

Hastings Park / PNE Community Advisory Group  
Tuesday, January 24, 2017  
5:00pm – PNE Hastings Room

# MINUTES

---

In Attendance:

<b>PNE STAFF</b>
Kate Chong: Co-Chair
Jeff Strickland: Co-Chair
John Brodie: Project Manager, Hastings Park
Rosa Chirico: Administrative Assistant

<b>COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP MEMEBERS</b>
Claire Desmarais
David Bornman
Darci Swinton
Linda Shuto
Pasquale Balletta
Patricia Barnes
Sal Audia
Steve Canofari

**1. Adoption of Agenda/Minutes**

**2. Housekeeping/Goals**

No changes to the minutes were noted, but a few of the members still needed to review them. Kate C. asked to have any changes back by Friday Jan 27, 2017.

All advisory members and staff introduced themselves with specific acknowledgment to Claire Desmarais who is a new Community Advisory Group member and John Brodie who is the PNE's new Project Manager for the Hastings Park / PNE Master Plan.

**3. For Information**

**3.1 Hastings Park /PNE Master Plan – Project Manager**

John B. discussed his role with the Hastings Park/PNE Master Plan. His current focus will be on transitioning files and project work from the previous project manager, developing a plan and timeline for phase one Playland re-development, consulting with departments at the PNE and developing public engagement plans.

Sal A. asked what impression, challenges or potential obstacles John B. sees with respect to completing the Master Plan.

- John B. responded that there are numerous people involved in this project with different needs and wants and therefore it's important to find the best options. With respect to the estimated cost of

the Phase one Playland re-development project, City of Vancouver's City Council has asked for a more refined budget schedule and a more detailed scope of work.

Pasquale B. asked if the scope of the project has been outlined or if a projected completion date has been set.

- John B. responded that these items will be worked on over the next few months.

David B. asked who John B. reports to and where the lease agreement between the City of Vancouver and the Hastings Racecourse is.

- John B. responded that he reports on a daily basis to Jeff S. & Mike M. but the overall project is overseen by the City Manager's office and large decisions are made by the City of Vancouver's City Council.
- Jeff S. responded that the track is in negotiations with the City of Vancouver (are we okay stating this)

Linda S. asked if the upgrade of the Livestock Building will be included in Phase 1.

- John B. shared that Phase 1 is the Playland Redevelopment Plan
- Jeff S. added that seismic upgrades have already been completed on the Livestock Building and the next step would be the development of Heart of the Park which includes the Livestock Building and Amphitheatre area. The exact timing of this step is still to be determined.

Pasquale B. inquired if John B. will be using past minutes, data and community feedback to see what has already been discussed about the Master Plan.

- John B. responded that he is very interested in understanding community feedback from past engagements

Claire D. inquired what the public engagement will be like with respect to Phase 1.

- John B. responded that it's an asset to share plans with the community and obtain feedback. Details on how the engagement will take place are still to be determined.

Steve C. commented that he would like to hear a diverse community voice and build support for decisions already made with respect to the Hastings Park Master Plan, and not to have to start over.

Sal A. commented that the plan has been stagnant for too long and would like to see some progress.

Pasquale B. commented that the communication aspect is critical.

Kate C. noted that John B. will continue to come back to future CAG meetings to keep the group informed.

### **3.2 PNE Sustainability Plan**

Jeff S. reviewed the PNE Sustainability vision and how the PNE is working to align with the City of Vancouver's Greenest City Action Plan by 2020.

Sal A. inquired if the Livestock Building's roof was upgraded with sustainable materials.

- Jeff S. responded that the materials used were sustainable and currently the Livestock Building does not have an HVAC system. An HVAC system may be installed in the future as part of the Master Plan.

Sal A. asked if anything has been done to the Rollerland Building.

- Jeff S. responded that a new high efficiency heater has been installed. Jeff S. also noted that the builders of the Prize Home are building an energy smart home.

Jeff S. commented that water-fill stations have recently been installed in the Forum building.

Sal A. inquired whether water-fill stations will be installed throughout the grounds.

- Jeff S. responded that there are no water-fill stations throughout the grounds at this time, unless an event is being held (i.e.: Fair).

Steve C. asked if the PNE has considered planting fruit trees.

- Jeff S. responded that the PNE gardening department has come up with recommendation for trees and once the Hastings Park Master Plan moves forward, tree types will be discussed.

Sal A. commented that the City Vancouver has planted many fruit trees and various examples can be found throughout City spaces.

Pasquale B. commented that the planting of fruit trees/vegetables can create rodent problems and therefore there needs to be a strategy in place for maintaining them. Pasquale B. also added that he would like to see more cedar trees planted at Hastings Park.

Jeff S. provided examples of green lifestyle programs here at Hastings Park including Learn to Fish and the continued sponsorship of the Farmer's Market.

Claire D. asked about the possibility of working with car share programs.

- Kate C. responded that during certain events there is a higher volume of car shares left in the neighbourhood and the PNE is currently working with the City of Vancouver to ensure car share companies remove extra cars and allocate additional non-residential street parking for those busier events. The PNE partnership department is looking into a possible partnership with a car share program.

Jeff S. discussed the Bidders Project during the 2016 Fair and how it was a very positive program for both the PNE & the bidders.

*Action:* Kate C. to send group link to Bidders Project.

#### **4. Topics to Discuss**

##### **4.1 PNE Community Grant Fund Process**

Kate C. discussed how the PNE supported the Hastings Community Little League (HCLL), through Community Day at Playland. The PNE raised \$100,250 for the HCLL, helping fund upgrades required to host the 2016 Canadian Little League Championships.

Steve C. commented that this legacy will last for years, thanks to the PNE.

Kate C. discussed the proposed new community grant fund that would benefit numerous local community groups and allow the PNE to financially contribute to local community organized events and programs.

Pasquale B. inquired whether the grant could be applied towards a new or improved school playground or ways to make schools greener.

- Kate C. responded that she would look into this and report back.

Patricia B. asked if organizations will receive all the money upfront.

- Kate C. confirmed that following Community Day, the selected groups will be granted the full amount allocated. Annual events can apply, but are not guaranteed funding each year.

Kate C. discussed the timeline and transition of support to existing events or groups at Hastings Park such as LightWaterDrums and Circus West

Patricia B. inquired if LightWaterDrums would still be able to host at Hastings Park.

- Kate C. confirmed that LightWaterDrums will always have the opportunity to host at Hastings Park; the process in which the PNE supports the event financially may alter slightly with the new process.

David B. asked how much time would be used on grant discussions as he is concerned it will take time away from discussing other topics.

- Kate C. responded that in future years it would be part of one meeting. However, as this is the inception year of the Community Grant, it has required discussions at a few meetings.

- Pasquale B. suggested developing a philosophy around disbursement.

Linda S. commented on the Hastings Racecourse's "Day at The Races" fundraiser and being careful not to be in competition with that event.

- Kate C. responded that groups like LightWaterDrums rely solely on grants/donations from multiple sources. The idea of the grant is to make a larger impact to multiple organizations instead of just one.

Pasquale B. inquired if the PNE could provide CAG a current list of groups that are subsidized through room rentals, events etc. at Hastings Park? He asked if the grant recipients could receive subsidies for events at Hastings Park versus just receiving a cash donation and if grant money would be spread equally between groups.

David B. suggested offering space / services / hot chocolate etc. to applicants instead of providing funds to cover an event offsite. Assuming the reason for the grant is to build community pride; events offsite would not build the PNE's identity.

Pasquale B. would like to see events on and offsite granted money or be subsidized.

Claire D. asked if recipients would be required to report on how the grant funds are used.

- Kate C. responded that one of the application steps is to provide a budget and a post event / program report on how the funds were used.

Pasquale B. noted that schools have to show invoices when grant money is used.

- Jeff S. commented that details still need to be finalized.

Linda S. suggested that the grant should go towards a venue onsite that the whole community would benefit from.

- Kate C. responded that from a budgetary standpoint, it might be difficult to carry over the funds from one fiscal year to another.

Jeff S. discussed the evolution of the program in the years to come and that the future stage at the Amphitheatre would have the ability to contact and expand and would therefore lessen the barrier for small community groups to use it.

Pasquale B. commented that a community stage at the Amphitheatre would be lost in the current footprint.

*Action:* Kate will re-evaluate the CAG's role and feedback and report back at the next meeting.

### **Family Day Community Skate event**

Kate C. reviewed the event details.

Linda S. suggested speaking to the Hastings Community Centre as they were looking to do a skate & helmet donation drive.

- Kate C. responded that she would look into the possible partnership. If the Family Day Community Skate goes well then the PNE would be looking to host more community skates in the winter of 2017/2018.

Sal A. asked if local schools know about the Family Day Skate.

- Kate C. confirmed that she has reached out to the 15 local schools.

Patricia B. commented that the Hastings North BIA would like to be involved if there are future skates.

- Kate C. agreed to look into having Hastings North BIA being involved in future skates.

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

This meeting concluded at 6:55pm

**Next Meeting: February 21, 2017**