

DATE: May 31, 1996

SUBJECT - NANAIMO PARK SCOREBOX PROPOSAL

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board approve the construction of a 140 square foot scorebox next to the SW diamond on Nanaimo Park with all arrangements to the satisfaction of the General Manager.

POLICY

While there is no specific policy for scorebox 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 scorebox 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 scorebox 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 scorebox building located behind their "premier" diamond.

The Victoria Drive Little League has asked the Board for permission to install a 10'x 14'x 10' scorebox building behind the southwest diamond in Nanaimo Park (Appendix A). The League built a similar scorebox behind the northwest diamond approximately three years ago.

DISCUSSION

The community consultation process for the proposal consisted of:

Information Pamphlets

Pamphlets were distributed to the neighbouring residents of Nanaimo Park (see Appendix A). Staff received two negative responses from residents.

Neighbourhood Concern
Provision of green space vs.
buildings on parks.

Evaluation
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.

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. Construction is scheduled to begin this spring.

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