

Date: May 1, 2008



TO: Board Members – Vancouver Park Board
FROM: General Manager – Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Vancouver Sport Strategy

RECOMMENDATION

- A. *THAT the Board approved the adoption of “Vancouver Sport for Life,” the Vancouver Sport Strategy (VSS) as a guide to the City’s future initiatives and engagement with sport programs, facilities and events.***
- B. *THAT, subject to Council approval of the Sport Strategy, staff be directed to conduct further consultations with sport stakeholders and the broader community, and report back later in 2008 with a detailed implementation plan, including Operating and Capital resource requirements, funding strategies and timeline.***

POLICY

On June 26, 2006 Park Board reviewed and endorsed a Council report entitled ‘Sport Hosting and Vancouver Sport Strategy,’ referencing the need to “develop a comprehensive Vancouver Sport Strategy.”

On October 30, 2006 the Board approved Park Board staff taking a leadership role in the development of the Vancouver Sport Strategy.

BACKGROUND

Park Board took the lead, on behalf of the City, to develop the Vancouver Sport Strategy, with active support from Vancouver Active Communities Network (VACnet), the Vancouver Sport Tourism Task Force, Canadian Sport Centre Pacific, Sport BC and many other organizations and individuals fostering sport and active living in Vancouver.

Work on the Sport Strategy began immediately upon Council approval of funding for the project, in the context of the 2006 Operating Budget. A consultant team headed by Citius Performance Corp. was contracted to do research, conduct a public process and draft the strategy, under the direction of a staff steering committee and project manager.

“Vancouver, Sport for Life” represents the outcome of this endeavour.

The attached Council Report provides details on the process followed to create the strategy, and summarizes its main implications for the City.

DISCUSSION

“Vancouver Sport for Life,” the Vancouver Sport Strategy is the proposed foundation of a new relationship between the City and its sports community. It has significant ramifications for the Park Board as a major provider of sport and active living services, amenities and programs.

The Vancouver Sport Strategy envisions the formation of a sports advisory group which will increase connectivity amongst sports interests and provide a linkage to the City, via the Park Board. The Strategy advocates an integrated approach to programming for child physical development, active living and sports excellence. It supports sport hosting and facility development initiatives which will create legacies for the health and wellbeing of Vancouver residents.

The attached Council Report summarizes the strategy and proposed next steps. If approved, an implementation plan, including resource requirements, funding sources and timeline, will be developed in consultation with sport stakeholders and the broader public. It is anticipated that Park Board will continue to take a leadership role through the implementation stage, and this will be confirmed through a report back to the Board and Council with details of the proposed implementation plan.

SUMMARY

The Board is asked approve the adoption of the Vancouver Sport Strategy and, subject to Council approval, direct staff to prepare and report back with an implementation plan.

Prepared by:

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