



Date: January 31, 2002

**TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation**  
**FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation**  
**SUBJECT: South Hill Sports Association Operating Agreement**

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

- A. THAT the Board enter into an operating agreement with the South Hill Sports Association (SHSA) to use the vacant caretaker' suite in the field house in South Memorial Park.**
- B. THAT the terms and conditions of the operating agreement include the following:**
- 1. SHSA shall be responsible for all costs associated with improvements to the fieldhouse**
  - 2. SHSA shall be responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the facility, including cleaning of the public washrooms**
  - 3. SHSA shall be responsible for ongoing operational costs including hydro and telephone**
  - 4. Park Board will be responsible for keeping public washrooms supplied with sanitary and cleaning products**
  - 5. The term of the Operating Agreement be 5 years, with an option for renewal at that time**

## **BACKGROUND**

South Hill Sports Association (SHSA) has operated a softball program at Memorial South Park for more than 40 years. They presently register 30 teams consisting of 24 men's teams and six women's teams primarily from the City of Vancouver.

A number of years ago SHSA approached the Park Board regarding the use of the unoccupied field house, which is located on the west side of the South Memorial Park beside by the playground. The field house is in disrepair and has been vacant since the mid 1990's. The original SHSA proposal was one of two redevelopment ideas that were under consideration at the time. The other proposal, involving a local childcare service provider, is no longer being pursued by that organization. The SHSA has since resubmitted it's proposal to do some much needed renovations to the building in exchange for the right to occupy the field house.

## **DISCUSSION**

The SHSA is proposing to do extensive renovations to the building which includes a caretaker's suite, storage rooms and public washrooms. Work will include the replacement of floors, exterior siding, replacement of broken windows, painting and general cleanup. All improvements will be undertaken under the supervision and approval of the Park Board. In return for this investment, SHSA wishes to put a caretaker in the building and have access to storage space. The caretaker will be responsible for opening, closing and cleaning the public washrooms, as is the practice in other park field houses. The caretaker will also be responsible for providing security for the SHSA clubhouse which is located a short distance away, at the large softball diamond in the middle of the park. The SHSA has agreed that the caretaker arrangement would be consistent with Park Board requirements and a standard caretaker agreement would be signed to this effect. SHSA is proposing to use the storage rooms in the field house for various sporting gear. They have indicated that other sport groups using the park would be welcome to use the storage rooms, as well.

The Vancouver East District Office has received a number of calls requesting the washrooms be considered for reopening. This is of most concern to people bringing young children to the playground. The washrooms that are open are situated on the other side of the park, too far away for parents to feel safe about letting young children go to the washroom on their own. These washrooms are very close to the playground. These washrooms would also be available to sports groups using the soccer field or ball diamond in that end of the park.

There are a number of advantages to entering into this arrangement with SHSA:

- the building will be renovated at no cost to the Park Board
- the washrooms will be available to the public
- the change room will be available to sports groups with scheduling done through the sports field co-ordinator and the SHSA
- South Memorial Park will have a second caretaker, increasing security

## **CONCLUSION**

The proposal by South Hill Sports Association will benefit the Park Board and park users. The life expectancy of the current fieldhouse will be extended as a result of the contribution of capital improvements and service to the general public and sports field users will be enhanced at no cost to the Park Board.

Prepared by:  
Vancouver East District Office