



Date: January 4, 2002

TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation
FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENT OF AN OUTDOOR 12 COURT VOLLEYBALL FACILITY

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the proposal for a sand volleyball facility adjacent to marginal wharf in Jericho Park be discontinued (see site plan - Appendix A).

THAT the Board investigate alternate possibilities for a 12 court sand volleyball facility.

POLICY

Management of Volleyball on Vancouver's Beaches - 1998 Report.

BACKGROUND

The Vancouver Park Board is the primary provider of sand volleyball courts in the Lower Mainland. Volleyball on Vancouver beaches is primarily dedicated to casual or unorganized play. Organized volleyball is restricted to one night per week per site for league play and one tournament per site a month for tournament play. Unfortunately, this level of scheduling does not meet the demand for organized volleyball. Increasing the intensity/level of play would infringe on the enjoyment of the beach by others. To accommodate the excess demand for organized volleyball, staff proposed building an off beach sand court volleyball facility.

In May 2001, staff recommended and the Board approved proceeding with a community consultation process for a site at Jericho Park (see Appendix A). The proposed 12 court facility is approximately 0.6 ha or 2/3 the size of a soccer field. The Board's consultation process involves notifying various community groups and Park stakeholders of the proposal, posting a "facility proposal" sign on the site and holding a meeting in the community if required.

The Park Board is committed to community consultation when developing parkland. This commitment is highlighted in the Board's Strategic Plan - a goal of the Board is to provide opportunities for citizens, partners and stakeholders to influence policy and planning decisions.

DISCUSSION

Results from the Consultation Process

Three information signs were posted on the proposed site (mid July to mid August) and two public meetings were held on November 28/29, 2001. Since mid-July, the Board has received approximately 1,075 responses from the public of which 250 were in favour and 850 were opposed to the proposal. In addition, the Board received over 3,300 signatures on various petitions of which 116 were in favour and 3210 were opposed to the proposal (Appendix B).

Reasons given by those in favour of the proposal included:

- volleyball promotes a healthy lifestyle;
- the provision of active recreation facilities is within the Board's mandate;
- the existing volleyball facilities cannot accommodate the demand for organized play;
- demand for volleyball is expected to continue to increase;
- the majority of Jericho Park would remain passive.

Reasons given by those against the proposal included:

- the site not appropriate for such a facility - site is in a passive area of the park;
- the dedication of parkland for a single use facility with a limited season of play;
- noise and parking concerns;
- site will negatively impact the park's natural habitat;
- more appropriate to locate facility on the beach;
- volleyball is adequately served with existing facilities.

Evaluation of the Proposal

This proposal is a good example of the choices and decisions the Board faces when developing parkland: balancing active vs. passive recreation opportunities; city-wide vs. neighbourhood concerns; provision of facilities to meet the public's demand, etc. The results from the community consultation process indicate that there is strong resistance to this specific proposal. This particular site represents a prime waterfront location with a spectacular view. While the provision of sport facilities such as sand volleyball courts are within the Board's mandate, the consultation process indicated the community believes that volleyball is already allocated a good portion of prime waterfront in the general vicinity and that the remaining waterfront areas should be preserved and protected for more passive pursuits.

Alternate Sites

During the consultation process, a few individuals indicated that they would be willing to work with volleyball representatives and staff to investigate alternate locations for a sand court volleyball facility. These individuals were not against the facility but rather the proposed location. This offer was conditional if the original proposal is withdrawn. Volleyball representatives have agreed to sit on this committee if the Board does not support the original proposal. If an alternate site is proposed, the Board's community consultation process would again be followed.

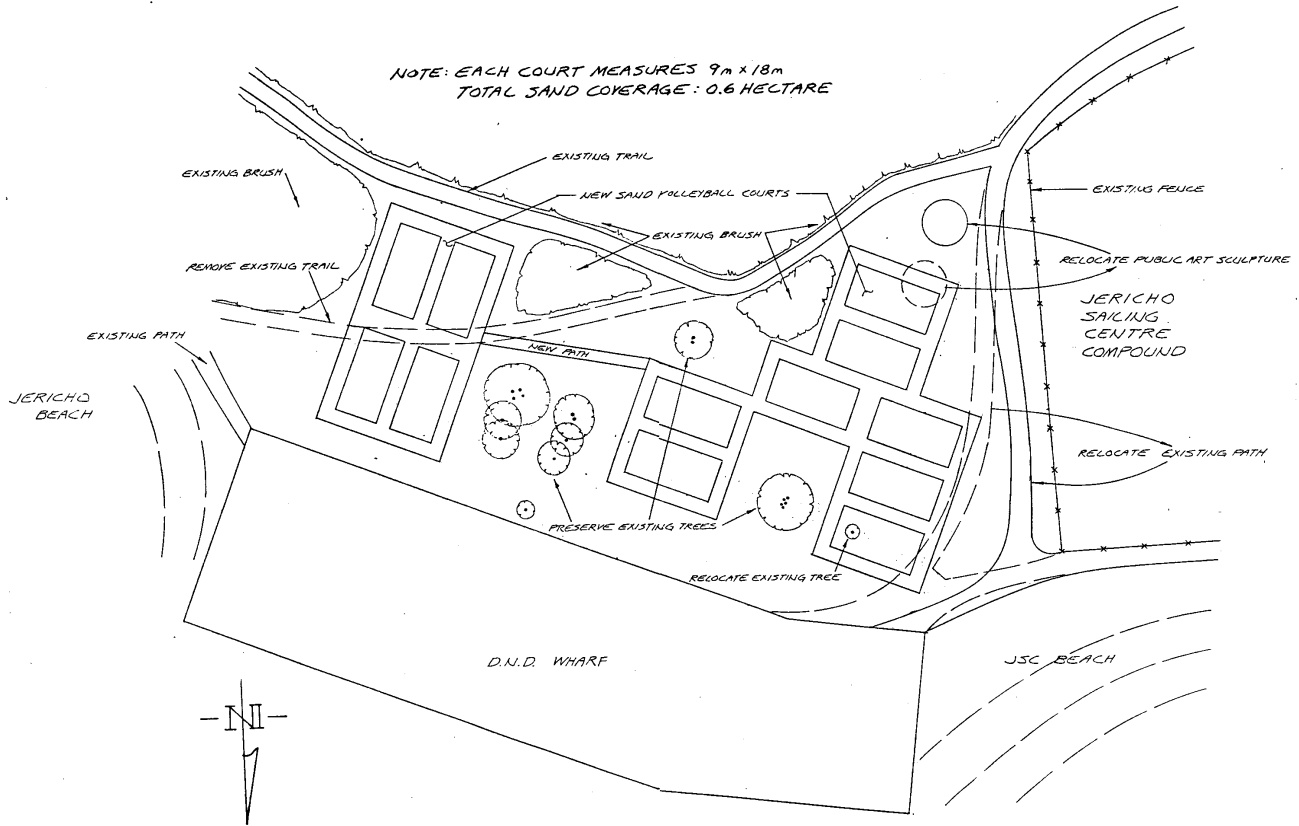
SUMMARY

Staff recognize that independent of site selection, a sand court volleyball facility will raise concerns with regards to dedication of park space to single use, the "seasonal" operation of the facility (five months) as well as the impact of the facility on the immediate neighbourhood (parking, noise, etc.). It should also be noted that the criteria previously outlined for site selection limits the number of potential sites and it may well prove that there is not a suitable site for such a facility within the Board's park system. However, staff do believe that the high demand for and limited supply of beach space will dictate that if the Board is to accommodate additional sand court play, it will be on "off beach" areas.

Prepared by:

Stanley District
Board of Parks & Recreation
Vancouver, BC
TW

Site Plan for Proposal Sand Court Volleyball Facility Jericho Park



**Sand Court Proposal - Jericho Park
Consultation Process Results**

	For	Against
Consultation Posting		
Mid July to Mid August		
Phone-ins	6	249
Faxes, e-mails, etc.	70	414
Sub-Total	76	663
Mid August to November		
Faxes, e-mails, phone-ins	76	51
Sub Total	76	51
Public Meetings		
November 28	17	48
November 29	1	5
Survey from Speakers List - not able to speak at meetings	62	39
Phone ins, faxes, e-mails	19	19
Sub-Total	99	111
Petitions		
Mid July to Mid August	59	1148
Mid August to November	57	2062
Sub-Total	116	3210
GRAND TOTAL	367	4035

