

Hastings Park / PNE Community Advisory Group
Tuesday – February 23, 2016
5:00pm – Hastings Room
MINUTES

In Attendance:

PNE Staff
Jeff Strickland: Co-Chair
Kate Huffman: Co-Chair
Rosa Chirico: minute taker

Community Advisory Group Members
Sal Audia
Pasquale Balletta
David Bornman
Steve Canofari
Stephanie Lemmo
Linda Shuto
Darci Swinton
<i>Patricia Barnes (Regrets)</i>

1. Adoption of Agenda/ Minutes

No items were added to the agenda. No changes were made to the January 19, 2016 meeting minutes.

2. Housekeeping

Agenda- Adding Items: Jeff noted that any topics the advisory would like to be considered for the agenda, for them to please email Kate Huffman at least 3 weeks prior to next meeting.

Topics for future discussion: Jeff noted that at the end of each meeting, time would be available for members to make suggested topics for future meetings, bring forward questions from the community. Also if there were questions or concerns which were operational, members could email Kate directly.

Goals- Feedback from a past meeting was to make sure goals of the advisory and for each meeting were communicated. Jeff reviewed what the CAG goals would be and also February 23, 2016 meeting goals.

A member asked if they were to be representing only their own independent opinion or on behalf of a group they may be involved with. It was clarified that meetings are designed for independent opinions of each member, but that members can bring forward concerns/questions from members

of the community. It is also important to inform the community the member's involvement in the CAG.

3. For Information

3.1 Hastings Park Building/Site Usage

Kate Huffman reviewed community based programs and building usage, showing the various uses each building has and how many days each area was in use. Highlights included the Coliseum having the most varied use; also that film this past year has been very busy for both buildings and site wide.

Members were interested in further information around:

- What events/ tenants have been lost in past years (i.e.: BC Boys Basketball), which has impacted revenues
- Aging infrastructures- what improvements will be made to make more indoor space available
- Would like to overall see Hastings Park/ buildings better utilized
- Which days/ what times of year do the buildings have more availability for possible community use

Jeff Strickland advised that rooms like the Hastings Room are easier to have utilized by the community as it has limited costs to run, larger buildings have higher costs associated. Bookings are through Kate Huffman (Community Relations) if groups are from the Hastings Sunrise area and through Sales Dept. if larger event and outside the local area.

Jeff Strickland confirmed PNE is not subsidized by the City of Vancouver and the mix of commercial business is vital (revenue, adds vitality, able to subsidize other groups).

Action: To include the above inquiries during a future meeting

4. Topics to Discuss

4.1 Hastings Park Programming/Usage

4.1.1 Feedback Park Engagement-School/Community Centre

Kate Huffman reviewed suggested park programming from last meeting. We wanted to focus on how to build a stronger partnership with the community centre/ organizations/ schools and wanted the advisory members ideas.

An advisory member felt this was hard to do without knowing what would be of interest to these groups/ what would bring them to Hastings Park. Also addressing safety in the park and making the site more welcoming.

Discussion took place:

- Do a survey to the community/ schools to see what would bring people to Hastings Park:
 - o What activities would bring families into the park/ school groups/ other members (i.e.- Empire/ Pond studies/ Chef's Garden)
- Making sure involvement is year round- for continued strengthening of the community relationship

Additional conversation around the park included:

Changeover Fair time: takes significant amount of time for set-up/tear-down. Would like to see a quicker change over to make the community feel more welcome in the park during the busiest time of year. Kate Huffman passed along that she is working with internal departments to create a tighter schedule prioritizing which park spaces should be cleared first and ready for community use.

Safety issues: discussion regarding safe access for kids coming along Renfrew Street and into the park. Renfrew and Pandora particularly unsafe for people crossing into the park. Jeff Strickland informed there is a crosswalk planned, but are still waiting for this to happen through the City of Vancouver.

More defined speed limits/ walk ways. Master Plan will include permanent greenways/ limited vehicle traffic.

Leeside Tunnel feels like a closed off access way into Empire/ not particularly friendly.

Empire Fields: the traffic flow in and out of the venue can be quite chaotic, work on having this function better.

Another engagement piece was brought forward, having the community/ PNE engage through planting the roundabouts in the local community

Action:

- work on a community survey to get feedback on how we can engage with the community
- Share the Master Plan, vision of park and how to make the park more welcoming/ safe and multi-use

- Pass along to the park board and the city around the concerns on the flow of traffic around Empire and also Leaside Tunnel safety concerns

4.1.2 Learn to Fish

Jeff Strickland went through a few additional slides of information around the Fishing in the Sanctuary. Including follow up on some of the pre-work done prior to the fish being introduced.

It was then opened up for discussion on if members were supportive or non-supportive of the continuation of the fishing in the Sanctuary to continue:

- Darci S: is non-supportive and has concerns on the Sanctuary having duckweed in the summer and that hadn't happened before fish were added. Aeration has made no difference. How does pond compare to other lakes (i.e. Como Lake, Lafarge Lake, Rice Lake). Sanctuary is small, was not made for foreign items like fish. Surprised on the number of mostly male adults using the fishing compared to children.
- Sal A: is supportive of the continuation and would actually like another access point; so on busy days there is an alternative location. Keeping the dock at a safe number. Also to add a few more garbage cans
- Pasquale B: is supportive, wanting to note to get more youth involvement, continue to manage the site to keep all involved safe and watch the impacts
- Linda S: is non-supportive as she feels it is not part of the original goal of Sanctuary. The Sanctuary should look more natural. Concern for extensive clearing of the underbrush, cutting down trees and replacing areas with low growing ferns. What drives the decisions of how to manage the Sanctuary foliage--safety/security issues or maintaining natural habitat? A bigger question is what is the long term vision/plan for the Sanctuary.
- Steve C: is supportive of the continuation of fishing, also agrees more involvement with youth then adults
- Stephanie L: is supportive as it is an interactive piece with nature at Hastings Park/ PNE. Continue to bring awareness through communication and signage
- David B: was not in attendance at the time but provided his opinion via email--overall non-supportive, likes the idea of kids fishing but feels this venue is not the right option
- Patricia B: was not in attendance but provided her opinion as supportive of the programming continuing, provides unique opportunity in an urban setting. Continue to manage

Action: - Follow up on why there are so many ferns have been planted in the Sanctuary

- Add additional garbage cans
- Work towards more youth engagement in the Sanctuary & fishing

- Bring back information on how the Sanctuary compares to other similar lakes in the lower mainland, around stocking as well if they dealt with duckweed

- Continue to build communication/ signage in Sanctuary to educate park users

Info: Research the feasibility of a second dock within the Sanctuary

4.1.3 Farmers Market

Action: Farmers Market will be brought back at future meeting

5. **Questions/Community Feedback**

Please send any questions to Kate Huffman. New Board information on PNE website and open Board meeting schedule has been posted (<http://www.pne.ca/aboutus/board-of-directors.html>) More info on this will be shared in the March Community Newsletter.

This meeting concluded at 6:45 pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 5, 2016 @ 5pm (Hastings Room)