

**A. Community Meeting Regarding the Governance of Hastings Park
April 15, 2013 at Hastings Community Centre**

Three motions were supported unanimously by the community.

- Approximately 130 people attended
- Lively dialogue with various perspectives put forward
- Amendments and discussion to proposed motions
- Amended motions (below) were supported unanimously:

Motion #1:

The following are the essential criteria for good governance of Hastings Park:

- Public mandate – to promote public parkland
- Public accountability – must be publicly elected
- Transparency – All meetings are open to the public; published agendas and minutes; public can speak at all meetings before motions are adopted.
- Equality – Hastings Park is treated equally to other permanent parkland in Vancouver.
- Communications – The governing body is responsible for decisions and communications and management is responsible for implementation of these decisions. The governing body will be required to contact community groups (particularly local residents) to provide decisive input prior to reaching a decision on all matters that will affect them.

Motion #2:

This meeting approves **Park Board (Option #2) Revisions** for the governance of Hastings Park and that the decision be forwarded to Mayor, City Council and Parks Board.

Park Board (Option #2) Revisions:

Hastings Park is governed by the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation that has the authority from Council and the Vancouver Charter to govern all land use of Hastings Park and oversee its use by tenants. In order to ensure transparency, the governing body of Hastings Park will consult and communicate with a Hastings Park Citizens' Advisory Board.

Explanation of Park Board (Option #2) Revisions:

- The PNE, Hastings Racecourse, Circus West, and other business interests remain as tenants of the park with operating/lease agreements with the City/Parks Board (as in other parks across Vancouver).
- All tenants pay rent, providing revenue for park operations.
- Tenants who engage in commercial activities are responsible for those activities with accountability to the Park Board.
- The PNE remains as a corporate, non-profit organization and still qualifies for charitable status, therefore not impacting its fiscal sustainability.
- Union succession rights would apply to the change of employer for some employees, ensuring stability for all.
- Public input at Park Board meetings, published agendas and minutes, accountability by elected officials would meet requirements for transparency and accountability.

Motion #3

The following actions be undertaken to achieve the Hastings Park Governance goals of this meeting:

- Ask our community representatives to take forward the views of this meeting to the stakeholders' advisory group on April 18, 2013.
- Write to City Council and Parks Board
- Attend the April 25th Open House sponsored by the city
- Talk to neighbors, friends and other Vancouver residents and urging them to write to City Council and Parks Board and attend the April 25th Open House.
- Join the Friends of Hastings Park and the Hastings Park Conservancy.

Note: See next page for April 18 City Stakeholder Advisory Group

**B. Hastings Park Governance Review – Stakeholder Advisory Group
Summary of April 18th, 2013 Meeting (Meeting #3)**

Staff will be recommending Option #3 – Hastings Park/PNE Board, appointed by City Council, as the new governing body.

- My request to present a report on the April 15 community meeting at the beginning of the stakeholder meeting so that participants could consider the wishes of the public when giving their final feedback was refused. Instead, my report was the last item on the agenda.
- The meeting consisted of a review of the information panels to be presented at the next Open House, April 25, 2013 at Hastings Community Centre.
- The KPMG consultants presented their findings of the public feedback, which mainly showed support for Option #3 (the Hastings Park/PNE Board). Several stakeholders observed that their analysis was not supported with data. The consultants stated that there were no numbers to report because they did a thematic, not quantitative, analysis. They chose not to show the data which supported their findings.
- The 3 options were assessed on their ability to meet the following criteria:
 1. Increased opportunities for public input on governance and programming
 2. Clear accountability for Master Plan implementation
 3. Financially responsible implementation of the MP
 4. Respect various uses
 5. Balance of interests
 6. Support activities with economic benefit
 7. Retain operational expertise
- The consultants found that the Options #1 (City Council as governing body) and Option #2 (Park Board as governing body) both ranked either low or medium for each item. Option #3 (Hastings Park/PNE Board), however, ranked high on every single item.
- The consultants then went into detail about how the governance structure would look.
- Of interest to the community in particular, they outlined the role of the public:

Public Input

- opportunity for public input to board
- 2-3 open forums annually – publicized in advance
- If people want to address board, request needs to be made to designated HP/PNE staff 1 week ahead of scheduled forum.
- initiatives will come from community or staff of HP/PNE
- public can present to the HP/PNE board following established protocol

Community communications

- Board Meeting minutes – published in a timely fashion
 - web-based updates
 - city (?) will consult with public at significant milestones
 - CEO will report quarterly re: community input received & outcomes
- Next Open House is April 25, 2013 at Hastings Community Centre
 - 6-7 pm – information boards
 - 7pm – Presentation; then people can write questions down on pieces of paper; city will answer them; no open dialogue