

Hastings Park / PNE Community Advisory Group
Tuesday, September 22, 2020
5:30pm – Virtual Meeting via Zoom

MINUTES

In Attendance:

PNE STAFF
Shelley Frost: President and CEO
Jeff Strickland: Vice President, Operations
Karen Massicotte: Vice President, Sales, Marketing and Business Development
Salome Valente: Executive Assistant & Manager, Corporate Administration

COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP MEMBERS
Andrea Dowd-Dever (regrets)
Darci Swinton
Patricia Barnes
Sal Audia (regrets)
Linda Chow
Courtney Komonasky
Steve Canofari (regrets)
Stewart Anderson
Linda Shuto
Pasquale Balletta (regrets)

1. Topics to Discuss

1.1 PNE/Hastings Park COVID Update - Shelley

- Shelley gave a presentation on how COVID has impacted the PNE and Hastings Park
 - Shared that the PNE is anticipating a net impact for 2020 of -\$10.5 million
 - Council approved a \$10 million credit line for extension for cash flow
 - The PNE is currently not eligible for any of the assistance programs
 - Substantial number of staff laid off

1.2 Homeless Encampments & HP/PNE - Shelley

- Shelley gave a presentation on homeless encampments at Hastings Park
 - Shared that all the spaces onsite are booked out until March / June 2021
 - A memo was sent to the City Manager and PNE Board of Directors explaining that Hastings Park is not an inactive site, listed the impacts to the neighbourhood and that event and community access recovery is critical to the PNE and local businesses
- Darci Swinton commented that it would be hard for the PNE to book events if there was an encampment on site. Shelley agreed that it would affect everyone

- Patricia Barnes shared that she had heard that park space was being taken off as an option for relocation of the encampment so that might help Hastings Park. Patricia also added for the PNE to let the CAG know what they can do to help. Shelley responded that the PNE will definitely reach out if help is needed.

1.3 Statues & Monuments at Hastings Park – Jeff

- Jeff gave an update on some of the current statues and monuments at Hastings Park
 - Specifically spoke about the Christopher Columbus statue in the Italian Gardens and how it has been vandalized a few times as to some, the imagery of this statue actively venerates colonization of this land.
 - Was explained that this statue was put in place as a dedication to Judge Angelo Branca
 - Next steps will be to consult with the City of Vancouver to ensure that our approach is aligned with other similar statues around Vancouver (ie. Grassy Jack), identify and discuss with stakeholders, including surviving members of the Branca family and also to discuss with this group.
- Karen added that the PNE has received 3 requests from local neighbours to have the statue removed
- Linda Shuto commented that is no plague bringing to people’s attention that we are on the unceded territories of the Indigenous people. She also added that she didn’t feel that the CAG was the right group to make the decision and that the PNE needs to speak to the right people before making a decision
- Courtney Komonasky was concerned that taking the statue down will cause a ripple effect of people wanting other statues and monuments onsite to be taken down for various reasons.
- Stewart Anderson suggested having a sign to explain what the Christopher Columbus statue means as a positive instead of negative as was down with the creation of Momiji Gardens.
- Jeff thanked everyone for their feedback and added that the conversation will continue to ensure that the right decision is made.

1.4 Fall and Winter Events – Karen

- Karen presented a map of the site to show all of the venues that are occupied and the length of time that they will be occupied.
- Karen updated everyone that the Hastings Park Farmers Market would be returning in November. She also let everyone know that there are two potential client events happening at the end of November and the beginning of December and that more information would be provided once available.

2 New Business

2.1 Current Community Advisory Committee Term

- Karen let everyone know that usually at this time, the PNE would start to recruit for a new CAG group but this year was hoping to have the current group stay on for one more year. She asked that everyone let her know if they would be okay to remain as part of the committee for one more year.

3.2 Community Ice

- Karen updated everyone that the PNE would be putting on two community ice days this year and that more information would be sent out.
- Linda Shuto enquired if the Pumpkin Promenade would be happening again this year. Karen responded that she and Sal would see if it was possible to do it this year in a safe way.

3.3 PNE's Halloween Drive Thru

- Jeff shared with everyone that the PNE would be hosting a family friendly Halloween themed drive thru which was going to be announced tomorrow.
- Patricia Barnes asked if there were any opportunities for the BIA and other businesses to participate in the drive thru. Jeff responded that there were opportunities and that they could chat more about this offline.

This meeting concluded at 6:52pm. Karen let everyone know that she would be back in touch in the next 30 – 45 days with the next meeting date.