



**British Columbia Recreation & Parks Association  
Region 2 - Lower Mainland Parks Network**

---

MINUTES - March 17<sup>th</sup>, Surrey, B.C.

---

**In Attendance:**

Andrew Banks, Gerhard Vandenbosch, Len Walters, Marty Benson, Shirley McKell, Todd Gross, Preeti Yadar

**Call to Order:** 9:05 a.m.

**1.0 Adoption of November 18<sup>th</sup> and December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Minutes by Todd Gross and Len Walters**

**2.0 Round Table Discussions**

- Capital Budget discussions were speaking about what was approved for various municipalities. Most is status quo with last years' budgets; particularly with Operations.

- There have been noticeable changes in HR involvement with hiring and staffing

- There was a fair amount of discussion about acquiring funding for artificial turf fields and maintaining the older ones. Groups who historically funded separately all have to work together for Master Plan of sports fields.

- One municipality had announced not to hang hanging baskets this year as part of service level reductions. This led to more talks about how they are watered in various municipalities.

- Discussion around how to entice more members to the local BCRPA meetings led to the possibility of something like a survey monkey to see what people might be looking for at these meetings. Maybe BCRPA Office could be of assistance.

- 2010 Olympic celebrations were talked about in lots of the various municipalities that were affected. In one there was up to 250,000 in the local celebrations. Most events everywhere seemed to run smoothly.

- Concern was raised about the homeless using washrooms as places to hide out and the question of how to deter this was asked with various suggestions from municipalities that have all shred the same concern with some having some success. One used a Vandal Watch that is like a roaming security firm that deals with hot spots and has been successful. They find that the police work well with them.

- Artificial Turf lighting has been increased has been stepped up that it is possible to broadcast games on TV.

- One municipality had a recycling program that is very successful in local neighbourhood Parks where the neighbours look after the recycling - the

City supplied the rolling recycling containers that were locked up in the Park and were the same containers that residents use. On recycling day, the volunteer neighbour rolls the recycling bin from the Park to their curbside and it is handled for the Parks recycling. They have not had a lot of problems with garbage deposited into these containers.

- Other municipalities mentioned the increase of bear proof containers being bought and placed in Parks as a means of working with the bears in our residential areas. They are expensive but effective.

- A new dog off leash Park was mentioned and it has proven to be very successful. It will be on the tour of the next meeting on April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010.

### 3.0 Committee Reports

#### 3.1 HortEdBC - Todd Gross

- <http://www.horteducationbc.com/>

3.2 Communities in Bloom (CIB) - possibility of Heather Edwards being the contact for this

3.3 BCRPA (2009) Spring Training Committee - The spring training was well attended with approximately 300 people and had very good feedback.

3.4 IPM Accreditation - Richard Boulton

3.5 BCRPA Regional Meeting - André Kolbér

3.6 National Recreation and Parks Association - Geoff Mallory

3.7 Education & Conferences Attended

### 4.0 UPCOMING TRAINING & CONFERENCE

- Starting in 2010 the face of certification will be changing across North America. All certifications will be brought under one umbrella:

Landscape Industry Certified. For more info see [www.bclna.com](http://www.bclna.com)

- Kwantlen Polytechnical University has had an RFP for delivering services for the Arboriculture Apprenticeship Program that they intend to start. Please see [www.horteducationbc.com](http://www.horteducationbc.com) for more information. Also on that same website is a link with information for anyone who may be interested, particularly in the landscape Horticulturist area of the Red Seal Program.

**ADJOURNMENT: 12:00 P.M.**

Moved by: Dave Turner Seconded by: Todd Gross

**NEXT MEETING: Wednesday April 21<sup>st</sup>, Port Coquitlam**