

PACIFIC NATIONAL EXHIBITION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2022
6:30pm – PNE (Hastings Room) & via Webex
Public Realm Portion

MINUTES

Chair Kirby-Yung called the meeting to order at 6:35pm

Present: Sarah Kirby-Yung, Chair
Donnie Rosa, Vice Chair
Ty Speer, Director
Raj Sihota, Director
Patrice Impey, Treasurer
Paul Mochrie, Director

Shelley Frost, President & CEO
Karen Massicotte, Vice President, Marketing, Sales & Business Development
Salome Valente, Executive Assistant/Corporate Secretary
Jeff Strickland, Vice President, Operations
Stacy Shields, Vice President, People & Culture
David Crawford, Vice President, Finance & Corporate Services

Guest: Thomas Chen, Senior Project Manager,
Courtney Healy, City of Vancouver

Regrets: Rachel Roy, Director
Maury Kask, Director

There being a quorum present and due notice having been given, the meeting was declared to be constituted for the transaction of business.

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED by Director Raj Sihota
SECONDED by Director Ty Speer

Resolved that the agenda for the Public Realm Portion of the Board of Directors meeting for Thursday December 1, 2022 is adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED by Director Ty Speer
SECONDED by Director Patrice Impey

Resolved that the minutes for the Public Realm Portion of the Board of Directors meeting from Monday June 13, 2022 are adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. STAFF REPORTS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

3.1 Amphitheatre Redevelopment Update

The Amphitheatre Redevelopment update presentation was provided in the Board of Directors packages for review. This report was delivered by Thomas Chen and Courtney Healey.

There were no speakers for this agenda item and no questions from the Board of Directors.

3.2 PNE Community Open House Summary – Management Recommendations for Future Sound Mitigations

The PNE Community Open House Summary and Management Recommendations for Future Sound Mitigation presentation was provided in the Board of Directors packages for review. This report was delivered by Shelley Frost.

Questions from the Board of Directors were as follows:

Director Ty Speer inquired if anything like this had happened in the past. Shelley Frost replied that there have been times where the sound was loud but didn't recall a time that it ever got this loud. Shelley Frost added that the PNE takes this very seriously and sees it as a sign that it's not a result of ongoing irresponsibility but a point in time that didn't have balance in the calendar and some unprecedented challenges with the promoter and the tour. Director Ty Speer added that he felt that this was a unique and unprecedented situation and not something that would be trend setting.

Director Ty Speer also stated that he agreed with PNE staff with not banning types of genres as there is great risk to the PNE from a brand point of view that can be seen as a discriminatory decision by the PNE as it's not only making a decision about the artist but possibly making a decision on fans that come from a particular sector of the population like the artist.

Director Raj Sihota acknowledged that it was loud within the neighbourhood but that a lot of work had been done over the last few weeks around this, and the communication with the community. Director Raj Sihota added that she also agreed with not banning types of genres and that the plan to work with professional staff that understand sound engineering and can work directly with the varied acts would help.

Director Raj Sihota also noted that the work the staff have done throughout the pandemic in getting everything going again has been extraordinary and that there would have been some issues regardless, as people have not been in the space for a year and half thinking about the music and the neighbourhood. Director Raj Sihota also felt that the staff recommendations and the work that staff have already committed to is a transparent process with the neighbourhood that gives people the opportunities to engage.

Director Patrice Impey reiterated that being a neighbourhood venue and having these relationships with the neighbourhood is critical to the PNE's success and the work that has been done to get back to that place again. Director Patrice Impey inquired on

the PNE's comfort level of being more in control of the sound in the discussions with the sound engineers.

Shelley Frost replied that the conversations with the sound engineers that are working on the Amphitheatre redevelopment have given her 100% confidence that there is a team of leading-edge thoughts and minds working on how to mitigate sound and that they will be very successful in doing that and that the structure and systems that they are putting in place is going to be incredibly effective in mitigating sound.

Director Paul Mochrie shared that he appreciated all the work that Shelley Frost and the PNE team did in responding to the event. Director Paul Mochrie added that as a neighbour of Nat Bailey stadium, he understands the impacts that these types of venues have on immediate neighbours and these types of discussions are critical to have. Director Paul Mochrie was also pleased to see the investments that the PNE has made both in terms of short-term expertise, and the investment that's being made around the amphitheater design with sound mitigation.

Director Paul Mochrie inquired about the short-term solutions that were mentioned, such as additional physical infrastructure sound barriers and when staff would have a sense of knowing if those will be practical or not.

Shelley Frost replied that it is the PNE's intention to try some of these short-term solutions before the amphitheater season opens next summer.

Director Donnie Rosa shared that it was appreciated that staff took ownership and listened to the neighbours as much as they have and found other ways to engage with the community.

Chair Kirby-Yung acknowledged that anytime there is an issue like this, it's deeply concerning because it's important to maintain that relationship that's worked for such a long period of time and to be the neighbor with the neighbors.

Chair Kirby-Yung asked if the recommendations that were presented today will be part of an iterative process where recommendations are tested to see what works and refining and adjusting as needed and reporting back to the Board on the progress.

Shelley Frost replied that on the communications front, it will be an iterative process as staff work with the engineers and find the physical and electronic technology that will help. Shelley Frost added that the PNE is committed to not making the kinds of mistakes that happened in September and would be happy to continue reporting out on the successes and also any challenges that require a new solution.

There were 5 speakers for this agenda item:

Walter Melnyk, community member

Walter Melnyk, confirmed with the Board of Directors that they had received his executive summary and comments from his petition. The Board of Directors acknowledged receiving the items.

Walter Melnyk shared that he had lived in the area for 32 years and had embraced the two weeks of the outdoor Fair concerts and never had an issue. However, starting this past July and continuing into late September there were many concerts that were all extremely loud with a lot of base that hit homes for hours.

Walter Melynk noted that he discovered that the PNE had decided to build a large semi open venue that would potentially host over 60 events a year which is a big jump from two weeks a year. This really concerned Walter Melynk, a former event planner who found that most large outdoor Amphitheatres are located far from major population centres (ie. Gorge in Washington State, Red Rocks in Colorado, etc.) and not in neighbourhoods.

Walter Melynk also shared that he started a petition in which people expressed concern with the months of projected shows, mental health concerns from the chronic noise and decrease in property value. Walter Melynk noted that the Amphitheatre plan includes hosting local groups, but nothing was mentioned about the mix of performances. Walter Melynk felt that once the Amphitheatre is built, there will be tremendous pressure to pay off the massive building costs and therefore the pressure to book all kinds of acts to sell tickets. Walter Melynk also felt that there needs to be an independent noise assessment study done before final funding is completed. Walter Melynk didn't believe that this type of venue would be considered in any other part of Vancouver.

There were no questions from the Board of Directors. Chair Kirby-Yung thanked Walter Melynk for coming this evening and sharing his comments.

Susan Stuart, community member

Susan Stuart shared that she was born and raised and continues to live in Vancouver which is how she became such a fan of the PNE, and to this day continues to attend the Fair multiple times as well as concerts, Fright Nights, Winter Fair, etc. Susan Stuart understood that sound was a significant issue in September, and it was upsetting to some close neighbours but she also heard the CEO take responsibility, apologize and commit that her and her leadership team would do better based on what happened and the feedback they saw. Susan Stuart understood that the neighbors are frustrated, but also believed the staff, when they say that what happened in September was isolated and will be corrected.

Susan Stuart noted that the redevelopment plan that was approved years ago will be great for not only the city's reputation, but also for arts and culture groups, community groups and the music industry who are all faced with not being able to find a suitable temporary venue. The Amphitheatre must be thought of as a city-wide asset with citywide benefits. Susan Stuart believed the PNE can effectively mitigate the sound effects and that even within the sound bylaws, you can still hear noise and this is not just isolated in the PNE neighborhood. Susan Stuart found it odd that some neighbors want to stop a project that is the mitigation they desire. Susan Stuart felt the PNE works hard to be a good neighbor and do the right thing but a small local and vocal group of organizers appear to be working hard to damage the PNE's reputation when this was an isolated and correctable situation. Susan Stuart believed that the recommendations presented tonight show how much the PNE is willing to do for the neighbourhood.

There were no questions from the Board. Chair Kirby-Yung thanked Susan for coming tonight and sharing her comments.

Maria Mussenden, Community Member

Maria Mussenden began by pointing out that the PNE website indicates that there would be 4 speakers per agenda item but that she sees that there are 5 and that is inconsistent with what is on the website. Chair Kirby-Yung thanked Maria for noting that.

Maria Mussenden shared that she loves music and has been to the Hollywood Bowl and amphitheaters in Europe and has been to concerts at the PNE with her custom earplugs and doesn't believe that such a concert at this magnitude should exist so close to a residential area. Maria Mussenden believes Hastings Park belongs to the people of Vancouver and despite the City of Vancouver granting governance to the PNE, she looks to the City of Vancouver and the elected official for authority. Maria Mussenden also mentioned that she had provided some summary notes to the PNE for consideration and had highlighted important sections. Maria Mussenden noted that the impact of providing year-round concerts to the surrounding neighborhoods and the wildlife in the Sanctuary needs to be considered and studied before construction. Maria Mussenden added that most people are not opposed to the August Fair but are very concerned about the 9,340 capacity Amphitheatre. Maria Mussenden also indicated that in 2010 the approved master plan with the much city-wide consultation shows, an Amphitheatre with the capacity of 7,000. but last year the city Vancouver approved Amphitheatre renewal project with the capacity of 9,340, a significant increase of 33.4%. It seems the PNE has deviated from the master plan.

There were no questions from the Board. Chair Kirby-Yung thanked Maria Mussenden for coming tonight sharing her comments.

Darci Swinton, Community Member

Darci Swinton shared that she has lived in the neighbourhood for 40 years and loved the PNE when she first moved here as it was only open for 2 weeks but over the 40 years it's become hard to bear and this is sort of the combination of the worst.

Darci Swinton felt that the PNE doesn't represent the citizens of Hastings Sunrise, and who do they voice their complaints to when the PNE and the City of Vancouver are not listening. Darci Swinton indicated that the community was largely unaware of any consultation process, including herself who was on the PNE Community Advisory Group at the time. Darci Swinton also shared her concerns about how the city of Vancouver will protect the neighborhood from extreme sound level decibels over 70, too many concerts and how the relentless noise will affect her mental health and that of her family, the traffic problems, and the wildlife. Darci Swinton also noted that there's been zero greening of the park since 2000 and would like to know what the plan for that is along with the daylighted stream needing a much bigger footprint and doesn't currently show up on any of the maps. Darci Swinton noted that the preliminary work and the funding for the daylighted stream scheduled until 2026 and why can't the daylight stream be completed before the Amphitheatre at a cost of 300,000. Darci Swinton ended by requesting that Park Board oversight and applied standards be applicable at Hastings Park part as well.

No questions from the Board of Directors. Chair Kirby-Yung thanked Darci Swinton for coming tonight and sharing her comments.

Courtney Komonasky, BIA Board Member and community member

Courtney Komonasky a Board member of the Hastings North Business Improvement Association had a statement to read on behalf of the BIA Board. On behalf of the Board of the Hastings North BIA, I would like to state our support for the PNE and Hastings Park which was reiterated at our board meeting last Tuesday. Patricia Barnes, the executive director of the BIA has been involved in the lengthy and fulsome public consultation over the last 15 years plus. With regard to Hastings park and the PNE as a fair within the park, we believe that the steps outlined by the PNE CEO are a reasonable and respectful response to the community, the issue of sound mitigation, and the continued support of a vibrant neighborhood, the PNE is vital to the continued success of our small business community and we have found that the executive and staff have been increasingly open to community engagement over the last several years. We acknowledge that there were issues in September, but also understand there were several unique circumstances that led to these issues. We believe that the amphitheater development will help mitigate many of these concerns, and therefore, fully support the amphitheater renewal.

Courtney Komonasky also wanted to share her own personal comments as someone who has lived and worked in the neighborhood for many years and is part of the PNE's Community Advisory Committee. Courtney Komonasky believed that the PNE has been a great neighbour and does many things for the neighborhood such as the neighbourhood day at Playland, complimentary tickets to the Summer Fair and Winter Fair. Courtney Komonasky has attended shows at the amphitheater and acknowledges that it was loud in September but not so loud that it prevented her from enjoying her yard. Courtney Komonasky believed that people just forgot that events happened during covid because the area was quiet. Courtney Komonasky personally supported this venture going ahead and agreed with the statement made earlier about not censoring acts coming through, because that will just lead down many negative and horrible roads.

No questions from the Board of Directors. Chair Kirby-Yung thanked Courtney Komonasky for coming tonight and sharing her comments.

Chair Sarah Kirby-Yung shared that the comments from all the speakers were appreciated and as the new chair, is listening very deeply as are the rest of the Board of Directors and the feedback has been taken to heart and does believe that this will be an ongoing process.

3.3 Arborist Report

The Hastings Park Arborist Report and Tree Work was provided in the Board of Directors packages for review. This report was delivered by Jeff Strickland

Questions from the Board of Directors were as follows:

Director Patrice Impey enquired if this type of review is done on a regular basis. Jeff Strickland replied that the Foreperson on the PNE's horticultural team does monthly assessments of the site in which an inspection is done to identify any sort of hazards, any concerns with invasive species and any trees that need attention.

Chair Kirby-Yung inquired if the PNE is looking for a net increase in the number of trees and tree canopies. Jeff Strickland replied that the plan is for at least a net increase and if a tree is moved then planting at least two trees typically to ensure that the tree count is maintained.

There were no speakers for this agenda item.

3.4 Community Questions

There were no community questions submitted for this meeting.

4. NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next Board of Directors meeting was still be finalized but would most likely take place in June 2023

5. ADJOURNMENT OF PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

MOVED by Director Ty Speer
SECONDED by Director Paul Mochrie

Resolved that the Public Portion of the Board of Directors meeting be adjourned at 8:01pm

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY