

November 13, 1997

SUBJECT: QUEEN ELIZABETH PARK SPORTS COURTS

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board award the supply of boards for the Queen Elizabeth Park Sports Courts to Roller Drome for \$67,500, excluding GST, FOB Vancouver.

BOARD POLICY

If there is only one supplier, then any purchase over \$50,000 must be approved by the Board.

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Reconstruction of the Kersland Reservoir by the GVRD permitted the tennis courts to be reconfigured so the new asphalt surface could accommodate 17 tennis courts, 4 basketball courts and 2 inline skating rinks. Following approval of the project by the Senior Management Team on January 14, 1997, and public notification of the proposed project, an information report was prepared informing the Commissioners that the project was proceeding.

DISCUSSION

Only one company manufactures a relatively inexpensive lightweight, plastic board system designed for inline skating. All other systems are three times or more the cost, primarily because they are designed to withstand the greater body forces and puck impact of ice hockey. Furthermore, these board systems rely on the foundation to accept large transmitted forces whereas the proposed patented boards are supported by 'A' - frames that would transmit a much smaller force that could be received by the concrete reservoir roof which is only 2-1/2" thick.

The foam-filled plastic panels and frames are interlocking and can be assembled quickly and cheaply for about \$2,000. The \$67,500 supply price for two rinks is considered to be an excellent price not only when compared to other systems but also for this system since the supplier would like to develop a public sector clientele in addition to their private sector one and the Queen

Elizabeth Park facility would be an attractive showcase.

Besides the low price and attractive appearance, the plastic boards should be more resistant to the weather than the other alternatives, especially the wood type used for lacrosse boxes.

Placing an order for the boards now would permit the facility to open in March, in time for the onset of spring weather, though it could also be used on dry winter days.

JUSTIFICATION

There is just enough money left in the Capital Plan Tennis Court budget to afford the well-priced Roller Drome system to complete the QE Park Sports Court project. Aside from a modest playing surface allocated for skaters and hockey players at the Sunset Beach parking lot, the QE Park facility will have the first surfaces in Vancouver dedicated to inline skaters and hockey players. Not only will this facility provide enjoyment for purely inline hockey players and skaters but for youth who also play ice hockey. Ice time in the Lower Mainland is always indoors and under the instruction of adults whereas youth in colder climates have access to outdoor, non-instructional ice time where pure play is the focus. The QE Park facility will be one step towards providing Vancouver youth with a similar opportunity.

Prepared by:
Planning and Development Division
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Attachment.

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