow up
- Reminder that meeting minutes will be posted to website; once okayed by committee
- Meeting minutes are also provided to PNE Executive Management
- Topics discussed with CAG could be referenced in staff reports during the public open Board meetings, keeping the Board informed on what we are discussing.

Kate H. to send out a smaller survey to CAG/Neighbourhood Focus Group, has similar questions to what we discuss here but would appreciate the groups input. The PNE appreciates feedback and is planning to send out a similar survey to wider group of the community in the future.

Action:

- Kate H. will send out survey to CAG members
- Kate H. will add wider community survey to the ongoing action list for future distribution

3. Topics to discuss

3.1 Farmers Market – Kate Huffman presented

Kate H. reviewed Farmers Market facts and statistics. Discussion took place on how good/bad weather affects the number of visitors to the market.

The group was interested to know if the vendors are happy with the market. Kate advised that vendors have had ups & downs due to bad weather but that the market continues to build. Overall the vendors are happy with the market location, are positive and seeing it become a busier market. Also noted the market is attracting visitors from all suburbs in the lower mainland.

A member asked if the Forum area could be incorporated into the Farmers Market. Kate H. explained that due to tradeshow, events and the busy filming season the Forum would not be a consistently reliable location but as the Master Plan moves forward locations like the livestock building could be considered. A member questioned the timeline for the possibility of the

Farmers Market-livestock area plan. Jeff S. advised this has not been confirmed, but it is being considered as one of the possible uses of the space. Concept only, no design.

Numerous members asked if a survey would help with perspective on how the Farmers Market is doing and where it can improve. Kate H. advised that yes, can inquire into what the Vancouver Farmers Market has already done or plan to incorporate.

Kate H. explained the current signage on site for the Farmers Market includes the big readerboard (corner of Hastings/Renfrew), Gate 2 readerboard, an A-frame sign on corner during the event and the Farmers Market group place signs during the market.

Kate H. noted that Hastings Park and Nat Bailey are the only 2 locations in Vancouver that hold farmers markets in the winter. Nat Bailey does not have indoor option and has grown to be very successful.

Round table discussion on Farmers Market- Everyone is very supportive of the continuation of the Farmers Market, below are some further comments:

- Sal A. – Has been to the market once, had a great time. Signage could be much better (more visible).
- Steve C. – Great, has been a few times. Indoor idea would be better weather wise. Do survey to market attendee's.
- Darci S. – Likes the Farmers Market in the neighbourhood as well as the location. Has visited on rainy days and agrees livestock building would be great in the winter. That it is a good mingling location.
- Stephanie L. – Has attended a few times and is happy with the Farmers Market. Her neighbors attend all the time. Agrees with signage issues and the need for more creativity in terms of community marketing. Could the market be at Hastings & Renfrew- more visible
- Patricia B. – Has heard mixed reviews from local businesses concerned with competition the Farmers Market will create. With more information and education on the market businesses can realize the market draws more crowds to the area. The BIA will be working on getting the businesses to take part in future market as a cross promotion, would like to see it stay and be a presence in the community.
- Pasquale B. – Has been to the market once. Believes market should have longer hours and that logistically it is in the wrong place. Would like to see the back of the PNE property utilized more: soccer field, parking lot, Miller Drive & livestock barns.
- Linda S. – Has been many times. Key issue is market location, building the market's reputation as well as consistency in how often market is held. Believes gaps in months between seasonal markets will lose customers. Wants more signage in community (ie: lawns). Agrees market should be 1 hour longer.

Action:

- Kate H. will be having a follow up meeting with Vancouver Farmers Market and will provide this feedback
- Kate H. will inquire if they have done surveying or will be

3.2 Park Safety/Security

Action: Park Safety/Security to be brought forward at future meeting.

4. Hastings Park/PNE Master Plan - Jeff Strickland presented

Jeff S. provided an overview of the Hastings Park/ PNE Master Plan – including the completed projects/ in progress or coming in the future. The Master Plan was approved in 2010 by Vancouver City council. It is a park first, Fair second.

The completed projects include:

- Empire Field and Plateau Sports Park (maintained by Vancouver Parks Board)
- Temporary Greenways- connection throughout the site
- Livestock Building-Seismic upgrades
- Creekway Park (maintained by PNE)
- Garden Auditorium- Asbestos Abatement
- Identity, Signage & Wayfinding Plan- Phase 1
- Infrastructure Plan for Hastings Park site

Upcoming projects include:

- Playland Greening/ Expansion
- Heart of the Park
 - Amphitheatre
 - Livestock Building- phase 2
 - Festival Plaza
 - Daylighting of the stream

The Playland expansion will go north of the current site from 16 acres to 21 acres.

Within the amphitheater renewal it is to be flexible space so both smaller or larger shows would have the ability for smaller community groups to use it.

It will also be looking closely at noise mitigation providing more direct sound and less impact to the surrounding community.

The plan will allow over all better flow and use for the community and on site events.

5. Questions/Community Feedback

- Steve C. – appreciates & recognizes our efforts to keep park space cared for.
- Pasquale B. – Need more thought to making the park more interesting, better attractions/
better flow. Currently does not function well.
- Darci S. – Need to find ways to bring community to the park; also wanted to share some
feedback community members had on the Learn to fish program. She provided hand-
out copies to members.
- Sal – Any consideration to seasonal Playland parent pass? Jeff S. advised no plan for that.
- Stephanie L. - Asked if extended Playland season would be considered in light of the larger
Playland site. Jeff S. advised that an extended season is not in the plans. Stephanie also
inquired into health of fish/stagnant water in the pond. Kate H. advised that Fresh
Water Fisheries does regular testing – aeration system in place.

Reminder from Kate H. that first open Board Meeting is April 22, 2016 (Friday). Agenda to be posted one week prior to the meeting on PNE website, can apply to be speaker. Public portion is at 6pm (doors @ 5:30pm).

Action:

- Kate will confirm how often the water is tested in the Sanctuary
- Kate will send committee the currently scheduled fall meetings for CAG

This meeting concluded at 6:50pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 21, 2016 @ 5pm (Hastings Room)