



Date: December 14, 2001

TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation
FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Strathcona Park Upgrade Conceptual Design

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Park Board approve the conceptual design for the upgrade and redevelopment of Strathcona Park.

POLICY

Park Board approval is required at the conceptual stage of design prior to developing drawings for tender and construction.

BACKGROUND

On April 19, 2001 a report was presented to and approved by the Park Board requesting the award of the consultancy contract to PD Group Landscape Architecture & Interior Design Ltd for \$64,000 (excluding GST). Included in the Terms of Reference for the Landscape Architect Consultant were the project objectives: to finalize a conceptual plan, develop design drawings, assemble a tender document package, and provide construction inspections.

DISCUSSION

On April 4, 2000, a report was presented to and approved by Council and the Park Board requesting provision of \$400,000 from Henderson Development (Canada) Ltd. to supplement capital funds of \$350,000 in order to carry out redesign and upgrade at Strathcona Park.

The community has supported an upgrade of the park for approximately 12 years but has had difficulty reaching consensus regarding a conceptual plan. However, at the public open house held on November 19, 2001, the community expressed overwhelming support for the conceptual plan presented by PD Group Landscape Architecture & Interior Design Ltd. (See attached concept plan).

Working together with Park Board staff and the Strathcona Park Committee (representing residents, sports field users and community groups) the PD Group developed a community park concept plan for Strathcona Park. The concept plan provides for a wide range of community uses

by including walking paths through and around the park, picnic and children's play areas, a basketball court, a small-scale skateboard facility and a grassed performance space. The aim has been to create a "heart" in the existing park, with activities (related to different age groups and interests) clustered around a central, multipurpose, open-sided, covered structure.

A new mini soccer field and a relocated softball diamond have been proposed for the area immediately west of the existing all-weather field, the existing sports fields will remain and the soccer field in the center of the existing oval track will be upgraded under the proposed plan. The estimated construction cost (including GST, contingency) for the park renovation is \$670,000.

SUMMARY

Approval of the concept will allow the project to go forward to the design development stage with the aim of starting construction in the late spring of 2002.

Prepared by:

Planning and Operations
Board of Parks & Recreation
Vancouver, B.C.

DB/vs