

Minutes of PPPAC Meeting – Thursday, Feb 8, 2007

Present – Janet Kitz, Gus Reed, Allan Robertson, Anne West, Phil Read, Vivek Tomar, Tammy Morley (by phone), Peter Bigelow, Stewart MacMillan, John Charles.

Regrets – Kate Greene, Deputy Mayor Sue Uteck.

1) Thanks to John Charles – The committee formally thanked John Charles for his contribution to the Committee over the past nine months. His original posting was to have been for three months until a permanent project manager could be hired. Not only did he serve longer than expected, his advice and input to the Committee's work was invaluable. He did much more than 'the job' would have demanded.

2) Welcome to Stewart MacMillan – Stewart MacMillan has been appointed the new project manager of PPP's restoration. Most members of the Committee were aware of the pivotal role Stewart played during the International Design Competition for the Park's restoration, and all welcomed him aboard for the next (longer) phase. Allan Robertson agreed to send him the meeting reports to bring him up to speed.

3) Master Plan startup – John Charles reported that Council approval for the contract for Ekistics and NIP paysage to prepare the Park Master Plan was imminent. He indicated that Deputy Mayor Sue Uteck would present the motion at the February 13th Council meeting, and, further, that she would have some direct words about the Federal Government's apparent lack of financial support to PPP in light of the funds donated to cleanup of Stanley Park in Vancouver. All PPPAC members were encouraged to attend to show Council the extent of our support. After approval of the contract, Peter Duinker, one of the consultants, will hold a forest restoration practices workshop for HRM employees. Also, John Simmons' crew of arborists will begin dropping some snags to add decaying biomass to the forest floor, and to standardize stump sizes close to the ground to benefit new growth. Peter will also hold a workshop for Friends in the Park and other volunteers.

Peter Bigelow gave a summary of the financial resources available over the next 14 months:

Hurricane Juan donations	\$385,000	
less Federal claw back	<u>69,000</u>	\$316,000
CFIA BSLB compensation		405,000
HRM capital budget		270,000
Green Streets Program		35,000
HRM operating budget		<u>60,000</u>
Total		\$1,086,000

4) Off-leash maps and signage – John Charles and Stewart MacMillan provided maps showing off-leash areas as well as recommended signage to encourage dog owners to follow the rules. A series of well-attended workshops have been presented for interested residents.

5) PPPAC 2007-08 Work Plan – The Committee discussed what it hoped to achieve over the next year. The possibility of a directed planning session facilitated by an HRM staff member was raised, and the Committee agreed to explore the option. Stewart MacMillan agreed to identify an appropriate staff resource.