

Date: November 30, 2006



TO: Board Members – Vancouver Park Board
FROM: General Manager – Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: MoreSports Sustainability Update

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board receive this report for information.

POLICY

No applicable policy.

BACKGROUND

MoreSports is a recreational sport development initiative which started in 1999 in three inner city communities. Now through seven geographical neighbourhoods or hubs it provides sport opportunities to children and youth on the north and east sides of Vancouver. Approximately 3,200 children and youth are currently involved in MoreSports soccer, basketball, badminton and special events.

MoreSports has core funding partners, community partners and agencies as well as organizational and school partners. The MoreSports program is currently being governed by an advisory committee. The Vancouver Park Board is considered a core partner and many Park Board staff are involved in the advisory committee as well as in the delivery of the programs through our Community Associations, fields and facilities. In June 2002 the Park Board provided \$40,000 in funding to cover the cost of equipment and supplies for MoreSports youth soccer at nine sites in Vancouver.

DISCUSSION

MoreSports has been very successful since its inception and has provided inexpensive recreation opportunities to children and youth that were not previously available. MoreSports' reliance on grant funding as well as its expansion to new communities has brought its long term sustainability into question. The governance structure and the development of partnership agreements is presently being discussed.

Since June, 2006, a number of representatives from the MoreSport advisory committee, Vancouver School Board, Ray Cam Community Centre, Sports BC and the Park Board have met to discuss a long term sustainability plan for the program. A tentative proposal has been developed that would involve Sport BC in administering MoreSports on a pilot basis for two years. Sport BC is considering this proposal and is working with the MoreSports advisory committee to develop their business plan, governance and growth strategies for this pilot phase. If Sport BC assumes the administration of the MoreSports program, it has been suggested that they would form a Vancouver chapter of KidSports allowing for cross promotion and a joint approach to grant applications and delivery of services. Sport BC would initiate a multi-party agreement including the Vancouver Park Board and Vancouver School Board and other stakeholders as partners in program delivery. Sport BC is also considering including MoreSports as a project within the National Sport Trust Fund which would allow for the expansion of the program as a philanthropic cause.

SUMMARY

Sports BC has asked the MoreSport Advisory Committee to develop a two year business plan addressing the governance and growth strategies for the program. It is anticipated that this information will be available soon and Sport BC will then determine a course of action for 2007. A successful two year pilot by Sport BC would provide for an optimistic outlook on the long term sustainability for MoreSports.

Prepared by:

Vancouver East District
Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
Vancouver, BC