

Board in Brief

For Metro Vancouver meeting on Friday, July 16, 2010

Please note these are not the official minutes. Board in Brief is an informal summary. Material relating to any of the following items is available on request.

For more information, please contact Bill Morrell, Corporate Relations, 604-451-6107, or Glenn Bohn, Corporate Relations, at 604-451-6697.

Greater Vancouver Regional District

Aldergrove Lake Regional Park – Swimming Lake Facility

Withdrawn

The swimming facility, a man-made 0.4-hectare "swimming pond," is more than 40 years old. It now consists of a concrete basin, rudimentary water screening and a chlorine disinfection system. The shoreline and basin are covered with sand.

A mechanical report commissioned in 1994 indicated it would be cost-prohibitive to upgrade the facility to meet modern regulations. A 2004 risk assessment identified five issues: large leaks in the concrete liner; pump problems suggest the artesian well cannot supply enough make-up water for the system in July and August; chlorine tests taken at the same time and various locations in the lake vary from high to low, indicating poor circulation and disinfection; factors such as beach sand, the large amounts of chlorine required, poor circulation, negligible filtering and contaminants such as dust and leaves cause high turbidity levels and poor visibility; heightened awareness of the significance and vulnerability of aquatic species in a nearby stream and more stringent environmental practices and regulations.

Replacement costs for a similar swimming "lake" are estimated at more than \$4 million, which does not include needed upgrades of on-site utilities.

The Board approved a Parks Committee decision not to approve the staff recommendation. On July 13, the Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Committee passed a resolution that "the swimming facility at Aldergrove Lake remain operational beyond 2010, if possible, and in conjunction with the 2011 park management planning process, consider all options to maintain swimming facilities within Aldergrove Lake Regional Park."

Experience the Fraser Memorandum of Understanding

Approved

The Experience the Fraser Project will celebrate the Fraser River's natural and cultural heritage, enhance outdoor recreation opportunities, showcase the regions' riverfront communities and promote the Lower Fraser River Corridor as one of the world's great tourist destinations.



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This project will connect residents and visitors with communities, nature and the river by creating an opportunity for over 300 kilometres of multi-use trail and related amenities along the Fraser River from Hope to the Strait of Georgia.

In 2009, the Province of British Columbia announced \$2 million in funding to be split between the Fraser Valley Regional District and Metro Vancouver for the development of an interregional trail and facilities Concept Plan. An additional \$500,000 was provided to help build two demonstration projects that will form the first segments of the interregional trail network. Metro Vancouver has partnered with the Township of Langley to develop a demonstration project consisting of a trail connecting the Golden Ears Bridge, through Derby Reach Regional Park and via the Fort to Fort trail, to Historic Fort Langley.

The Board authorized the signing of a Experience the Fraser memorandum of understanding between the Province of British Columbia, Greater Vancouver Regional District (Metro Vancouver) and Fraser Valley Regional District.

**Boundary Bay Regional Park – Centennial Beach Concession
Washroom Building Site Options**

Approved

The best location for a new washroom and concession building is on land leased from the Corporation of Delta.

The Board authorized staff to negotiate a lease amendment to permit the placement of the new concession washroom building on leased land. It also directed staff to ensure the new lease met Metro Vancouver tenure requirements for capital and operating expenditures, secure a capital cost depreciation repayment program, and ensure that Metro Vancouver retains the ability to build a destination restaurant in the future.

Web-based Arts and Culture Regional Calendar

Approved

Currently, there is no comprehensive calendar or information hub where residents and visitors can easily access the range of the cultural and artistic organizations and events – professional and community-based – across the region.

The Board approved the development and implementation of a web-based arts and culture regional calendar, a key deliverable of the Regional Culture Committee.

The total budget allocated is \$69,000. Future costs are estimated to be between \$15,000 and \$25,000 per year.

Update on the Rental Supply Stakeholder Meeting

Approved

There is a critical shortage of rental housing supply and affordable rental housing. Metro Vancouver estimates that, for the next 10 years, there will be an annual demand for about 4,700 rental housing units that are affordable to households with annual incomes of less than \$45,000 per year.

Metro Vancouver has been working to build a coalition of industry, politicians, non-profit and government stakeholders on the need to increase the supply of affordable rental housing. The Board:

- a) Endorsed the key actions raised in the report "Update on the Rental Supply Stakeholder Meeting" as a policy platform for advocacy with the federal and provincial governments, and
- b) Authorized two members of the Housing Committee, as designated by the Committee Chair, to travel to Victoria to meet with the Provincial Minister and lead a delegation to Ottawa to meet with the Federal Minister(s).

**3rd United Cities and Local Government (UCLG) World Congress,
November 16-20, Mexico City, Mexico and PLUS Network Biennial
Conference, September 12-16, Ottawa, Ontario**

Approved

The United Cities and Local Government was created in 2004 when three international organizations merged. Its mission is to "be the united voice and world advocate of democratic local self-government, promoting its values, objectives and interests, through cooperation between local governments, and within the wider international community."

PLUS, or Partners in Long-Term Urban Sustainability, is a network of more than 40 cities and communities.

The Board authorized the Chair to appoint Metro Vancouver Directors to participate in the following 2010 international events:

- 3rd United Cities and Local Government (UCLG) World Congress November 16-20, Mexico City
Estimated Travel Costs: \$19,682 for two Directors
- PLUS Network Biennial Conference September 12-16, Ottawa, Ontario Estimated Travel Costs: \$7,641 for one Director

2010/2011 Metro Vancouver International Engagement Program

Approved

The Board resolved that the goals for the International Engagement Program for 2010/2011 shall be, in order of priority:

- a) The acquisition of knowledge and skills which directly benefit the Metro Vancouver organization and region;
- b) The influence on decisions elsewhere in cities or regions which have a direct or indirect benefit for Metro Vancouver, including those which are long run and global in scope;
- c) The provision of assistance to other cities or regions in the world, directly or through federal or other agencies, where such assistance is greatly needed and where Metro Vancouver has the capability to provide such assistance;
- d) The enhancement of Metro Vancouver's reputation in the international community.

The specific objectives of the 2010/2011 International Engagement Program shall be:

- a) The pursuit of innovation and best practices in the areas of: i) integrated resource recovery and utility management; ii) financial management techniques to support sustainable metropolitan areas; iii) tenant engagement and development practices in social housing; iv) ecological systems management; v) collaborative leadership (government, private sector, academia, etc.) in other metropolitan regions.
- b) Participation in UCLG and other international organizations and events as opportune

to advance an agenda of collective local government action on: i) mitigating and responding to climate change; ii) an international approach to zero waste; iii) capacity building in local government.

c) Participation in the PLUS Network with a view to reinforcing that mutually supportive set of relationships. d) The creation of a smaller network of cities, preferably coastal cities of a similar size to Metro Vancouver, at different stages of development, to build a long term mutually supportive set of relationships.

The 2011 budget for travel and expenses for elected officials participating in the International Engagement Program shall comprise individual budgets for each of the objectives set out in recommendation two. The administration of this budget, once approved by the board, shall be by the intergovernmental committee, comprising the chairs of all the standing committees.

Colony Farm Regional Park - Results of Public Consultation on Port Mann Highway 1 Habitat Compensation Project Proposal

Approved

In 2008, part of the regional park was identified as a possible fisheries habitat compensation site for habitat lost because of the new Port Mann Bridge and Trans-Canada Highway construction project.

The Transportation Investment Corporation and consultants proposed to introduce tidal flows to the Wilson Farm area of the park, provide winter habitat for juvenile salmonids, enhance food and nutrient contributions to the Fraser River and enhance habitat for a variety of aquatic and terrestrial wildlife.

The Board approved a Parks Committee recommendation to endorse the proposal, authorize staff to prepare a licence agreement with the corporation, and report back for approval.