



**British Columbia Recreation & Parks Association**  
**Region 2 - Lower Mainland Parks Network**  
Minutes - November 19th, 2008  
New Westminster - Centennial Lodge at Queen's Park

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**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Chair: André Kolbér

Vice Chair: Andrew Banks

Bill Manning, Dave Turner, David Boag, Heather Muter, Richard Boulton, Shirley McKell, Tab Buckner, Ted deCrom, Tom Windser, Larry Middleton, Don Dojack, Richard Waterfield, and Jacob Colyn

**CALL TO ORDER: 10:15 A.M.**

**1.0 ADOPTION OF October 15th 2008 MINUTES:**

Moved by: Andrew Banks

Seconded by: Todd Gross

**2.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES: n/a**

**3.0 JOINT MEETING:** Vancouver Island Parks and Grounds Supervisors' Association and the British Columbia Recreation & Parks Association Region 2 – Lower Mainland Parks Network. Possible Topics to be discussed:

**Camping in Parks**

- Background: (NEWS1130) Shane Bigham Tuesday, October 14 - 02:48:27 PM VICTORIA - It's now legal for homeless people in Victoria to pitch a tent and sleep in city parks. A city of Victoria bylaw against camping in civic parks has been struck down by the B.C. Supreme Court.
- The City of Victoria has decided to appeal the decision in the Supreme Court of Canada. The appeal process is expected to take up to a year. In the interim, the City has taken immediate measures to regulate the use of temporary overhead shelter in parks and public spaces. The City has introduced a new bylaw enforcement policy to regulate how the Parks Bylaw and Streets and Traffic Bylaw will be administered and enforced. Temporary Overhead Protection may be erected and used only between the hours of 9:00pm of one day and 7:00 am of the following day. All such temporary structures must be removed by 7:00am along with any associated chattels.
- To Vacate Campers: most municipalities put up a 24 hour notice to vacate and then some have police presence present when cleaning up the camp
- Each municipality has a different policy on whether to store camp items or to immediately dispose of them. It was observed that in the majority of the cases where items were stored, there were very few times (once in ten years etc...) that the items were picked up.
- Most Park personal would like to see consistent bylaws across municipal boundaries for Occupational Health and Safety Concerns regarding camping and setting up shelters in parks
- 'Booby Trapping' to date has not been an issue for camping in parks
- There was some talk of methods deterring unwanted behavior in some parks after hours: (i.e. loitering, graffiti etc) : using sprinklers in off hours, applying 'muskeat' in an area, applying liquid fish fertilizer, hot pepper spray (to deter dogs).

- One municipality noted that people ‘camp’ in the washrooms and in one case a person was renting out washroom stalls to fellow street campers.
- Many municipalities still did not have budget line number to deal with camping in parks. Instead this comes out of many municipalities operating budget. These items continue (Camping & homelessness issues in parks) to be tracked along with graffiti, and dumping in parks.
- There will be some discussion (Table Topics?) on camping at the Parks Spring Training

### **Work Safe BC Working Alone**

- Background: Richmond, B.C., January 25, 2008—Amendments to the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation to improve the health and safety of workers that are working alone or in isolation take the effect of law beginning February 1, 2008.
- All employers are also required to identify hazards and eliminate or minimize the risk from any hazards that are identified. The Regulation identifies the usual occupational health and safety controls, including engineering the risk out and examining administrative practices to eliminate or minimize the risk.  
<http://www2.worksafebc.com/Publications/OHSRegulation/GuidelinePart4.asp#SectionNumber:G4.21>
- There was some discussion on the methods of checking the “workers well-being”. Some municipalities use call centers, others use their recreation centers as the call in center, while others use their dispatch office.
- There is also a range of equipment that various municipalities use such as 'walkie talkies' with GPS units, trucks with GPS units, cell phones, cell phones with GPS locators etc.
- One municipality was investing a Mobile Lone Worker Safety System [www.gracesales.com](http://www.gracesales.com) for people working in isolated areas (i.e. trails). Transmitting Personal Alert Safety System – The TPASS is a motion sensing man-down alarm that will automatically transmit a radio call for help signal if a worker becomes incapacitated from injury or otherwise stops moving.

### **Operating Guidelines on Earphone & iPods**

- Many municipalities had a zero tolerance policy for using iPods on the work site. Refer to Work safe BC for more information on this issue.

### **Pesticide reduction efforts;**

- Some discussion on how municipalities deal with the issue of municipal pesticide bans and weeds on sports fields or golf courses.
- It was noted that with most municipal pesticide bans golf courses are excluded due to golf courses being a ‘mono culture’ and it is difficult to curb diseases and funguses without the use of some ‘pesticide’ assistance.
- Many municipalities have a ‘one time permit’ or ‘hardship case’ clause in their pesticide ban bylaw. In the issue of a sports field this ‘one time permit’ would be applied for to allow parks to deal with extreme weed issues on sports fields. However there was some discussion that perhaps parks should allow those weeds if public perception would allow weeds on the sports fields.
- Some noted that IPM Program is the best way to manage parks and public needs to be better educated on the parks use of an IPM Program.

### **Sports User Groups**

- Some discussions on how user groups self monitor their sports fields.
- It was noted that there are more issues with field pirating and field damage.

- Some municipalities use a ‘double-up’ fining system. The first fine is \$250, then the next fine is doubled \$500, next \$1,000, next \$2,000... currently on sports user group is up to \$2,000.
- Many municipalities would like to see consistent bylaws for field damage by user groups.

#### **Parks' role in BCRPA:**

- Some informal discussion about parks role in the BCRPA. It was mentioned that the BCRPA acts as a ‘voice’ for parks in the larger forum such as raising the issue of homelessness and camping in parks to other government bodies. There is also the benefit of the support with the BCRPA Parks and Grounds Spring Training as well as weekly newsletters.

#### **Green Initiatives in Parks:**

- One municipality uses a green solution for cleaning parts. Very environmentally friendly. Costs approximately \$1000 to set up.
- Many municipalities are using hybrids in their fleet vehicles for the foreman. One municipality went away from their foreman driving trucks to driving fuel efficient vehicles (cars)... this was based on a use assessment.
- Some units are being switched to Biodiesel
- Port Alberni is currently using a water based parts cleaning system is called Bio Circle by Walter Technologies (ph 1 877 246 3786). They have two set up in their Parks and Works mechanical shops. Port Alberni’s mechanics are finding it as effective as regular solvent and can actually clean a greater range of parts that would normally not be exposed to solvents.
- Many municipalities are switching to 4 stroke weed eaters and blowers
- Many municipalities are conducting a needs assessment on the vehicles & equipment “What do we want that piece of equipment to do?”
- Many municipalities follow a ‘no idling policy’

#### **PSAB**

- Some discussion the PSAB exercise of recording the tangible capital assets and the methodology involved in the exercise.
- Some concern on how the data will be managed or updated in the following year.
- Some municipalities are recording their trees in the PSAB exercise despite the fact that PSAB does not require this. It also creates an issue, because trees appreciate over time and they do not depreciate as do other assets.

#### **4.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS: (Not discussed at this meeting)**

##### 4.1 HortEdBC – Todd Gross

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

##### 4.2 Communities in Bloom (CIB) – Len Walters & Kathy Reinheimer

##### 4.3 BCRPA (2009) Spring Training Committee - Nancy McLean (co-chair), Todd Gross (co-chair), David Turner, Len Walters, André Kolbér, Steve Whitton, Sue Nagata, Sandy James, and Heather Muter (BCRPA Representative). Conference dates Feb 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> 2009 at the Langley Conference Center

##### 4.4 IPM Accreditation – Richard Boulton

##### 4.5 BCRPA Regional Meeting – André Kolbér

Mark Taylor and the City of Abbotsford hosted October 31<sup>st</sup> fall meeting. This included a tour of the new Cultural Centre - The Reach, Gallery Museum - 32388 Veteran's Way (n/e of City Hall), a site visit of the 7,000 seat arena (under construction) - Entertainment & Sport Complex - 33800 King Road, a Tour of the new Community Centre - Abbotsford Recreation Centre - 2499 McMillan Road. There was a Regional Meeting, chaired by Heath Mahoney, that followed the tour.

4.6 National Recreation and Parks Association – Geoff Mallory  
Pacific Northwest Resource Management School -Port Townsend, Feb 22-27th, 2009.

4.7 Education & Conferences Attended

**BCRPA Facilities Conference:** The conference was held on Wednesday October 29th, 2008 at the Executive Airport Plaza Richmond BC. This conference was focussed for facility maintenance front-line staff, managers and operators. Lui Passaglia was the keynote speaker. On Thursday, Oct 30<sup>th</sup> there was also a tour of the new LEEDTM Gold facilities at Sunset Community Centre and Killarney Ice Rink in Vancouver.

4.8 Upcoming Training & Conferences

**December 17<sup>th</sup> BCRPA Year End Wrap-up meeting**

**2009**

**January 28th & 30th - 13th Annual Workshop and Conference for the Integrated & Environmental Plant Management Association.** Ramada Hotel in Kelowna BC 250-48-0899 [iepma@yahoo.com](mailto:iepma@yahoo.com)

**February 10-11th 2009 - 31st Annual BCRPA Parks and Grounds Spring Training**

Location: Langley, B.C.:

[http://www.bcrpa.bc.ca/recreation\\_parks/parks/spring\\_training.htm](http://www.bcrpa.bc.ca/recreation_parks/parks/spring_training.htm) or contact Parks & Recreation Coordinator Heather Muter at 604-629-0965 ext 229 or [hmuter@bcrpa.bc.ca](mailto:hmuter@bcrpa.bc.ca) .

**February 22-25<sup>th</sup>, 2009 - 46th Western Canada Turfgrass Association Annual Conference & Show**

Location: Victoria Conference Centre, Victoria, BC

Contact: Bob Wick: (604) 467-2564 [www.wctaturf.com](http://www.wctaturf.com)

**February 22-27<sup>th</sup>, 2009 – Pacific Northwest Resource Management School**

Location: Fort Worden State Park Conference Center, Port Townsend, WA

<http://www.nrpa.org/pnwrmms>

**February 22-27<sup>th</sup> - Society of Municipal Arborists Municipal Forestry Institute**  
Ridgeland, SC

**February 24-26<sup>th</sup>, - Building SustainAble Communities Conference,** Kelowna's Delta Grand Okanagan Resort. [www.regonline.ca/bsc2009](http://www.regonline.ca/bsc2009)

**February/March 2009 (exact date to be announced)** Playground Safety Awareness Course will be held in Coquitlam in Feb/March.

**March 10-13, 2009 – 2009 INPRA Administrators Academy**

Location: Fort Worden Conference Centre in Port Townsend Washington.  
The Theme for 2009 is "Leadership Management and Talent Development"  
<http://www.inpra-usacan.com/default.html>

**March 17-20<sup>th</sup>, 2009 – National Legislative Forum on Parks and Recreation**

Location: Grand Hyatt Washington, Washington, D.C.  
<http://www.nrpa.org/content/default.aspx?documentId=968>

**May 20-22nd, 2009 - BC Land Summit *A Better Future Adapting to Change***  
[www.bclandsummit.com](http://www.bclandsummit.com)

TELUS Conference Centre, Whistler, B.C.  
Contact: Tara Culham - BC Society of Landscape Architects (604) 682-5610

**May 27-29<sup>th</sup>, 2009 - BCRPA Symposium Conference *Strength in CommUNITY***

TELUS Conference Centre, Whistler, B.C.  
[http://www.bcrpa.bc.ca/training\\_symposium/symposium/2009.htm](http://www.bcrpa.bc.ca/training_symposium/symposium/2009.htm)

**October 13-17<sup>th</sup>, 2009 - NRPA Congress & Exposition**

Location: Salt Lake City Convention Center, Salt Lake City, Utah  
<http://www.nrpa.org/content/default.aspx?documentId=618>

**5.0 NEW BUSINESS**

- Discussion on possible locations.... For the December 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

**6.0 ROUND TABLE - see above**

**AJOURNMENT:** 12 P.M.

Moved by: Richard Boulton

Seconded by: David Boag

**NEXT MEETING:** December 17th BCRPA Year End Wrap-up meeting (*Location to be announced.*)