

PACIFIC NATIONAL EXHIBITION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
THURSDAY MAY 23, 2024
6:00pm – PNE Hastings Room & YouTube
Public Portion

M I N U T E S

Chair Kirby-Yung called the meeting to order at 6:14pm

Present: Sarah Kirby-Yung, Chair
Steve Jackson, Vice Chair
Ty Speer, Director
Paul Mochrie, Director
Rachel Roy, Director
Maury Kask, Director
Raj Sihota, Director
Armin Amrolia, Director

Shelley Frost, President & CEO
Stacy Shields, Vice President, People & Culture
Karen Massicotte, Vice President, Marketing, Sales & Business Development
Ming Tian, Vice President, Facilities, Maintenance and Master Plan Projects
Shauna Wilton, Vice President, Operations
Salome Valente, Executive Assistant/Corporate Secretary

There being a quorum present and due notice having been given, the meeting was declared to be constituted for the transaction of business.

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED by Director Raj Sihota
SECONDED by Director Maury Kask

Resolved that the agenda for the Public Realm Portion of the Board of Directors meeting for Thursday May 23, 2024 is adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED by Director Raj Sihota
SECONDED by Director Rachel Roy

Resolved that the minutes for the Public Realm Portion of the Board of Directors meeting from Thursday December 7, 2023 are adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. STAFF REPORTS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

3.1 HP-PNE Master Plan Update

An update on the HP-PNE Master Plan was provided in the Board of Directors packages for review. Ming Tian delivered the presentation.

Questions from the Board of Directors were as follows:

Director Maury Kask inquired about any major risks that might affect the completion timeline of the Amphitheatre. Ming Tian replied that there could be some potential impacts to the schedule depending on the pace of the sequential tendering process and the availability of resources, however currently the project is on schedule.

Director Maury Kask also asked when business will start to be booked for the Amphitheatre. Karen Massicotte replied that the booking calendar won't officially open until there is a set commissioning date but anticipates that bookings will start in September 2025 with possible last-minute bookings in spring of 2026.

Director Paul Mochrie inquired about the reference to the removal of 17 of the 43 dead trees that had been identified and the timeline to complete work. Ming Tian replied that there is no immediate need to remove the remaining trees because they are not in a risky condition but are being monitored closely and will be removed as needed.

There were 3 speakers registered to speak on this agenda item.

Maria Mussenden, community member

Maria Mussenden indicated that prior to her allotted time to speak began that she had some points of order to go through. She provided PNE staff with a copy of those points of order that staff will review. Maria Mussenden was reminded by Chair Sarah Kirby-Yung that she needed to remain on topic to the assigned agenda item.

Regarding the topic of discussion, Maria Mussenden felt that the new Amphitheatre project had deviated from what was approved in 2010 which was a \$6.6M Amphitheatre with a covered stage and temporary fencing. Now the Amphitheatre is going to cost \$103.7M with the stage and audience covered, permanent fencing and concerts year-round. Maria Mussenden indicated that these changes were done without consulting the local community unlike in 2010 when there was a lot of community and city-wide consultation. Maria Mussenden added that she felt that the PNE had few information sessions and that invitations to those were last minute and did not include many people and that she did not know about the Talk Vancouver survey and therefore didn't have a chance to participate.

Maria Mussenden also shared that she is concerned about how the Amphitheatre will affect the Sanctuary and wildlife there and that there should have been impact studies done.

Chair Sarah Kirby-Yung thanked Maria Mussenden for attending tonight's meeting and sharing her thoughts.

Susan Stuart, community member

Susan Stuart shared that she was born and raised in Vancouver and still lives here and is an avid PNE supporter who along with her husband attends the annual PNE Fair, Playland, Fright Nights, Winter Fair and many other events on site and can't wait for the new Amphitheatre to be completed.

Susan Stuart shared that she has spoken a few times at Council and Board meetings, about the master plan and how it must continue to be implemented. The initial consultation process took years, and the approval process did not happen overnight and even once it was approved there were even more industry experts consulted. Susan Stuart also noted that as time passes, more changes will be required to meet current standards of construction and delays cost money so encouraged the Board to continue moving forward with the various aspects of the plan approved by Council a few years ago.

Susan Stuart knows that some people are unhappy with what is happening onsite, but these people are usually from the neighbourhood and it must be remembered that the 100 plus year old PNE grounds is for a wide range of people and not just local neighbors. There will always be a place for both sides of an argument, but she hopes the Board continues to support a vision for Hastings Park that includes bringing the Master Plan to fruition

Chair Sarah Kirby-Yung thanked Susan Stuart for attending tonight's meeting and sharing her thoughts.

Gretchen Harlow, Board Member of the Hastings Park Conservancy

Gretchen Harlow, a Board member with the Hastings Park Conservancy wanted to know if the daylighting of the stream was still considered feasible and still going ahead as part of the Master Plan.

Chair Sarah Kirby-Yung responded that she could attest that the daylighting of the stream was still very much a part of the Master Plan. Chair Sarah Kirby-Yung also thanked Gretchen Harlow for attending tonight's meeting and asking her question.

3.2 Redevelopment: Site Impact & Public Safety

A presentation on impacts to the site along with public safety was provided in the Board of Directors packages for review. Shauna Wilton delivered the presentation.

Questions from the Board of Directors were as follows:

Director Rachel Roy inquired if Miller Drive is a road used by the public to get through the park. Shauna Wilton replied that Miller Drive is a public street and used as a thoroughfare. Shauna Wilton added that there is also quite a bit of Racetrack traffic that uses Miller Drive along with Playland and Coliseum traffic as well.

There was one speaker registered to speak on this agenda item.

Steve Canofari, community member

Steve Canofari first shared that as someone who served on the PNE's Community Advisory Group for several terms, he felt that the process for the Amphitheatre project was very open and very transparent and that there were many presentations from the Project Managers and many opportunities for the community to provide feedback

Steve Canofari also shared that he is a long-time resident of Vancouver who lives towards Boundary Road and that there is immense density happening right now in the area and that parking is a huge issue. Therefore, going forward with the Master Plan, Steve Canofari inquired on what the plans are to integrate transit onsite because as the PNE grows, there needs to be a viable option for those coming to the Fair who are driving and not a pressure you want to add to the neighbourhood.

Chair Kirby-Yung responded that the Board is aware of the importance of parking and transit and providing provisions and believes that there will be opportunities to realize different ways to deliver that as we move through different parts of the Master plan.

Chair Sarah Kirby-Yung thanked Steve Canofari for attending tonight's meeting and sharing his concerns.

3.3 Community Advisory Group & Neighbourhood Focus

A presentation on the alignment of the PNE's Community Advisory Group and Neighbourhood Focus Groups was provided in the Board of Directors packages for review. Karen Massicotte delivered the presentation.

Questions from the Board of Directors were as follows:

Director Raj Sihota noted not seeing any CAG minutes for 2024 on the website and inquired if no meetings had taken place this year. Karen Massicotte responded that she had a staff member leave and therefore a meeting earlier in the year was cancelled but there was a meeting last week and the minutes from that meeting will be on the website shortly.

Director Rachel Roy noted in the presentation the indication that more non-local representation was needed on the CAG and if it would be more beneficial to have expertise from around the City for the business and economic category than from the East Village BIA. Karen Massicotte noted that the East Village BIA was representing the local business perspective and not the business and economic category.

There was one speaker registered to speak on this agenda item.

Donalda Greenwell Baker, Chair of the Hastings Park Conservancy

Donalda Greenwell Baker shared that the Sanctuary is celebrating its 25th Anniversary on August 19th. Donalda Greenwell Baker also shared that she appreciates that work that has been done lately with the PNE and being asked to be on the CAG representing the Hastings Park Conservancy.

Donald Greenwell Baker noted that over the years the Hastings Park Conservancy has been doing walks in the park, educational outreach with students from all the elementary schools and learning and teaching about birds and plants and what goes on in the Sanctuary. The Hastings Park Conservancy has brought environmental issues, concerns, daylighting of the stream to the attention of the Board and the community and is looking forward to the role on the CAG which will be very helpful in improving the relationship moving forward with communication and the development and greening of Hastings Park.

Chair Sarah Kirby-Yung thanked Donald Greenwell Baker for attending tonight's meeting and sharing her thoughts.

4. NEXT BOARD MEETING

It was agreed that the next Public Portion Board of Directors meetings would be December 2, 2024.

5. ADJOURNMENT OF PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING

MOVED by Director Maury Kask

SECONDED by Director Armin Amrolia

Resolved that the Public Portion of the Board of Directors meeting be adjourned at 7:13pm

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY