

PACIFIC NATIONAL EXHIBITION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2023  
6:00pm – Virtual via Webex & YouTube  
Public Realm Portion

**MINUTES**

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Chair Kirby-Yung called the meeting to order at 6:04pm

Present: Sarah Kirby-Yung, Chair  
Ty Speer, Director  
Patrice Impey, Treasurer  
Paul Mochrie, Director  
Rachel Roy, Director  
Maury Kask, Director

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

Regrets: Raj Sihota, Director  
Armin Amrolia, Director

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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 Maury Kask**  
**SECONDED by Director Paul Mochrie**

**Resolved that** the agenda for the Public Realm Portion of the Board of Directors meeting for Monday June 12, 2023 is adopted.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**MOVED by Director Ty Speer**  
**SECONDED by Director Maury Kask**

**Resolved that** the minutes for the Public Realm Portion of the Board of Directors meeting from Thursday December 1, 2022 are adopted.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### 3. STAFF REPORTS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### 3.1 2023 Community Program Update

An update on the PNE's Community programs, calendar, and upcoming open houses was provided in the Board of Directors packages for review. Karen Massicotte delivered the presentation.

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

#### 3.2 Hastings Park Arborist Report and Gardening Update

The Hastings Park Arborist Report and Gardening update was provided in the Board of Directors packages for review. Karen Massicotte delivered the presentation.

Questions from the Board of Directors were as follows:

Director Paul Mochrie inquired on the type of data that is kept on the inventory of the trees. Karen Massicotte responded that the PNE is working with the City of Vancouver arborist and the PNE arborist to put together a full inventory of the trees on the site so that the replanting strategy can be based on the inventory along with certain items like new climate parameters of what is more natural to be seen now based on the new climates. Karen Massicotte added that she also has additional details to come as part of the Community question below.

There was 1 speaker registered to speak to this agenda item:

#### **Linda Yung, community member and Board Director for the Hastings Park Conservancy**

Linda Young introduced herself as a member of the Board of Directors of the Hastings Park Conservancy (HPC) and a past teacher at Doctor AR Lord Elementary.

Linda Young shared that through her role on the HPC and as a teacher in collaboration with the PNE, the Northwest Preservation Society and Indigenous knowledge keepers, she has organized environmental and cultural programs in the sanctuary for local school children and for the community.

Linda Young noted that there is an interest in knowing more about the plans for the planting and upkeep of the environment and the sustainability of its ecosystem and working together with the PNE to care for and learn from this unique and beautiful place and therefore has some questions about the Arborist report.

Linda Young inquired about what will be covered in arborist report and if it will include an audit of all the trees and plants that are in the Sanctuary, if it will look at future planting and other plans to support the ecosystem there and when will it be finished and made public.

Linda Young's second question was around evasive species that need to be removed and that the HPC would like the opportunity to collaborate with the PNE on setting up a project for the removal of evasive species.

Linda Young noted that even though the aerators in the sanctuary have been replaced, there is still a concern about the low levels of water in the Sanctuary Pond and wondering how the water levels and water quality is going to be resolved and will this issue be addressed during the daylighting of the stream project.

Linda Young noted that the pollinator garden sounds wonderful and will be a great opportunity for community involvement and teaching about its benefits. Linda Young asked if there will be identification signs and asked what the plans are for community engagement in that area.

Karen Massicotte responded that the question around the evasive species and the replanting strategy will be answered during the community questions section as there are detailed slides related to those two questions.

Karen Massicotte shared that there is a meeting scheduled with the Hastings Park Conservancy to discuss increased collaboration including a couple different projects relating to school programs and guided tours of the Sanctuary and the cultural gardens. Karen Massicotte also noted that there is a member from the Hastings Park Conservancy on the PNE's Community Advisory Group.

Regarding the lower levels of water, Karen Massicotte noted that she will need to come back with more information but did want to share that work is being done on making sure the amphitheater roof is designed in a way that will take the rainwater back into the ground to replenish it and feed the daylighted stream in the long term.

Karen Massicotte shared that the pollinator garden is currently in the design phase.

Karen Massicotte shared that one of the programs that will be restarting this year is the Neighborhood Focus Group where people can discuss specific topics such as the pollinator garden and other topics related to the grounds.

Karen also indicated the PNE will work with its internal team to see what can and cannot be done from a collaboration and volunteer perspective.

There were no questions from the Board of Directors. Chair Kirby-Yung thanked Linda Yung for coming tonight and for sharing her thoughts.

### 3.3 HP-PNE Master Plan Amphitheatre Update

The HP-PNE Master Plan Amphitheatre Redevelopment update was provided in the Board of Directors packages for review. Karen Massicotte delivered the presentation.

Questions from the Board of Directors were as follows:

Director Maury Kask enquired on when staff would start to book events for the Amphitheatre if the timeline as outlined in the presentation will be adhered to.

Karen Massicotte replied that enquiries have already started to come in and will be booked based on the tentative answer that dates are subject to completion, but a stronger sales push will start in February 2024 with holds firming up as of February 2025. Karen Massicotte added that there's also a lot of conversations taking place with promoters, agencies and arts and culture groups to determine what their needs are so that we can start to book in smaller residencies throughout the year.

There were two speakers registered to speak to this agenda item.

**Maria Mussenden, community member**

Maria Mussenden indicated that at the December 1, 2022, Board meeting there was an Amphitheatre development report and project schedule that indicated that the contract procurement included City Council approval and was wondering if the public will be able to speak at this and will the PNE be giving local residents the heads up as to when this will occur.

Maria Mussenden also inquired on where things were at with the neighborhood sound impact study as she believed that it was mentioned that one would be done as she is particularly concerned with what will happen to property values especially those affected by the parking. Maria Mussenden noted that she would like to hear sound bites of what it is going to sound like when the concerts are up and running and at full capacity.

Maria Mussenden also wanted to bring to the Board's attention to the document that she submitted ahead of time and that on page two it says that there will be extensive community engagement but she believes that there has been engagement with certain stakeholders but very little with the local community.

Chair Sarah Kirby-Yung thanked Maria Mussenden for coming tonight and for sharing her thoughts and comments. Chair Sarah Kirby-Yung also affirmed that that sound management is a really important part of the design and the planning in terms of use of best technologies and best practices for the Amphitheatre and is sure that staff will take it away with respects to sound testing and other components.

Regarding the concern on traffic impact and parking, Shelley Frost acknowledged that this is a long-standing issue in the neighbourhood and that a traffic flow study was done, and it is something that the PNE will continue to work on to minimize community traffic and parking impacts.

Regarding the sound impact study, Karen Massicotte shared that to her knowledge and experience having a sound impact study as it relates to standard construction processes is not a standard procedure and therefore a sound study has not been planned or commissioned. However, Karen Massicotte did note that the feedback from the neighborhood, as well as the engagement of a world- class sound consultants' team has been incorporated into and will continue to evolve those best practices. Karen also indicated that best practices have also been tested in sound laboratories using our current environment, as well as in other venues and then translated over to our build through simulations. Karen confirmed that the PNE will continue to evolve the sound mitigation impacts and initiatives to reduce the impact to the neighborhood.

There were no questions from the Board of Directors and Chair Sarah Kirby-Yung once again thanked Maria Mussenden for attending tonight's meeting and sharing her thoughts.

## **Kathy Lau, Community Member**

Kathy Lau introduced herself as a Board of Directors of the Hastings Park Conservancy and a resident of the neighbourhood for over 40 years.

Kathy Lau shared that her five-minute talk was to shed light on the Amphitheatre redevelopment and would be focusing on the information from the Hastings Park PNE Master plan program report dated June 9, 2021.

Kathy Lau specifically referenced the following pages:

- Page 7
  - “Enhance the environment and park space: increasing green space at Hastings Park from 27 to 76, daylighting historic Hastings Creek down to Burrard Inlet will establish a public park space with natural beauty in an urban setting.”
- Page 8
  - “Future work: daylighting, Hastings Creek through the site to connect the Sanctuary and Burrard Inlet.”
- Page 9
  - Picture of the Amphitheatre and the daylighted stream
- Page 10
  - “Technical studies, detailed design and construction of the stream will follow the Amphitheatre Renewal, subject to funding availability”.
- Page 12
  - “Environment: Protect and enhance Vancouver’s climate ecology, natural resources and connection to the city’s, remarkable natural setting for future generations.
  - Improved sustainability through green infrastructure and renewable energy
  - Creation of the One Water Strategy for the Amphitheater, Hastings Creek, and Festival Plaza, that will positively coordinate to the stewardship of this land and water”.
- Page 22
  - Once again mentions the daylighting of the creek.
- Page 27
  - Financial summary page - However, when it comes to funding, there's no money budgeted for the daylighting Hastings Creek project
  - Project cost estimate Amphitheater is 64 million
  - Infrastructure implementation is 4.6 million
- Page 28
  - Shows that there is \$300,000 for the preliminary daylight creek design which is not much compared to the 68 million for the Amphitheatre.
- Page 29,
  - Budget Allocation, there's no mention of money for daylighting. This goes back to page 10 where the daylighting the Hastings Creek is subject to funding availability. Planning for the water system for Hastings Creek cannot continue to be an afterthought and it needs to be brought to the front of the agenda.

Following the highlighting of the above pages, Kathy Lau asked if the PNE could shed some light on how the planning and funding for daylighting Hastings Creek can happen without a planned budget?

Kathy Lau also noted that the Hastings Park Conservancy is extremely interested in the progress of the planning, funding, timing of the daylighting Hastings Creek and enquired how they could receive up to date information and reports on the planning and work.

Chair Kirby-Yung thanked Kathy Lau for her comments and helpful feedback with respect to the natural features of the park.

Shelley Frost shared that the Engineering Department of the City of Vancouver spent about eighteen months completing the One Water Strategy planning, and both engineering and the Park Board have been engaged in planning for the stream and as part of the sub-plan area for the Amphitheater work that's being done, and how those elements of underground infrastructure, the daylighted stream and the Amphitheater will coexist. Shelley Frost added that she understands that the Vancouver Park Board is close to issuing an RFP to do the \$300,000 in studies that the budget was set aside for.

Karen Massicotte reiterated that the project is being spearheaded by the Vancouver Park Board and the City of Vancouver Engineering Department and they have agreed to attend the November 1st PNE open house to present the research to date, planning priorities and will provide transparency around how the funding will be allocated and the overall project timeline.

There were no questions from the Board of Directors and once again Chair Kirby-Yung thanked Kathy Lau for taking the time and sharing her comments.

### 3.4 Community Questions

Community members were asked to send in questions for PNE staff to answer during the meeting. The questions and answers were provided in the Board of Directors packages for review.

#### 3.4.1 **Question #1: Why did the PNE staff use the Forum for the May 16th Open House, when clearly staff was aware of the existing sound issues with or without the use of a microphone and when staff had six months to organize this Open House?**

Karen Massicotte replied that the open house was scheduled for the Forum for two reasons. The first one was that the anticipated numbers based on registration was 200, which far exceeded what the Hastings Room could hold however there ended up being an unusually low turnout with less than 40 people attending. If those anticipated numbers had shown up, the sound system impacts would not have been experienced as the echoing was due to the small number of people in the venue.

The second reason was that both the Hastings Room and the Pacific Room were in use with annual clients who are here specifically at this time each year.

Karen Massicotte did assure the group that the November 1st open house will be taking place in the Hastings Room as the preferred location by the neighbours but will need to limit the numbers number of people that attend to ensure that those capacities do get managed for that particular venue.

### 3.4.2

#### **Question#2: Can you provide an update on the Sanctuary since the December public board meeting and an update on the timeline, financing and progress of the Day Lighted Stream?**

Karen Massicotte provided a summary of the trees that had been removed at Hastings Park along with the trees that had been damaged due to the windstorm in February. Karen Massicotte added that all fallen trees were naturalized to the Sanctuary where appropriate.

Regarding the tree replacement strategy, Karen Massicotte shared that the PNE team is working with the City of Vancouver Arborist and the PNE Arborist on developing a replacement strategy for all trees that have been removed with the following considerations:

- Develop a full inventory of trees on the site with supporting maintenance plans.
- Identifying trees with longer life spans to suit our changing climates.
- The location of the replanting may change based on the suitability.
- Where trees are not being replaced with similar sized trees, we are working on designing new more suitable green spaces in those locations.

Regarding evasive species, Karen Massicotte provided the following update.

- Sanctuary,
  - Almost completed and are in the process of finalizing the eradication of the Blackberry bushes on the eastern side of the sanctuary.
  - In the coming four weeks the team is working on the removal of the bamboo evasive on the eastern side of the sanctuary.
- Italian Garden
  - Two flowerbeds that flank the west side and the east side of the fountains, have had evasive species removed and are currently working on identifying and fixing the issue before replanting.
  - On the east side of the fountains, have removed the evasive species and replaced with pollinator grass.

Regarding the Daylighted Stream project, Karen Massicotte reiterated that the project will be managed by the City of Vancouver and the Vancouver Park Board, supported by the PNE. Karen Massicotte added that the focus in 2023 is the flow and design study and that a representative from the City of Vancouver will attend the November 1<sup>st</sup> open house to provide an update. Karen Massicotte added that the financing for the project will fall within the City of Vancouver capital planning.

### 3.4.3

#### **Question#3: Why didn't the PNE have an extensive engagement before the new Amphitheatre redevelopment was taken to Council for approval in June 2021?**

Karen Massicotte responded that the Amphitheatre consultation and engagement took place when the master plan itself was developed and presented in 2010 and it was approved by City Council. Since that time, the PNE in conjunction with its City of Vancouver partners have been working on the underground infrastructure and the other planning to support the overall master plan and now is when the redevelopment of the previously approved and consulted projects come to life.

From a communications perspective, Karen Massicotte noted that the PNE will continue to expand on communication through the open houses, community

newsletters and so forth. Karen Massicotte shared that updates on the status of the projects and engagement with the public have been communicated in the following ways:

- Public board meeting updates through 2018 - 2022 and including today's open public board meeting,
- Regular updates to the PNE Community Advisory Group, the Neighborhood Focus Groups between 2017 – 2022 and vetted ideas, thoughts, and processes with both of those groups
- Interviews with thirty local arts and culture groups.
- Three public information sessions held since February of 2020
- Communication about the Amphitheatre in the community newsletters in 2020, 2021, 2022 and will continue to provide regular updates in all community newsletters through 2023.
- Did a talk Vancouver survey in 2020 with over eight thousand responses.
- Held an open house on the Amphitheatre in November 2022 and from that all of the feedback including on sound and traffic congestion have been built into the planning and future operational setting for that venue.
- Held an open house on May 16, 2023 where a full detailed update and timeline were provided.
- Revery architects who are responsible for the community engagement as it relates to the indigenous consultation and some of the build features have engagement efforts as part of the design process.

Karen Massicotte added that the PNE will continue to provide opportunities to engage with its leaders and stakeholders to ensure that any thoughts and feedback in relation to the venue and redevelopment on the site will be continued to be built into future planning.

#### **4. NEXT BOARD MEETING**

It was agreed that the next Board of Directors meetings would be December 7, 2023 (In Camera, Business and Public Portions)

#### **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 7:34pm

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**