



Date: April 16, 2003

TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation
FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Mount Pleasant Family Centre Society Capital Grant
2910 St George Street

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT the Board receive the attached Council Report titled “Capital Grant for Mount Pleasant Family Centre” for information.**
- B. THAT the Board approve the proposed expansion of the Mount Pleasant Family Centre by 250 sq. ft. as illustrated in the Council Report- Appendix “A”.**

BACKGROUND

Mount Pleasant Family Centre Society currently leases space for a nominal rent from the Park Board at 2910 St. George Street located on the north west corner of Robson Park. The building, constructed in 1931 has been leased by the Society since 1980.

In 1998, the Society approached the Park Board to significantly increase the area of the building by way of an addition. Staff advised the Society that Mount Pleasant was park deficient and that any addition to the building would need to be achieved without increasing the building's footprint.

The Society has since reduced the size of their proposed addition to 250 SF and has proposed situating the addition over the existing rear vestibule of the building which will not increase the building's footprint on the site. The Society has received from the City, funding of \$30,000 for costs associated with the addition. Council approved this funding at their meeting of April 8, 2003, subject to the Park Board approving this project. The motion passed was as follows:

“THAT Council approve a Capital Grant of \$30,000 to Mount Pleasant Family Centre Society to assist in the expansion and renovation of the City-owned facility at 2901 St George Street, Subject to approval of this project by the Park Board; source of funds is the 2002 Capital Plan.”

The Society's primary mission to the community is that of a family resource centre. A four day drop-in program for care givers and their children is provided with a fifth day programmed for more structured activities. Adult care giver programming occurs primarily on the first floor during which time supervised childcare is provided on the second floor of the building. Popularity of the Centre has increased to the extent that families are restricted in the number of visits per week due to lack of space. .

DISCUSSION

The Mount Pleasant Family Centre appears to be a well utilized facility that is short of space. The addition proposed would increase the area of the second floor specifically for children's supervised play programs. This will help alleviate some of the crowding and congestion the Centre experiences due to the number of programs the Society offers to the residents of the Mount Pleasant area.

SUMMARY

The proposed addition to the building, as illustrated in the attached Council report Appendix "A" will not increase the buildings footprint and as such will not decrease the amount of park space in the Mount Pleasant neighbourhood. Staff will continue to work with the Mount Pleasant Society in their planning of the addition. Final design details of the addition and the construction to be to the satisfaction of the General Manager.

The Society funds all costs associated with the operation and maintenance of the building. The proposed addition will not affect this arrangement. The lease for the building is up for review/renewal in 2003.

Prepared by:

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jms/vs