



Date: October 22, 2002

**TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation**  
**FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation**  
**SUBJECT: Memorial South Park - Proposed Multi-Purpose Shelter**

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## RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. THAT the Board approve in principle a proposal for a multi-purpose shelter in Memorial South Park, to be constructed at no cost to the Park Board;**
- B. THAT the Board receive as information the proposal and funding plan submitted by the community group for “A Shelter for Memorial South Park” project;**
- C. THAT the Board approve staff conducting a public consultation process to determine community support for the proposal.**

## BACKGROUND

Memorial South Park is a large community park located on 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue and Prince Albert Street. It contains sports fields, ball diamonds, cinder track, 2 field houses, public washrooms, playgrounds, a natural water feature and large mature trees. It hosts many activities including organized sports, picnics, community events and a has wide variety of other uses such as walking and Tai Chi. There is currently no outdoor covered area in the park.

## DISCUSSION

In March 2002, the Vancouver East District Office was contacted by Mr. Patrick Wong, MLA for Vancouver Kensington, on behalf of a large group of park users who requested improvements to Memorial South Park. After a meeting with Park Board staff in early July, it was determined that the item that had the highest priority with the park users was the addition of a covered shelter in the park that could be used for Tai Chi, picnics and other community activities. Staff did some preliminary work in providing possible locations for the structure in the park, the costs of similar structures in other parks and available funding sources. The earliest this project would be eligible to receive Park Board capital funding is the 2006 - 2008 Capital Plan.

A committee of community members was formed to lead this project, with Mr. Po-wah Ng as coordinator. In early September, staff received a proposal that included a concept plan, site plan, cost estimate and a list funding sources including fund raising in the community, provincial and federal grants. (See appendix 1) Initial funding sources for the \$80,000 project are estimated to

be \$30,000 each from the federal and provincial governments and \$20,000 from community fund raising. The Park Board will contribute staff time for the necessary reviews and community consultation process. The application for a Neighbourhood Matching Fund grant will be evaluated using established criteria. If approved, the funding could be used to augment the shelter.

After an initial technical review by staff, it was determined that this project has merit and should proceed pending community support, a detailed technical review and funds being secured. Because fund raising for this project is in the initial stages, and may take many months, approval in principle is requested so an application for Provincial funding can proceed. After all funding has been secured for the project, staff will bring a report forward to the Board for final approval.

## **CONCLUSION**

This project is initiated by the community and will serve to involve park users in creating an asset that will benefit the community.

Prepared by:

Vancouver East District  
Board of Parks & Recreation  
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