

Date: March 21, 2007



**TO: Board Members – Vancouver Park Board**  
**FROM: General Manager – Parks and Recreation**  
**SUBJECT: Stanley Park - Air India Commemorative Playground and Memorial**

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## RECOMMENDATION

**A. *THAT the Board approve the concept plan for the proposed playground and memorial as described in this report and illustrated in Appendix 1.***

## POLICY

The Board approves new park designs.

## BACKGROUND

On June 26, 2006, the Board approved the acceptance of an \$800,000 donation from the Government of Canada for the creation of a children's playground and other improvements in Stanley Park dedicated to the memory of the victims of the bombing of Air India Flight 182.

At the same time, the Board also appointed Lees and Associates Consulting Ltd. as the landscape architect consultants to help conceptualize the design and manage the project including a public consultation process.

On October 2, 2006, the Board approved that the commemorative feature would include the victims' names and that staff budget a minimum of 80% of the \$800,000 on landscaping and playground. Staff were requested to seek external funding for the public consultation process. An additional \$60,000 has since been donated from the Federal Government and the total project budget has been fixed at \$860,000 of which \$400,000 has been provided by the Province of British Columbia. The Park Board has specified that \$640,000 be allocated to the playground portion of the project and the remainder of the memorial/contemplative area.

The Project budget breakdown is as follows:

<b>Consultants</b>	
Landscape Design, Fees	<b>\$70,000</b>
<b>Public Process</b>	
Cost of community consultations, including room rentals and A/V	<b>\$5,000</b>
<b>Construction</b>	
Construction Services (contractor fees, labour, site prep, excavation, etc.)	<b>\$365,000</b>
Foundry/Iron Works Fees	<b>\$30,000</b>
Landscaping	<b>\$200,000</b>
Materials	<b>\$140,000</b>
<b>Contingency</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$860,000</b>

On November 9, 2006, a design concept was presented to the public to obtain feedback on what features and facilities the playground and memorial should have. On November 16, 2006, a meeting was held to review the memorial and to determine how the names of the Air India victims should be presented.

Based upon the recommendations and the public process, staff and the consultant have developed a conceptual plan for Board approval.

## **DISCUSSION**

The intention is to accommodate four types of activities:

- a) Playground activities related to the redeveloped site including new play equipment while retaining the fire truck;
- b) Expanded hard court uses including children's safety school, Dancing at Dusk, basketball and novice roller blading;
- c) Re-landscaping to expand the zone that can accommodate picnic tables; and
- d) A memorial wall and seating enclosure which overlooks the shoreline.

In addition, general landscape improvements including paved areas, retention of slopes, new pathways, seating, lighting and additional planting are included. The red fire truck, which has been restored, is the landmark of the children's playground.

The concept and design for the children's playground includes two slides, swings, seating, terraces to accommodate picnic tables, and a large state of the art interacting play system.

The physical monument of the memorial consists of a finely-crafted stone wall whose shape evokes the trajectory of Flight 182 to the point where it crashed into the sea off the coast of Ireland. The name of each individual who died will be inscribed within a simple stone cap. A dove tree (*Davidia involucrata*) will be planted nearby as a symbol of peace.

The Concept Plan is illustrated in the attachment. The consultant will be at the Board meeting to present the plan.

## **SUMMARY**

The concept has evolved into the refurbishment of an existing park area that is in need of repair, focusing on park uses favouring children and young people, and reflects the Board's direction that 80% of the \$800,000 budget be used for landscaping and playground. Once a year, the site will be used by the community to host a ceremony commemorating the Air India tragedy.

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