



Date: March 22, 2002

TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation
FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: 2010 OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES AND PARALYMPIC GAMES BID

RECOMMENDATION

- A. *THAT The Board endorse the City Manager's report to Council, dated March 7, 2002, outlining the progress and timeline of the Vancouver 2010 Bid Corporation, the proposed City involvement, and other aspects relating to the Bid.***
- B. *THAT the Board endorse the Board's involvement in the venues for the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games and Paralympic Winter Games Bid, as outlined in this report.***

POLICY

There is no Board policy directly related to this matter.

BACKGROUND

In December 1998, Vancouver was selected by the Canadian Olympic Association (COA) to represent Canada in the international bidding competition to host the 2010 Olympic Winter Games and Paralympic Winter Games.

In June 1999, the Vancouver Bid Corporation was incorporated with the goal of winning the right to host the Winter Games in 2010. The Bid Corporation is responsible for developing the overall vision and conceptual plan for hosting the Games. Work on all aspects of the bid development is well underway and the Bid Corporation is confident that they will be in a position to submit a winning bid to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in January 2003.

If selected by the IOC to host the Winter Games, the Vancouver 2010 Bid Corporation will be replaced by the Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games (OCOG) to refine and implement the plan outlined in the Bid Book.

At its meeting of March 26, 2002, Council received the attached report from the City Manager, giving the current status of the Olympic Games Bid and passed the following resolutions:

- A. ***THAT Council endorse the City involvement in the venues for the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games and Paralympic Winter Games Bid, as outlined in this report.***
- B. ***THAT Council refer this report for endorsement to the Vancouver Park Board, Vancouver Police Board, and Vancouver Library Board.***

Council also resolved:

WHEREAS, hosting the 2010 Winter Olympics may result in many positive economic and social spin-offs for the citizens of Vancouver;

AND WHEREAS, City Council encourages opportunities for civic participation,

AND WHEREAS, Article 40 of the Olympic Charter requires host cities take full financial responsibility for the Games

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT,

the City of Vancouver urge the Vancouver/Whistler 2010 Bid Corporation work with community members to conduct a complete community impact study with recommendations to minimize the negative effects and to maximize the opportunities of hosting the 2010 Olympic Games.”

DISCUSSION

In terms of the Board's involvement in the Bid, two major sites are earmarked for Olympic venues, Figure Skating and Short Track at Hastings Park and Curling at Hillcrest/Nat Bailey Stadium Park. There is also the possibility that two existing community ice rinks will be upgraded to provide practice space for Olympic ice sports. The identity of these two rinks is yet to be confirmed.

The Games will have a major short term impact on the parks in which they are located, and on the neighbours of those parks. Each venue requires extensive temporary accommodation for the media, the athletes, VIP's, volunteers, security, food supply, and waste management. Footprints allocated to these functions are three times as large as the main venue's footprint, although some of these functions can be located under the stands and within other adjacent facilities. Based on observations in Salt Lake City, staff expect that these temporary impacts can be accommodated in the selected sites.

It is the aim of the IOC, however, that new facilities will be designed with careful consideration to their post-Games use, to ensure an ongoing legacy for the community, both for recreation and athlete development.

The Bid Corporation has hired two architectural firms, one for the figure skating/short track speed skating venue, and one for the curling venue. Park Board staff have been intimately involved in the Bid Corporation's process. Development of planning concepts and preliminary costing started late February and is scheduled to be substantially completed by the end of April. Discussions with stakeholders are now underway.

Hastings Park

The Coliseum will be the venue for figure skating and for short track speed skating. The nearby Agrodome will function as a practice facility for these sports. The Rollerland building, immediately south of the Coliseum, may also be used to house functions relating to the staging of activities in the Coliseum.

The 2010 Bid Corporation has hired an architectural firm, the Musson Cattell Mackey Partnership, to prepare schematic drawings and costing for renovations to the Coliseum, Agrodome, and Rollerland. The required renovations to these buildings would be primarily infra structural in nature. In other words it is not intended to create significant additional recreation spaces. The large infusion of funds will however ensure that these facilities will have updated heating, ventilation, plumbing, and lighting, allowing them to continue to offer, with increased efficiency and well into the future, accommodation for events and recreation. The ice surfaces of both buildings will be increased in size to international standards, and can revert to the North-American format after the Games. The long term retention of the three buildings is consistent with the Hastings Park Restoration Plan. The articulation of the community legacy is being explored with the Bid Corporation.

Hillcrest/Nat Bailey Stadium Park

The curling venue is to be constructed in the Hillcrest/Nat Bailey Stadium Park locale. The Games require five curling sheets, seating for 5000 to 6000 spectators, and the required support space and infrastructure for athletes, VIP's, media, and public.

The Bid Corporation has engaged Roger Hughes and Partners as architects to develop conceptual drawings and estimates for the curling venue. A number of sites were considered on both Hillcrest and Nat Bailey Stadium Park. Various other planning issues are intertwined with the development of the curling venue:

- The replacement of Percy Norman Pool with a destination "city-wide" pool, one of the objectives of the Board's Aquatic Renewal Plan.
- The reconstruction of Riley Park Community Centre, which is listed as a high priority in the Community Centre Renewal Plan
- The possible construction of the Millennium Sports Facility, housing Phoenix

- Gymnastics and Pacific Indoor Lawn Bowling Clubs.
- The possible deconstruction of the Vancouver Curling Club, located on Hillcrest Park
- The future of Nat Bailey Stadium

Should the Games be awarded to Vancouver, the Board needs to update its Master Plan for the area through a community planning process. The potential inclusion of this facility creates a further opportunity to enhance the emerging recreational campus in the Hillcrest/Nat Bailey/Riley park area. This planning process will also need to address issues such as neighbourhood park protection, parking, urban design and transportation.

The site conceptually chosen for the Olympic curling venue facility is the area between the Nat Bailey Stadium outfield fence and the Vancouver Racquets Club. The site has exposure to both Midlothian Avenue and Ontario Street. The building will be approximately 60,000 square feet in footprint, and could be up to 50 feet high, if built on grade. As a result of the Master Plan it is possible that an alternate location within the Hillcrest/Nat Bailey/Riley Park area may prove to be more appropriate.

As the Olympic curling venue, the facility will provide spectator seating for up to 6000 people. This type of spectator facility would not lend itself to the primarily recreational uses the Board advocates. The Bid Corporation has therefore been requested, and the architects have been instructed, to design the building to be converted after the Olympics to accommodate any or a combination of the following potential uses in order of priority, :

- 8 to 10 sheets of curling ice, intended to replace the Vancouver Curling Club and Marpole Curling Club's needs. The Vancouver and Marpole Curling Clubs lease their facilities from the Park Board and City respectively.
- A new rink to replace the 36 year old rink currently located at Riley Park Community Centre.
- Multi-purpose or other recreational space such as racquet courts, as reasonably feasible and practical.

SUMMARY

It is the intent of the IOC, and of the Bid Corporation, that development associated with the Games contribute a Legacy to the community. Staff are working closely with City staff and with the 2010 Bid Corporation to help align the Bid Corporation's requirements for venues, and their desire to provide a Legacy to Vancouver, with our athletic and recreation needs and those of our partners and stakeholders.

Prepared by:

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RR/vs