



Date: April 12, 2002

TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation
FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Eric Hamber Artificial Field: Consultant Contract

RECOMMENDATION

- A. *That the Board approve the award of the contract for consultant services for the Eric Hamber Artificial Field upgrade to Athletica Sport and Recreation Design, Inc. for the fee of \$33,000 and disbursements of \$2,000.***
- B. *That no rights shall arise hereby, and none shall arise until the execution of the contemplated contract. The Board may rescind this resolution at any time up to the execution of the contemplated contract.***

POLICY

Consultant contracts over \$30,000 are awarded by the Board.

BACKGROUND

The existing artificial turf at Eric Hamber (Oak Street between 33rd and 37th) was installed in 1987, and is now at the end of the anticipated 12-15 year life-span (see map). The fibers are now worn, the seams have come apart in places, and it is now in need of being replaced. In recent years there have been numerous complaints from the various user groups regarding the deteriorating condition of the artificial turf.

It was determined that a consultant was required to do a preliminary assessment of the existing field conditions, look at various turf options and to come up with a budget estimate. Terms of reference were drawn up and a request for proposal went out to three firms with a specialty in synthetic athletic fields. Athletica Sport and Recreation Consultants Inc. was the successful firm based on the thoroughness of their proposal, expertise and experience with the traditional carpet style of artificial turf. The contract was awarded in February 2002 for a sum of \$13,000 (fees and disbursements).

The study revealed that the existing aggregate base and drainage system was in good condition and could be accepted with only minimal base preparation required. A sampling of the existing pad was also found to be in good condition and could most likely be reused, subject to additional investigation upon removal of the existing carpet. Numerous artificial turf and pad options were

investigated and assessed in terms of pricing, quality, lifespan and warranties. It was estimated that the cost of this project would be up to \$1.2 million dollars, with \$250,000 coming from the capital plan and the balance from user fees collected since 1987.

DISCUSSION

A comprehensive preliminary investigation was successfully completed by Athletica Sport and Recreation Consultants. A second stage consultant contract is now required to assess the suitability of the present pad for reuse; to further investigate the various turf and pad options; and to produce tender documents, drawings and specifications in anticipation of the construction phase. Once the construction is underway, the consultant will be responsible for construction and post-construction review. Construction is scheduled to begin in late June and be completed by late September, in time for the fall playing season.

We recommend that this next consultancy phase be undertaken by the same firm. The replacement of the artificial turf is a challenging undertaking requiring significant expertise. We were satisfied with the work of Athletica in the preliminary investigation, where they exhibited an excellent knowledge of artificial turf and construction methods, and were on time and on budget.

Their fee proposal is reasonable, and within the guidelines established by the B.C. Society of Landscape Architects. To provide the continuity, and to build on the information gained in the previous work, our recommendation is that we retain them for this next consultant contract.

SUMMARY

Staff recommend that the consultant services for the Eric Hamber Artificial Field upgrade be awarded to Athletica Sport and Recreation Consultants for the fee of \$33,000 and disbursements of \$2000. Funds are available for this amount.

Prepared by:

Planning and Operations Division
Board of Parks & Recreation
City of Vancouver, B.C.

SYW

Attachment: Site map