



Date: May 16, 2002

TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation
FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: VICTORY SQUARE - DESIGN CONCEPT UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board receive this report for information.

BACKGROUND

On April 22, 2002, the Board received a report to approve the design concept pending further public consultation and to give approval to the Friends of Victory Square to initiate fundraising for the redevelopment of the park.

The main elements of the final design concept are:

- (a) that the proposed helmet lighting be shown at the cenotaph plaza level;
- (b) that a designated skateboarding element or feature be conceptually located in the park;
- (c) that at least one pathway be shown as curving to reflect the present pathway layout; and
- (d) that the location of the center stairway leading from the upper park area to the cenotaph be retained.

DISCUSSION

Since April 22, 2002, the design process has been going ahead with a public meeting. It was held April 27, 2002 at Vancouver Community College. It was attended by approximately 15 people. Generally, comments were favourable and no revisions to the concept were required. However, staff held a separate meeting with DERA representatives and a representative from the Skateboarding Coalition as they were not represented at the public meeting and had previously expressed concerns related to the skateboard element proposed in the park. The concerns expressed are:

- (1) potential conflicts between skateboarders and pedestrians on the pathways;
- (2) use of other parts of the park to skateboard;
- (3) graffiti; and
- (4) liability in case of accidents.

Following the meeting, it was agreed by all representatives of this project that a trial programme for the skateboarding feature be initiated on a temporary basis this summer along with the other proposed programmes to be tried out in the park. The proposal is to temporarily install a bench used by skateboarders for jumping. If it results in complaints from residents, local businesses and other park users, the element will be removed from the park and will not be developed as part of the next phase of design development drawings. A final design will be brought back to the Board following the outcome of the trial skateboarding feature.

Fundraising for the upgrade of the park is proceeding utilizing this conceptual plan with the first fundraising event occurring on June 7th, 2002.

CONCLUSION

Staff have worked quickly on the design process in order to develop this concept for use as a fundraiser by the Friends of Victory Square. Outside of the previously approved lighting budget, there is no approved budget for the upgrade of the park at this time. The concept will be revised in the Fall pending the outcome of the skateboarding trial and then will be developed in further detail when funding has been determined and approved.

Prepared by:

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attachment