

November 15, 1996

SUBJECT: Fraserview Golf Course Redevelopment: Tree Removal and Replacement

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Board approve tree removal at Fraserview Golf Course in accordance with plans to be presented at the meeting.

BOARD POLICY

The Board at its meeting of March 11, 1996, approved the following motion:

THAT the golf course architects be asked to minimize the loss of trees in their design...

At its meeting of June 10, 1996, the Board passed the following motion:

THAT the Board approve the plan for Fraserview Golf Course prepared by Thomas McBroom Associates to be presented at the Board meeting.

At its meeting of November 4, 1996, the Board approved the following motion:

THAT the cutting of trees not commence at Fraserview Golf Course without the express approval of the Board.

BACKGROUND

Several options for the redevelopment of Fraserview were prepared by Thomas McBroom Associates in 1991 and 1992 and presented at meetings as outlined in the attached chronology. The options were reviewed by Norecol Environmental Consultants in terms of existing conditions and proposed changes. They concluded that Option 1 was preferred, since Option 1 required the least tree removal of all Options in removing 358 deciduous and 223 coniferous trees which constituted over 8% of 95 acres of the forested lands at Fraserview. Based upon Option 1 and the Board's resolution of March 11, 1996, the revised option prepared by McBroom and approved by the Board requires the removal of 279 deciduous and 118 coniferous trees. The inventory of tree removals completed by a Park Board arborist noted that birch and alder species comprised the greatest number of deciduous removals, and cedar and fir were the greatest number of coniferous removals. The average size of tree to be removed is in the 18" - 24" range, and the condition average was 4 - 6 on a 1 to 10 scale with poor condition rated 1.

In terms of area to be cleared including trees, the cleared area is 10.9 acres, the area to be reforested 13.2 acres, with a net difference of 2.3 acres. In order to utilize storm water for irrigation, the irrigation pond was relocated in the revised plan and requires the clearing of 1.5 acres (which is part of the 10.9 acres). In accordance with Board policy of replacing each tree removed with two new trees, there are 794 new trees to be planted at Fraserview. The tree replacements include 562 native Canadian trees with varieties such as vine maple, beech, oak, dogwood, Douglas fir, sumac, cedar, and hemlock. Also, 138 trees will be transplanted.

DISCUSSION

The clearing of vegetation and removal of trees are required to make improvements to the golf course layout by improving the playability and increasing the length of the course. Fraserview will be the only Park Board course to be lengthened and provide improved access in order to sustain its high use by the public.

Not only are fewer trees being removed in the revised plan than in the previously approved Option 1 but also the trees being removed are generally in worse health and shorter lived species than trees to be removed in Option 1.

Prepared by:
Planning & Development Division
Board of Parks and Recreation
City of Vancouver
NM:ad
Attachment

Chronology of Fraserview Redevelopment Plan

A. Public Review Process

- Survey, Golf course use and proposed improvements survey sent to golfers and other interested parties and available at all City courses, November 1990 - January 1991
- Open House, VanDusen Gardens - February 1991
- Presentation to Champlain Heights Community Association June 1991

Issues raised at these meetings included removal of trees and woodland. Stakeholders identified for Fraserview included residents, clubs, golfers, School Board, YMCA, and special interest groups such as the Everett Crowley Park Committee, Friends of Fraserview and the Champlain Heights Community Association. Stakeholder meetings were held in November and December 1991 and January 1992.

Public meeting - February 1992. Revisions to plans made as the result of the open house, survey, and stakeholder meetings were presented at a public meeting prior to the report to the Board. Notices were posted, advertisements were placed, and 145 people attended. (See attached flyer which indicates tree removals at Fraserview.)

- Open House - May 1996

A revised plan based upon McBroom's Option 1 was posted along with a plan identifying the difference between the cleared areas in Option 1 and the revised plan. Twenty-five copies of the tree inventory identifying tree removals were distributed. The meeting was held at Fraserview Clubhouse.

- Everett Crowley Park Planning Committee - May 1996

The draft revised plan for Fraserview was presented and a copy of the tree inventory was left with the Committee.

- Everett Crowley Park Planning Committee - July 1996

The redevelopment plan approved by the Park Board was presented to the Committee and included a description of areas to be cleared and new planting to compensate for tree removals on a 2 for 1 basis.

B. Board Approvals

- May 11, 1992

Report to approve three golf course master plans for redevelopment. The minutes of the meeting note that Brian Pidcock, Friends of Fraserview, stated that the plan had their support and that they would like to continue their involvement in terms of the "distribution of green space and trees".

William Nicholas, Friends of Fraserview noted the democratic process in developing the plan that they support. He wanted to restrict tree cutting to a minimum.

City Council approved the redevelopment and funding in June 1992.

- February 1996

The Board approved the prequalification of contractors.

- March 1996

The Board approved retaining Thomas McBroom Associates as the consultant for Fraserview and noted in the approval that the consultant was to maintain as many trees as possible in his plans.

C. Media Coverage

Articles on the redevelopment of Fraserview appeared on the following dates:

- July 14, 1991 Courier
- August 12, 1991 The Province
- March 7, 1992 Vancouver Sun
- May 13, 1992 Courier
- June 25, 1992 The Province
- June 29, 1992 Vancouver Sun
- September 18, 1992 Vancouver Sun
- September 27, 1992 Courier
- November 2, 1992 Vancouver Sun

- September 30, 1992 Vancouver Sun
- December 3, 1992 Vancouver Sun
- January 29, 1993 Vancouver Sun
- February 1, 1993 The Province
- February 10, 1993 Vancouver Sun
- February 10, 1993 The Province
- February 19, 1993 The Province
- July 23, 1993 The Province
- September 21, 1993 Vancouver Sun
- March 25, 1994 Vancouver Sun
- July 7, 1994 Vancouver Sun
- October 24, 1995 Vancouver Sun
- November 7, 1995 Vancouver Sun
- January 10, 1996 Vancouver Echo
- April 28, 1996 Courier

This article refers to tree removal/retention at Fraserview.

- May 22, 1996 Vancouver Echo

This article provided information on the open house to be held.

- June 12, 1996 Courier
- November 10, 1996 Courier

Press Releases/Advertisements

- May 25, 1996 Open House
 - Vancouver Echo May 15
 - Vancouver Courier May 19
 - Province May 16
 - Vancouver Sun May 15
 - The Revue May 23
 - Press Release May 17
 - Posters at Fraserview Clubhouse, Killarney C.C. and Champlain CC
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