



Pacific National Exhibition  
SINCE 1910

# MEETING MINUTES

Hastings Park / PNE Community Advisory Group  
Tuesday March 14, 2023  
5:30pm  
Hastings Room and via Teams

**Present:**     **PNE Staff**  
Karen Massicotte, Vice President, Sales, Marketing & Business Development  
Rebecca Savory, Manager, Communications and Community Engagement  
Sam Ellis, Administration

**Community Advisory Group Members**

Courtney Komonasky  
Ruby Wong  
Mayura Colling  
Debbie Schachter (first 30mins)

**Regrets:**     Dino Singh  
Patricia Barnes

**Did not attend:**  
Stewart Anderson  
Jason McGarry  
Linda Dallow

## **AGENDA TOPICS**

### **1. PNE - Hastings Park Update**

Karen gave an update on recent changes in the park, including:

- trees damaged by the February snowstorm, and
- a new storage shed that will replace the fire-damaged buildings in our tech services yard.

Karen also spoke about what is being considered for park upgrades, including:

- our Gardening Department is exploring options such as a pollinator garden to attract more pollinator species to the park in 2023 and we are currently exploring options for 2024 and 2025 including a greenhouse to grow annuals, and/or the potential to plant more native plants in our Sanctuary for guided walks,
  - Mayura suggested families interested in sustainability could come and learn what they can to do. It would be good to offer education such as how to grow gardens etc.
- the upgrade of our signs across the park and in our venues to digital screens, including the large reader board at the corner of Hastings & Renfrew.

Karen then gave an overview of key business updates, including:

- the Budget will go to our Board of Directors in April for approval,
- Playland will open in June this year, with the hope of it opening in May next year,
- we are in the final stages of securing our summer night concert lineup for Fair 2023,
- an increase in family entertainment events in the Pacific Coliseum this year,
- we are in the final stages of our rebranding strategy which will launch this year,
- in 2022, the PNE received two large federal grants. The grants were made available to improve assets and infrastructure allowing the organization to rebound from the Covid-19 pandemic faster. This money is to be used for Operational and Infrastructure improvements ONLY.

At the next CAG Meeting in April, PNE Director of Master Plan Developments Thomas Chen will update the group on the Amphitheatre redevelopment plans.

Rebecca provided updates on the 2023 community calendar:

- We are bringing back Community Corner at our big PNE events. This is a drop-in spot/hub for the community, with displays and information on our programs, including CAG.
- We are bringing back open houses and focus groups on a regular basis throughout the year.
  - Karen noted our first open house of the year will likely be in May, ahead of the Public Board Meeting in June.
- All our donation programmes are all back up and running as of February 2023 – information and applications can be found on our website.
- We are bringing back Youth Council for the 2023/2024 school year.

## 2. Community Check in

Karen asked CAG members: what is the pulse of the neighbourhood?

- Courtney said that she had not heard anything really, not much has been said since the Amphitheatre sound issues.
- Ruby mentioned that coyotes are a huge issue at present, then asked about the Italian Gardens play area.
  - Karen explained it needs a new level of investment. We are currently working with community partners who may want to invest/make changes, however there are no current plans in place. Safety within the area is a main concern.
- Mayura said that she has noticed and been talking to people about fencing at sanctuary – it appears to be rotting/falling down in places.
  - Karen will follow up with the Facilities & Maintenance Team.
- Courtney asked if we have picked a name for the new Rollercoaster?
  - Karen said that we have had over 3000 submissions, which we are working through now.
- Ruby has noticed Playland hiring come up in social media a lot.

### 3. 2023 Sound Mitigation Planning Update

Karen gave an update on sound mitigation across the site:

- Additional sound measuring will be done during concerts in the Forum in April to inform potential mitigation solutions.
- A new in-house sound system is being explored for the Amphitheatre, to use in the season prior to the redevelopment.
- We are moving ahead with hiring an in-house sound engineer.

Karen asked CAG Members: do they believe these steps are in line with what the community is expecting from our last open house?

- Courtney believed that for most people, this aligned with their expectations of our next steps. However she noted that, with this topic, there would continue to be people unhappy who do not want any sound at all.

### 4. Temporary Greenways & Summer Event Fence Lines

Karen gave an overview on our greenways and fence lines through the summer:

- From May to September, our temporary greenways get adjusted regularly for events. As the site is changing/evolving, they're all meant to be temporary.
- We want to better communicate when the greenways and fence lines are going to change so that people who are commuting through the park know when and where they are diverting.

Karen asked CAG Members: What is the best way to communicate to neighbours about route changes to temporary greenways and fence lines and their access points?

- Courtney suggested that a detour sign would be enough. Perhaps a bigger sign would be better.

Karen asked whether we should update the PNE app with the greenway routes?

- Ruby didn't know there was an app and said, as a cyclist, she wouldn't check it, unless for an event when she would want to know about bike parking/valet. The big painted signs are what she focuses on for directions.
- Rebecca suggested that we need to produce signage in the same colour, size, fonts and icons that cyclists are used to following. The idea was supported by CAG members.

Karen asked CAG members: how do we communicate closures publicly while maintaining easy access for local park users? E.g. during Fair.

- Courtney said if you're walking, you will see any access signs. However Mayura said that once she had to walk around the fence and couldn't find the entrance and there were no signs.

- Karen said we put the fence line on the website and put a map on the fence with where the entrance points are, but perhaps the map is too small.
- Rebecca suggested we instead produce large, simplified arrow signs saying 'park access 50/100m'. The idea was supported by CAG members.

## 5. Hastings Sunrise Community Access Pass

Rebecca said we are bringing back the Hastings Park Access Pass for park users that come through the park every day to walk dogs or commute to work, to allow them to cut across the park during Fair when we're fully fenced off.

- This pass will not give people access to the Fair, only to pass through the Park.
- Rebecca reiterated that the consequences for being caught using the pass to access Fair would be removal from the access pass program, as well as the free neighbourhood ticket program.
- This will be communicated through local community and neighbourhood groups.

## 6. Community Program Updates

Rebecca shared details of the community programs which are now back in full swing including:

- Charity ticket donations for non-profits/schools and charities to use in silent auctions/raffles
- Bulk ticket donations – for large non-profits that hold multiple fundraising events each year
- KC's Kids for organisations that support children with challenges. These tickets go directly to the children.
- Community Grand Fund – a \$10,000 fund to support community initiatives in the Hastings Sunrise neighbourhood.
- CAG recruitment for the 10<sup>th</sup> member.

For the first time, all applications can now be submitted online so it's easier than ever for people to apply. Our website has been updated under Participate. You can see all eligibility, deadlines and processes and then apply directly on the page.

## 7. Upcoming Community Events

- On April 5, the community team is hosting a free easter egg hunt for the Hastings Sunrise neighbourhood, from 5-6:30pm. The event will include facepainting, a magic show, and photos with KC Bear. The event is being advertised directly through local schools and daycares, VPL, The Learnary, HCC, BIA, and the local parents and neighbourhood Facebook pages. This is a pilot event that we hope to host annually.
- The Neighbourhood Party at Playland will be held in June. Each household in the catchment will get 4 free tickets and can purchase an additional 2 tickets at a reduced rate. Date yet to be announced.
  - A letter with all information and promo codes will be sent to all neighbours as soon as possible, we are just waiting on the codes to be generated.



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- Community Day at Playland will be held in July. \$10 from each ticket sold will go towards the Community Grant Fund. Date yet to be announced.
- Community Corner at Fair (August / September). Dates yet to be announced.
  - Courtney asked whether bike registration was coming back to the Farmer's Market. Rebecca will look into offering this at the Community Corner.
- Ruby would like to see the bike valet back at Fair this year.
  - Rebecca will raise this in the next Fair planning meeting.

Meeting ended 7:05pm.