

Hastings Park / PNE Community Advisory Group  
Thursday, October 27, 2016  
5:30pm – PNE Hastings Room

## MINUTES

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In Attendance:

<b>PNE STAFF</b>
Jeff Strickland: Co-Chair
Kate Chong: Co-Chair
Rosa Chirico: Minute-taker

<b>COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP MEMEBERS</b>
David Bornman
Darci Swinton
Linda Shuto
Pasquale Balletta
Patricia Barnes
Sal Audia
Steve Canofari
Stephanie Lemmo (regrets)

### 1. Adoption of Agenda/Minutes

No changes required. June 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting will be posted as presented.

### 2. Housekeeping/Goals

Goals – Kate C. reviewed the meetings goals which included Ongoing Action List, CAG Application Process & Fair 2016/ Possible Fair date change.

### 3. For Information

#### 3.1 Ongoing Action List

Kate C. reviewed the Ongoing Action List; this will be a working document, allowing to track items to discuss at future meetings/ or questions to answer. Advisory is to email with any comments/additions.

Darci S. – Inquired on how often the Sanctuary water is tested - update to Action List.

- Kate C. advised Fresh Water Fisheries who stocks the Sanctuary, approx. 9 times per season (Mar – Sept); tests the oxygen, temperature & PH levels prior to each stocking. Also the City of Vancouver also monitors the water within the Sanctuary and other bodies of water in Vancouver, the Sanctuary was last checked in Sept. 2016

David B. –Add Hastings Racecourse & Casino commitment- what are the future plans for them or the land/ keeping the obligations they had in their contract

- Jeff S. discussed the future of Hastings Race Course; lease negotiations are between the City of Vancouver and Great Canadian Casino. Large piece of land within Hastings Park which is currently not governed by PNE

**Action:** The ongoing action list will be updated

### **3.2 Master Plan Hiring Update**

Jeff S. provided an update on the recruitment of the Hastings Park Master Plan- Project Manager; the person hired will be working at Hastings Park and will report to the PNE senior management team. This person will be a similar role to past project managers Dave Hutch & Catarina Gomes.

Kate C. advised that there has been no progress on Master Plan projects due to not having a project manager in place – once the new person is in place they will be able to move Master Plan projects forward. Position posting closed October 9, 2016.

Linda S. – asked whether the Project Manager will be responsible for just Playland re-development or the whole Hastings Park Master Plan? Also to define the project manager role now vs. past

- Jeff S. stated that the project manager will be more focused on the overall Hastings Park Mater Plan, but will have overlap with Playland re-development(i.e.: infrastructure).

### **3.3 CAG Application Process - Kate C. reviewed application process**

#### **3.3.1 Timeline**

- Monday October 31<sup>st</sup> application to go live
- Friday November 18<sup>th</sup> deadline for applications
- Friday December 16<sup>th</sup> successful candidates contacted
- Tuesday January 24<sup>th</sup> first meeting (6 meetings per year)

#### **3.3.2 Application/Process**

- Will be through the PNE website instead of through the City of Vancouver
- Interested candidates need to apply on annual basis
- Up to 5 consecutive years to be involved
- Not as extensive of an application process

No other major changes were needed to the application.

**Action:** Kate C. will send the application information to members on Monday October 31, 2016

#### **4. Topics to discuss**

##### **4.1 Fair**

###### **4.1.1 Fair 2016**

Kate C. asked the advisory group what impacts they noticed or heard from those living in the community and what improvements were noticed?

Sal A. asked how the Monday closures went?

- Jeff S. advised the Monday closures work well; the idea behind Monday closures is it is typically the slowest day and allows the opportunity to put more funds into programming on remaining days(i.e.: concert series, staffing)
- Kate C. noted the 2 day closure also gives a reprieve for local community

Sal A. asked how numbers are since implementing 13 & under free gate admission?

- Jeff S. advised he did not see a big spike in attendance due to this. Looking at how they can advertise this more. As the message still doesn't seem to be out there fully

Linda S. noted PNE has a bigger impact on the community to the N.E. & S.E. side. Noise levels have gotten better on West side. Have noticed more intoxicated people in the area above.

Pasquale B. discussed McDonalds becoming a major problem (intoxicated & disorderly people) in neighbourhood due to free parking on Cassiar/ recovery housing unit at Cassiar & Hastings and weed dispensary.

Darci S. discussed living on the North side and having intoxicated people in the neighbourhood late at night during the Fair, has not noticed improvements regarding this. South side near community centre is very problematic - Lots of complaints regarding parking and traffic control. Fair guests are disregarding the "No Parking" signs in front of homes as they are not getting towed.

- Kate C. advised the PNE works closely with the City parking dept. on the Temporary Resident Only Parking (RPO) and that the city does have bylaw out throughout the Fair, the PNE does arrange to have traffic control on busy days at main intersections to help traffic flow

David B. asked whether we can have special transit plan/prices during the Fair as was implemented during the 2010 Olympics?

- Jeff S. talked about having the direct buses from Renfrew station but can take this idea forward. There has also been an increase in car share programs during Fair time, parking was arranged on the east side of Renfrew this created traffic flow issues. Kate C. advised will be looking at partnership with car share programs during The Fair.

Pasquale B. commented City of Vancouver needs to step up regarding left hand turning signals, particularly at Hastings & Renfrew.

David B. asked about the stage change on the west side of park

- Kate C. advised there was programming changes to Festival Park, which resulted in less noise concerns from West. Have had bigger stage at Amphitheatre for past 3 years.

Pasquale B. felt as if middle of park (Festival Park) was left empty and that something was missing. He also felt the area was too dark at night. Need to show off more of an Agricultural aspect, used to be hub of Fair. Misses attractions such as the Timbre Show, Logging Show, Demolition Derby in Amphitheatre area.

- Kate C. advised that one of the reason why the amphitheatre was not used during the day is due to the large change over that is needed for the evening concerts

Sal A. inquired why the Amphitheatre stage is set far back from seating and if any of the bands could play at Festival Park. Sal A. also inquired into if the reserved seating in Amphitheatre sold out.

- Jeff S. advised that due to bigger, better bands it would be hazardous to hold a concert of that size in Festival Park. Concerts in Amphitheatre overall good attendance. Jeff S. advised that floor is often sold out, but lots of free seats are still available

Kate C. discussed PNE bike patrol

- Bike patrols are another set of eyes in the community
- 2 shifts per day during the Fair at the PNE. Bike patrol is also used for events year round
- Bike Patrol are identifiable – PNE site security uniform, badges and bikes are lit up
- Have direct contact with PNE security and police

Sal A. suggested bringing in community bands/buskers. Would help fill Festival Park, needs consideration.

- Kate C. advised we do have some busker type groups including the PNE pep band & kaleidoscope parade

Kate C. reviewed Community Ticket Program. Program moved further south this year, the PNE and the City of Vancouver are trying to match RPO boundaries & community complimentary ticket program. Community Ticket Program pick-up held over 3 months, day and evening times to accommodate people.

Steve C. talked about garbage issue around McDonalds and Tim Hortons (gas station) area.

- Kate C. advised that there are two clean-up crews– one focuses to the south of park and the other west side of the park, with a group doing Cassiar few times a week.

Kate C. discussed Sound Monitoring:

- Staff does sound monitoring and provides updates to an on-site event manager real time
- Community Relations Manager during Fair and most year-round events available so can provide neighbours real time response
- Calls to 3-1-1 get distributed to PNE right away, huge improvement from past practice of receiving concern 3-5 days after event

Steve C. noticed lots of Empire Field users during Fair who couldn't find parking, affecting soccer games at Empire Fields.

- Kate C. advised the south lot of Empire was short term parking for field users. The PNE funds the neighbourhood temporary resident only parking (RPO) signs for Fair. Parking Lots – AR Lord & Hastings Community School used for staff and vendors, this year Children playing signs were placed within the lots, provided by BCAA who is a Fair partner

#### 4.1.2 Date Change – Community Insight

Jeff S. discussed the possible Fair date change:

- Pros and cons to changing dates
- Performing *SWOT* analysis with all departments
- PNE is looking at historical trends of weather
- Engaging with different stakeholder
- Looking at impact on community
- No direction yet, doing due diligence
- Hoping late 2016 or early 2017 decision will be made

Pasquale B. – feels that there is a lot of competition in July, would need a major shift on how you would present the Fair; discussed how lots of people are on holidays in July. Maybe to go back a few days instead, does not need to end on the Monday before school. Does not agree with date change to July. Believes weather not the issue for attendance, need more variety in programming.

David B. – thinks move would be risky, but a 50/50 chance of successfully changing dates. Discussed how attendance at church changes and revolves all summer long. Agrees weather is better earlier in summer but thinks PNE would lose local people who aren't around.

Steve C. – How would date change affect labour force? (i.e. kids in summer school during July).

- Jeff S. has had feedback on this, they may have some challenges finding staff during that time

Sal A. – suggestions of ending on the Saturday or switching the last Monday for one of the closed Mondays.

- Jeff S. confirmed biggest day of Fair in 2016 was the Sunday before labour day

Jeff S. discussed survey insights – Indicated families want more family events in July; Do not like Fair dates so close to school starting. If the programming was strong enough they would come whenever the Fair was

Pasquale B. – Believes marketing during rain was creative (free admission). PNE needs to look at how to attract more people in rainy weather

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

Kate C. – Asked the advisory group to think about the following question for the upcoming meeting:

*How can we make the PNE Open Board meetings more effective and inviting to the public?*

There have been two meetings so far, one was in April and the other July which was quiet.

Next Open Board Meeting date is: December 8, 2016

Jeff S.- expected larger turnout- wanting better dialogue between Board Members and speakers

Darci S. – Meeting didn't feel welcoming, would like to see a way to reach other community members

Sal A. – Felt meeting was organized, formality is necessary; Agenda items need to be important to draw people

Kate C. discussed next meeting will go through in more detail the above question. The public meetings dates are located on both the PNE and the City of Vancouver website. Confirmed will not promote on jumbo board, want it more neighbourhood focused.

This meeting concluded at 7:10pm

**Next Meeting: Monday, November 7, 2016 @ 5:00pm (Hastings Room)**