



Date: April 07, 2003

TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation
FROM: Planning and Environment Committee
SUBJECT: Sunrise Park Play Field Upgrade

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT the Board approve the upgrading of the diamond and soccer field at Sunrise Park to include a full size baseball diamond and a drained and irrigated soccer field.**
- B. THAT the Board transfer \$150,000 from the New Brighton Capital account to upgrade the baseball and soccer fields at Sunrise Park.**
- C. THAT the New Brighton Park Concept Plan (1998) be updated in consultation with the local community.**
- D. THAT the Board consider additional funding for the next phases of the updated New Brighton Park Concept Plan to be included in 2006-08 Capital Plan.**

POLICY

Board approval is required for the re-allocation of Capital funds over \$50,000.

On February 10, 2003, the Board approved \$80,000 towards this project to be funded from the 2003 Capital Budget/Playing Field Account.

BACKGROUND

The Planning and Environment Committee heard delegations from the Hastings Little League, Vancouver Field Sports Federation and the Hastings Community Centre Association on the history and issues surrounding the proposed baseball diamond and field improvement at Sunrise Park.

The reconstruction of Empire Bowl included two soccer fields and two softball fields which were planned in consultation with staff, the Hastings Conservancy and the Hastings Little League. Based on the Hastings Park Restoration Plan, the League had expected the installation of baseball diamonds at Empire Bowl. However, there was insufficient room to accommodate the larger sized baseball

diamonds and consequently the new facility included softball diamonds. In consultation with Hastings Little League, Sunrise Park was identified as a potential location for a baseball diamond.

Four-hundred flyers explaining the proposed improvements to the soccer and baseball diamond were distributed in the neighbourhood around Sunrise Park in April 2002 and no negative feedback was received.

New Brighton Park was expanded and upgraded in 1999-2001. Phase I was completed and there is \$342,366 remaining in the New Brighton capital account. There were two low bids during the construction phase, which generated this surplus over the projected budget.

DISCUSSION

The Hastings Little League have expressed their concern regarding the inability to accommodate baseball at Empire Bowl and are still looking for a location for a baseball diamond in the northeast quadrant of Vancouver. In response to this staff have researched and evaluated a number of sites in the vicinity of Empire Bowl which are large enough to accommodate a full-size diamond. Sunrise Park was deemed best able to accommodate this facility. The project (see Diagram 1) would involve the removal of the existing backstop and the replacement of it with a baseball backstop with a 300 feet outfield. To accommodate the outfield, some fill material has to be brought in and a set of existing swings needs to be relocated.

The existing soccer field which overlaps with the baseball field is proposed to be drained and irrigated to provide a better quality field.

It is anticipated that design of the diamond would begin in late spring and construction in the summer of 2003. The fields would be ready for use in the summer of 2004.

The cost of the upgrade is estimated to be \$230,000 and reconstruction of the baseball and soccer field would include, improved growing medium, new turf, sub-surface drainage, new backstop and an automatic irrigation system. The Vancouver Field Sport Federation recommend the proposed plan (see attachment) and the use of \$80,000 from the 2003 Playing Field Account, as previously approved by the Board.

The Hastings Community Centre Association did not want to see the implementation of the New Brighton Park concept plan jeopardized by a transfer of capital funds and to this end, the Planning and Environment Committee recommends that the New Brighton Concept Plan be updated, priorities for current and future capital funds be identified, and that the Board consider including additional funds for improvements in the 2006-08 Capital Plan. The Committee notes that future funding for New Brighton Park needs to be considered as part of the formulation of the 2006-08 Capital Plan, which will take place in 2005. The Committee acknowledged that the minimum amount to be considered should be at least \$150,000.

The Committee thus recommend that \$150,000 be re-allocated from the New Brighton capital account to facilitate the Sunrise Park field upgrade.

SUMMARY

With approval to use \$150,000 of the remaining New Brighton funds and with the community's acceptance of the proposed plan a new baseball diamond and full-size soccer field can be built at Sunrise Park. A balance of \$192,366 will remain in the New Brighton account for future improvements.

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attach

PR/cbl