

Date: May 31, 1996

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY GARDEN EXPANSION AT DELAMONT PARK

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Board approve the expansion of the community garden operated by the Kitsilano Community Gardeners at Delamont Park to include Block 265 - Lot 13, subject to a garden site plan and users agreement being drawn up and approved by the General Manager.

BACKGROUND

For a number of years, a group called the Kitsilano Community Gardeners has operated a community garden on Block 265 - Lot 12, owned by the Board in the 2000 block of West 6th Avenue across from the north-east heel of Delamont Park. They have requested to expand this community garden to include the adjacent vacant lot also owned by the Board.

The Kitsilano Community Gardeners presently have a yearly garden permit with City Housing and Properties for Block 265 - Lot 12. If the proposed expansion is approved, a users agreement would be drawn up with the Board for both Lot 12 and Lot 13, replacing the City garden permit.

DISCUSSION

An information flyer (Appendix I) was prepared and distributed to approximately 600 residential households surrounding Delamont Park. Thirteen responses were received - seven letters and six telephone calls. Attached are copies of the letters and a log of the calls with the comments made.

Three of the seven written responses opposed the proposal to expand the present community garden to include the adjacent vacant lot. The stated reasons for opposition were:

- Two separate residents at 2020 West 5th Avenue expressed concern that the proposed site is directly beside their back yard, with no intervening lane or space. The community garden would interfere with their privacy and quiet enjoyment of their backyard space.
- The vacant lot is beautiful in its present state with tall trees and thick growth, which provide a natural house for birds and wildlife. The old trees should not be removed.

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- The noise pollution of levelling Nature s garden to put up a manmade one would be unbearable. Also, the garden would require increased irrigation and electricity in this age of conservation.
- The vacant lot is the ideal location to move the heritage house at 2024 West 7th Avenue, at least temporarily, to avoid having it demolished.

Two of the written responses supporting the proposal stated the following provisions/questions:

- Roto-tilling and land machinery not be run while children are in attendance at the Daycare next door.
- Chemicals, fertilizers, etc be kept in a safe and secure place.
- Tolerance of children from next door.

- Who gets to be a gardener? Do local residents get a plot if desired?
- Is there any other viable use for this space i.e. extend children s playground for special needs children in the community?
- Could gardeners sell off extra produce and re-invest profits into the community ie. more landscaping, improve park?
- Strongly opposed to removal of the old tree on the lot.

A follow-up meeting was arranged on May 27th to enable the Kitsilano Community Gardeners to address the concerns/issues expressed by residents. All people who responded to the proposal were invited - seven residents attended along with two representatives from the Kitsilano Community Gardeners and two staff from Kitsilano Community Centre. Minutes of the meeting are attached as Appendix 3. At the end of the meeting, all the people attending endorsed the Delamont Park Community Garden Proposal.

The two residents of 2020 West 5th Avenue, immediately north of the proposed garden, did not attend the meeting. However, the Community Gardeners have agreed to leave a buffer zone of grass, trees, and shrubs at the end of the lot to preserve the neighbour s privacy.

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JUSTIFICATION

This proposal by the Kitsilano Community Gardeners meets the criteria of the Board s Community Gardens Policy. It will enable more residents to participate in this valuable recreation activity.

Prepared by:
Recreation Division
Vancouver Board of Parks & Recreation

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APPENDIX 1
APPENDIX 2

DELAMONT PARK COMMUNITY GARDEN

Following is the list of people who responded to the Delamont Park Community Garden Proposal by phoning in their comments.

Name	Phone	Comment
Sonja De Banou	733-3486	Concerned but not opposed, attended the community meeting
Barbara Pringle	873-7781	Supports garden proposal
Christine Roberge	734-6630	Supports garden proposal and attended the community meeting
Maureen Wright	734-3428	Concerned but not opposed, attended the community meeting
Ron MacDonald	822-5623	Supports garden proposal
Alison Delosky	730-9033	Supports garden proposal

Following is the list of people who responded to the Delamont Community Garden Proposal in writing (letters attached):

Name	Phone/Fax	Address
Laurie McDougal	732-9490	2067 W. 8th Ave., Vancouver, B.C. V6J 1W4
Amanda Forrestal	-	2384 Yew St., Vancouver, B.C. V6K 3H2
Christina McAllister	734-8934 (fax)	
Donna Strauss	-	2200 Arbutus St., Vancouver, B.C.
Sarah L. Murphy	-	#2-2020 West 5th Ave., Vancouver V6J 1P9
Lori Pratt V6J 1P9	-	2020 West 5th Ave., Vancouver
Michele DeSonza	-	2038 West 7th Ave., Vancouver, B.C. V6J 1T4

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The following people are to receive a copy of this Board Report by Friday, May 31, 1996.

No.	Name	Organization	Address	Fax
1.	Christine Roberge	Kitsilano Community Gardening	2315 Dunbar St., Vancouver	
2.	Maureen Wright (5 copies)	East Kitsilano Community Crisis Organization (E.K.C.C.O.)	2078 W. 6th Ave Vancouver, BC V6J 1R9	
3.	Laurie McDougall	Resident	2067 W. 8th Ave Vancouver, BC V6J 1W4	
4.	Michell DeSouza	Resident	2038 W. 7th Ave Vancouver, BC V6J 1T4	
5.	Sarah Louise Murphy	Resident	#2 - 2020 W. 5th Ave Vancouver, BC V6J 1P9	
6.	Donna Strauss	Resident	2200 Arbutus St Vancouver, BC	

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|----|--------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| 7. | Lori Pratt | Resident | 2020 W. 5th Ave
Vancouver, BC V6J 1P9 |
| 8. | Robert Haines, President | Kitsilano Community
Association | 734-8954 |
| 9. | Jim McKenzie, CRC | Kitsilano Community Centre | 734-8954 |

Signature
Section Manager _____

No Board Report will be accepted for printing without this signed cover sheet.

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