



Date: April 18, 2002

TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation
FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Millennium Sport Facility Society Project

RECOMMENDATION

THAT THE Board:

- 1. Extend the deadline in Clause 14 of the MOU with the Millennium Sport Facility Society to June 1, 2003.**
- 2. Continue the commitment of \$250,000 for the re-location of the lawn bowling facility to June 1, 2003.**

BACKGROUND

The Phoenix Gymnastics Club and the Pacific Indoor Bowls Club have formed a unique partnership as the Millennium Sport Facility Society (MSFS) for the purpose of constructing and operating a joint facility for gymnastics and indoor lawn bowling.

In 2000, the Park Board approved a location for the future facility adjacent to Nat Bailey Stadium. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which requires the Society to fulfill a number of obligations related to funding, timing and quality of construction and the operation and maintenance of the future facility was approved in February, 2000. Clause 14 specifically required all funding, permits and the start of construction to have occurred by June 2001.

MSFS has actively pursued fund-raising for the new facility including an application for a Grant from the Canada B.C. Infrastructure Program. However, the announcements on successful projects have been deferred several times. In June 2001, the Park Board, recognizing the announcement delays, extended the MOU deadline in Clause 14 to June, 2002.

The Pacific Indoor Bowls Club has been looking for a new location for its facility for over 10 years and the Board has previously approved a contribution of \$250,000 that would be used for this relocation. With their partnership in the MSFS, a location has been confirmed but the construction of the facility has not begun.

The Board gave notice to the Pacific Indoor Bowls Club in 2001 that their Grimmert Park building would be demolished in order to complete the development of the park. In addition the deadline for use of this contribution to the Lawn Bowling Club's relocation to the Millennium Sports Facility was also extended to June 2002.

The expiry of these two deadlines is now approaching.

DISCUSSION

The MSFS has continued to fund-raise over this last year pursuing Foundation Grant opportunities and donations. They remain optimistic about the support for their Canada B.C. Infrastructure Grant application and anticipate that an announcement will be made in June 2002. With the approval of \$1.7 million grant request, they will have reached their funding target of \$3.4 million and would quickly move forward with their permit applications and begin construction. The new facility could be open as early as September 2003.

The Pacific Indoor Bowls Club remains enthusiastic about the project. After leaving their Grimmert Park site a small portion of their membership have used a temporary location in Langley requiring many of their members to drive over an hour. The Club has maintained about half of its membership base through this period by reducing its fees and they have commissioned a comprehensive marketing strategy to promote the Club and its future to both old and new members. It is ready to be launched after the start of construction focusing toward opening day.

Phoenix Gymnastic Club's program continues to expand and as an organization they are making strategic changes to enhance their success in the future. On an interim basis the Club is relocating their competitive athlete's program to a larger facility at Heather and SW Marine Drive due to demand for entry level opportunities at their St. James Church site. Presently 65 children are on the waiting list. They are also hiring for a new head coach which they anticipate will continue to increase Phoenix's profile both nationally or internationally.

Both of these clubs as partners in the Millennium Sport Facility Society are continuing to work hard toward achieving their goal of a new facility, but a decision on their grant application has not been made. In order to continue with the Board's commitments to these organizations through the MOU and capital contribution, a further extension to June 1, 2003 is being requested in the event that the announcement is delayed. Staff are recommending that this request be supported.

SUMMARY

The Park Board has previously extended the time frame for both fund-raising in the MOU with the Millennium Sport Facility Society and the capital contribution to the redevelopment of the lawn bowling facility to June 2002.

The last remaining fund-raising component for the new joint facility is the application for a Canada B.C. Infrastructure Grant. Announcements for this program have been delayed, requiring a further extension of the Board's arrangements with these organizations. Staff are confident in the ongoing commitment of these groups and recommend that the Board extend its commitments to June 2003.

Prepared by:

Liane McKenna
Director, Queen Elizabeth District
Board of Parks & Recreation
Vancouver, BC