

Date: April 22, 1996

SUBJECT - ELM PARK SCOREBOX PROPOSAL

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board approve the construction of a 100 square foot scoreboard next to the NW diamond on Elm Park with all arrangements to the satisfaction of the General Manager.

POLICY

While there is no specific policy for scoreboard buildings, the Board has adopted policies and practices which can be applied to such buildings:

- \* The 1991 Playing Field Management Plan outlined the following criteria for the funding of field sport improvement projects:

the Park Board will provide a basic level of service in regards to playing fields and facilities;

user groups will be responsible for the provision of services which are beyond the basic level.

- \* The Board has developed a standard design for scoreboard buildings.
- \* A community consultation process be conducted for new structures in parks.

BACKGROUND

As a basic level of service, the Park Board provides a "scorekeeper's" bench directly behind a baseball diamond. Various little leagues have been given permission to replace the bench with a small "scorebox" building. Generally, these buildings are 10'x10' in size and are located directly behind a backstop. They serve to protect scorekeepers from the elements as well as provide an out-of-season storage area. Since the provision of these buildings is beyond the Park Board's basic level of service, the sponsoring little league has been responsible for the total cost of construction (including applicable permit and development fees) as well as all of the building's ongoing operational costs.

The provision of a scoreboard is not required to play a baseball game nor is it a little league requirement. However, ten of the city's fourteen little leagues have a scoreboard building located behind their "premier" diamond.

DISCUSSION

The community consultation process for the proposal consisted of:

## Information Pamphlets

Pamphlets were distributed to the neighbouring residents of Elm Park (see Appendix A). Staff received three responses from residents - 1 neutral response and 2 against the proposal (correspondence on file). Reasons given by residents who were not in favour of the proposal were related to:

### Neighbourhood Concern

### Evaluation

Provision of green space vs. buildings on parks.

Given that any building will have an impact on a park, the proposed scoreboard's size (100 square feet) and location (directly behind the backstop) should lessen its presence in the park.

The "need" for such a facility.

While not a requirement, these buildings protect scorekeepers from the elements. These buildings are found on the majority of parks used by little leagues.

Potential "hangout", increase vandalism.

The building's design should not encourage "gathering" nor should its presence increase vandalism in the park.

Building would be an eyesore and would impede drivers' line of sight at corner.

Other park problems identified (the level of the P.A., litter from activities, etc.) have been forwarded to the Kerrisdale Little League.

### Other Community Groups

The Kerrisdale Community Association has discussed the proposal and has agreed to abide with the community consultation and Board decision making process.

### CONCLUSION

Given the scoreboard's size and location, the building will not eliminate existing active or passive park functions, dominate the park or compromise the park's aesthetic quality. Approving this request would be consistent with the Board's past practices with regards to little league ancillary facilities.

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