



Date: November 28, 2002

TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation
FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Mount Pleasant Community Centre Renewal

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board receive this report for information.

BACKGROUND

The current Mount Pleasant Community Centre at 16th and Ontario has served the Mount Pleasant community for 35 years since its opening in 1966. In the 2000 - 2002, Park Board Capital Plan, money was approved to replace this facility and an exciting joint civic project emerged which included a new branch library, a child development centre and housing. A site at # 1 Kingsway was purchased by the City 2001. This is consistent with the directions set in the 1987 Mount Pleasant Community Plan.

This new location is more centrally located in the heart of the Mount Pleasant Community and will better serve the north east areas of Mt. Pleasant, including the new population moving into the area. The southwest corner of Mt. Pleasant will continue to be well served by being within 1 km of the new location, as well as within close proximity to both Douglas Park Community Centre and Riley Park Community Centre. With recent voter approval of the 2003-2005 Capital Plan, complex planning is now underway with the city's Facilities Design & Management Office, City Corporate Services having the lead project management role.

The new Mount Pleasant Community Complex will include:

Vancouver Park Board Community Centre	30,750 sq. ft.	\$8.9 million
Vancouver Public Library	12,000 sq. ft.	\$5.05 million
Child Development Centre	6,800 sq. ft.	\$2.35 million
Housing	55-73,000 sq. ft.	\$10.23 million
Underground parking	70,000 sq. ft.	

DISCUSSION

Preliminary planning and public communication and consultation has been underway since 2001 regarding the community centre component. Efforts to date include:

- Two project newsletters with the banner “**Mt Pleasant Community Centre - Building for the Future**” have been distributed in the surrounding community
- Information on the Parks public website
- Project telephone Hotline
- Site signage at #1 Kingsway
- Staff meetings to engage in-house expertise and input
- Public Open House - Oct. 28, 2002
- Building Committee comprised of MPCC Association executive members, a local resident and Park Board staff
- Outreach to 24 local agencies and the local arts community
- Community recreation survey with over 300 responses
- MPCC Association sponsored and participated in a review of child care services conducted by the City
- Meeting with MPCC Association Board
- Numerous meetings with stakeholders
- Telephone, e-mail and correspondence from various publics
- Analysis of current recreation programme offerings and attendance

Parallel processes have also been undertaken with the Vancouver Public Library Board regarding the relocation of their Mount Pleasant Branch Library and with the Community Services Department of the City regarding the new Child Development Centre. In this effort, the MPCC Association has been a contributor to a Child Development Needs survey which will guide the plans for child care services in the new complex and the broader community which is expected to be available in January 2003.

These efforts have already generated significant dialogue and input into opportunities and challenges related to this project.

Developing a Space Program for the new community centre:

A Building Committee has reviewed the inputs to date and has begun working to develop a building program which will instruct the future architect on recreation service needs. The architect will then work with the Building Committee through the various stages of space programming, schematic design, design development and detailed design and then on through the stages of tenders and construction.

The committee consists of :

Jim Meschino, Committee Chair

Park Board - Planning & Operations Facility
Development Project Manager

Yvonne Howe

MPCC Association Executive

Rod Hashimoto

MPCC Association Executive

Flora Purcell

Resident of Mount Pleasant Community

Booth Palmer

Park Board - Centre Coordinator

Lori MacKay

Park Board - Vancouver East Director

Two Arts Advisors (Pat Beaton, Hank Bull) and a research assistant (Megan Stuart-Stubbs) have been retained to provide support to the Building Committee. The committee is working to have a draft Building Program ready to submit to the City by late January. The Building Committee has recognized that having broad community input into this early stage of the project is an important element in the ultimate success of the community centre and that building a new centre involves building of the community at the same time as building the bricks and mortar of a new facility.

General Project Timeframe

Consultant selection

Jan/Feb 2003

Project Design

Throughout 2003 and early 2004

Development and Building Permits

Early spring 2004

Tender and Construction

Estimated to be complete Fall 2005

Issues and Opportunities

Throughout the dialogues with the community to date, several key trends and issues have consistently been raised:

- there is excitement about the new complex
- there is recognition that the new location is more centrally located to the entire Mount Pleasant Community
- open park land is needed in the Mount Pleasant community
- many current users are very concerned about loss of service in their local neighbourhood specifically for child care services, outdoor summer pool, recreation programmes
- the community is keenly interested in actively participating in all stages of the development process
- there is strong interest in receiving information about the project
- the community is interested in a coordinated effort of the various components of the new complex

A recent meeting with the MPCC Association Board concluded that additional efforts were

required to enhance the public consultation and communication efforts regarding the community centre component. It was agreed that we would hold 2 public forums in January 2003. These meetings will be sponsored by the Building Committee and address two separate and equally important issues:

Forum on Impacts to Current Centre Users

Thursday, January 16th, 2003

Simon Fraser Elementary School (15th & Manitoba)

7:00 - 9:00 pm

Forum on the Building Program for the new Community Centre component

Wednesday, January 22nd, 2003

7:00 - 9: 00 pm

location to be determined

The Building Committee will further explore opportunities to participate in a coordinated public consultation and communication strategy with the City Facilities Design & Management Office as the project progresses through the future stages of development.

SUMMARY

The Mount Pleasant Community Centre Renewal project has begun a process of public engagement and communication in the early planning stages. The outcomes of these additional public processes will further engage the community in a meaningful way, provide accurate information to the public about the project and the development process, address a number of community concerns, and help the Building Committee design an effective building program.

Prepared by:

Vancouver East District

Board of Parks and Recreation