

Date: November 23, 1995

SUBJECT - TROUT LAKE FIELDHOUSE PROPOSAL - COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

CONSIDERATION

A. THAT the Board approve the construction of a 500 square foot fieldhouse (Little League's proposal without the meeting/storage room) on the eastern side of John Hendry Park with all arrangements to the satisfaction of the General Manager, or

B. THAT the Board approve the construction of a 1,000 square foot fieldhouse (Appendix A - Little League's proposal) on the eastern side of John Hendry Park with all arrangements to the satisfaction of the General Manager.

BACKGROUND

At the October 16, 1995 meeting of the Vancouver Park Board, the Board recommended that staff conduct a community consultation process and public meeting regarding the building of a fieldhouse on the eastern side of John Hendry Park. In the October 16 Board Report, it was noted that staff support in principle both the project and Trout Lake Little League's efforts to upgrade park facilities. Staff's concerns related only to the size and scope of the project; specifically the need for a 1,000 square foot building which includes a meeting room/off-season storage area.

Historically, in the quest to preserve green space, the Board has only provided those ancillary park facilities which are required on site. Meeting rooms and off-season storage areas have not been considered as site specific requirements. Meeting rooms are available at community centres and off-season storage space has been provided only to the extent it has been available in an existing building.

DISCUSSION

The community consultation process for Trout Lake Little League fieldhouse proposal has been completed. The consultation process consisted of:

Information Pamphlets

Over 1,700 information pamphlets were distributed to residents in an approximate 3 block radius of John Hendry Park (see Appendix B). Staff received four responses from residents - 2 in favour and 2 against the proposal. Reasons given by residents who were not in favour of the proposal were related to parking concerns and the provision of green space vs. buildings on parks. It should be noted that the proposal should not have an impact on the park's parking requirements as the building will only service existing little league patrons and parents.

A Public Meeting

A public meeting was held November 21, 1995 at the Trout Lake Community Centre. The meeting was attended by various Little League representatives and parents. All supported the Little League's request for a 1,000 square foot building.

Other Community Groups

The Little League Association has solicited letters of support from the Grandview Community Centre Association and the Trout Lake Restoration Society (see Appendix C and D).

SUMMARY

The lack of response to the pamphlet drop off indicates that construction of a 1,000 sq.ft fieldhouse is not an issue with the community at large. Based on this result, Trout Lake Little League is expecting the Board to approve the construction of their proposed fieldhouse.

However, the Board should be aware that approving a building of the nature proposed by the Trout Lake Little League will likely be seen as precedent setting by other little leagues. Staff expect to receive other proposals for facilities of this type and anticipate objections from the community.

Prepared by:
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