



Date: September 19, 2014

TO: Board Members - Vancouver Park Board  
FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation  
SUBJECT: Jericho Beach Park Pier Partnership

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## RECOMMENDATION

THAT staff develop a memorandum of understanding with the Disabled Sailing Association of BC (DSA) that outlines roles and responsibilities for community engagement, planning, design, funding, procurement, construction and operations of the Jericho Beach pier and accessible floating dock.

## POLICY

The Vancouver Park Board approves major changes in parks.

## PREVIOUS DECISIONS

At the February 25, 2013 Committee Meeting, the Board approved the staff recommendation to allow the Disabled Sailing Association of BC (DSA) to undertake a feasibility study for an accessible floating dock at the Jericho Sailing Centre (JSC), in Jericho Beach Park, with input and advice from staff. The Board also approved that staff report back to the Board on the findings of this study and possible next steps.

## BACKGROUND

Jericho Beach Park is a destination park that contains a pier built in the late 1970's. The pier, located west of the JSC near the north end of Discovery Street, provides an opportunity for residents and visitors to walk out from the shoreline to experience a remarkable view of Vancouver's scenic Burrard Inlet. The pier is a popular fishing and crabbing spot and it has a ramp and float on its east side utilized for emergency boat landing. It is a wood structure on creosote piles that requires regular and significant capital maintenance due to its age and condition. Photos of the pier and a map are attached in Appendix A.

The DSA is an independent, charitable society dedicated to enriching the lives of people with significant physical disabilities through leisure and competitive sailing. Sailing for people with significant physical disabilities started in Canada in 1989 at Jericho with the founding of the Disabled Sailing Association.

Today, the DSA operates eight specially designed Martin 16 sailboats and hosts between 800-1,000 sailing experiences at JSC each year. No other activity offers a comparable level of freedom for people with high levels of physical disability. Adaptive sailing has spread across

Canada it and is now a Summer Paralympic sport. The program at Jericho has reached capacity and the facilities need improvement.

There is a great need for dignified access for disabled sailors at JSC; presently they are hoisted in and out of wheelchairs and sailboats on shore in plain view, and are cabled to and from the water once seated. The development of a separate accessible floating dock will allow the DSA to increase its capacity by an estimated 400 to 500 sails each summer in a more user friendly manner. Sailing turnaround times would be reduced from 40-45 minutes to 15-20 minutes; no sailing times would be lost due to low tides, a factor that currently impacts 10 percent of the available hours. The demand for additional sailing times does exist with approximately 350 individuals currently restricted to just one or two sailings each year.

In addition, the DSA currently faces extremely high repair and maintenance costs with the sailboats constantly being winched in and out of the water. An accessible floating dock would mean vessels could remain in the water with keels and rudders permanently locked in place.

An artist's rendering of an accessible floating dock is attached as Appendix B.

## DISCUSSION

The DSA retained Worley Parsons, a marine structural engineering firm, to undertake the feasibility study for an accessible floating dock at the JSC, and to produce a report in March of 2013, and the draft report was received in July. The DSA, the JSC, Park Board staff and City engineering staff reviewed the report which proposed two options for an accessible floating dock near the Jericho Sailing Centre: adjacent to the Jericho Beach Park pier (at the terminus of Discovery Street), or adjacent to the existing groyne located east of the pier. Unfortunately, the report did not produce a viable option.

Staff met with the DSA in September of 2013 to review the report findings and to talk about possible next steps. Staff then continued to work collaboratively with the DSA to search for a location for the facility. This review included discussions about building in partnership with local boating centres, such as the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club (RVYC). A meeting was held in January 2014 with the RVYC, and it was determined that there is no potential for an expanded accessible facility at their property.

The Jericho Beach pier cannot incorporate an accessible floating dock however a future reconstruction could, subject to community and First Nations engagement, environmental reviews, and a funding source. Staff support developing a memorandum of understanding with the DSA for a replacement pier that is designed in the most sustainable manner possible and that provides a scenic accessible waterfront experience for all residents, as well as an accessible floating dock for the DSA programs.

## STRATEGIC ANALYSIS

This project aligns well with the Park Board's strategic goals of providing Parks and Recreation for All (by increasing accessibility and inclusivity in the new facility), of Engaging People (in the upcoming engagement process), and Excellence in Resource Management (in proving new well managed infrastructure with partner funding). This endeavour is an

example of how staff seek, build, and maintain relationships to benefit Vancouver, by being an open and accountable partner with the DSA. It is an opportunity to share the costs of development and demonstrates mindfulness of our long-term fiscal health. Moreover in this effort to rebuild an aged facility we will strive to plan, provide, and maintain an exceptional recreational, social, and cultural amenity that contributes to the liveability of Vancouver, and meets the current and future needs of our diverse city - in a sustainable manner.

This project also aligns well with the DSA's core values including recognizing relationships that embody the qualities of openness, acceptance, respect and honesty, and the importance of working together to achieve healthy, inclusive communities.

## **ENGAGEMENT**

It is anticipated that a series of local stakeholder meetings, public open houses and on-line surveys will be held to garner ideas for the project and to gauge a level of support. Local stakeholders including the Jericho Stewardship Group, the JSC, the North West Point Grey Residents Association, the Jericho Air Force Veterans, the Rabbit Advocacy Group, and others will be included in the process.

A separate process to engage local First Nations will occur.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL**

This project presents an opportunity to further the City's greenest city goal for access to nature and creating habitat, when the aged creosote pier is removed. It is anticipated that the project will include habitat creation and alternative power sources such as solar, wind and tidal power for lighting the pier and dock will be explored.

## **FINANCIAL**

In 2013, \$0.5M was invested in pier capital maintenance by the City and by the Federal Government (infrastructure grant). The marine engineer who worked on this project recommends a like investment every 4-5 years to keep this pier in serviceable condition.

The estimated cost to replace the pier with a similar facility is \$2M, not including any foreshore protection or dock features. This project is a candidate for grant funding from all levels of government and it is expected that the DSA's primary role in this partnership will be collaborating with the provincial and federal governments to source grant and donation opportunities to match City funding.

Funding will be available for the first phase of this project (conceptual design, community engagement, and costing) in the 2015-18 Capital Plan: the DSA will provide \$10,000 towards this effort.

The City's 2015-2018 Capital Plan includes an emerging priorities fund and this is a candidate project for this fund.

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) is to be developed with the DSA to outline roles and responsibilities for community engagement, design, funding, construction and operating of the new pier and accessible floating dock, subject to the satisfaction of the General Manager.

## SUMMARY

This project confirms our commitment to accessibility, the environment and to water based recreation, and it aligns with Park Board strategic directions for Parks and Recreation for All, for Engaging People and for Excellence in Resource Management. Staff recommends that the Board approve the development of a memorandum of understanding to formalize a working partnership with the Disabled Sailing Association for the redevelopment of the Jericho Pier, that includes an accessible floating dock, at Jericho Beach Park.

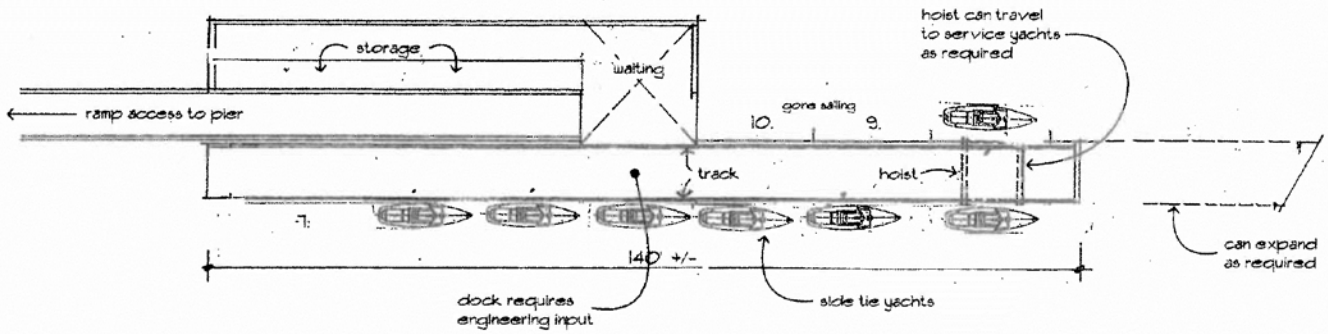
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Appendix A – Existing Condition Photos



Appendix B - Artist's Rendering of an Accessible Floating Dock



**DISABLED SAILING MOORING**

