



Date: July 10, 2003

**TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation**  
**FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation**  
**SUBJECT: 2010 OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES AND PARALYMPIC GAMES**

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

*THAT The Board send a letter of appreciation to the 2010 Bid Corporation for their outstanding work in securing the 2010 Winter Olympics and Paralympics.*

## **POLICY**

*There is no Board policy directly related to this matter.*

## **BACKGROUND**

On July 2, 2003 Vancouver was selected to host the 2010 Winter Olympics and Paralympics. The Bid Corporation's success was the result of many years of dedication and planning involving numerous stakeholders including the Park Board. A number of the proposed facilities and facility upgrades are located on permanent parks and on Hastings Park, where the Board has a significant interest.

The Vancouver 2010 Bid Corporation will now be replaced by the Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games (OCOG) to refine and implement the plans outlined in the Bid Book. The OCOG Board of Directors is made up of representatives from various sports and government organizations including two from the City of Vancouver. This report provides an overview of the Park Board's role in realizing portions of the commitments made through various venue agreements during the Bid process. These agreements have been approved and/or endorsed by the Board previously.

## **DISCUSSION**

Two major sites are earmarked for Olympic venues: Figure Skating and Short Track Speed Skating at Hastings Park and Curling at Hillcrest/Nat Bailey Stadium Park. The Olympic agreements provide for a significant legacy of infrastructure renewal, including two community centres, up to three rinks and significant improvements to the Coliseum, Agrodome, and Rollerland.

A brief overview of the venues follows.

### **Hastings Park**

The Coliseum will be the venue for figure skating and for short track speed skating. The nearby Agrodome will function as a practice facility for these sports. The Rollerland building, immediately south of the Coliseum, will be used to house functions relating to the staging of activities in the Coliseum.

The required renovations to these buildings are primarily infra structural in nature. In other words it is not intended to create significant additional recreation spaces. The large infusion of funds will however ensure that these facilities will have updated heating, ventilation, plumbing, and lighting, allowing them to continue to offer, with increased efficiency and well into the future, accommodation for events and recreation. The ice surfaces of the Coliseum and Agrodome will be increased in size to international standards, and can revert to the North-American format after the Games.

Should the City invest \$ 5million in the Hillcrest Curling Facility, OCOG will provide an equal amount towards the replacement of the Hastings Community Centre. OCOG also has a requirement for a temporary practice rink for short track skating at Hastings Park. Under the agreements the City/Park Board can at their choice provide a third rink at or adjacent to Hastings Park. In that case OCOG's funding for the temporary rink (\$2.5 million) can be part towards the City/Park Board cost of building a third permanent rink. A feasibility study needs to be undertaken to determine whether a combined community centre/ice rink can be retrofitted in the existing Forum Building. The long term retention of the four buildings (Coliseum, Agrodome, Rollerland, Forum) is consistent with the approved Hastings Park Restoration Plan. Total investment in Hastings Park facilities could be as high as \$38 million.

### **Hillcrest/Nat Bailey Stadium Park**

The curling venue is to be constructed in the Hillcrest/Nat Bailey Stadium Park locale. The Games require five curling sheets, seating for 5000 to 6000 spectators, and the required support space and infrastructure for athletes, VIPs, media, and public.

An attractive building design has been developed, which, as the Olympic curling venue provides 5 curling sheets and spectator seating for up to 6000 people. After the Olympics the curling venue will be converted to provide following legacy functions:

- 8 to 10 sheets of curling ice, intended to replace the Vancouver Curling Club and possibly the Marpole Curling Club's needs. The Vancouver and Marpole Curling Clubs lease their facilities from the Park Board and City respectively.
- A new rink to replace the 36 year old rink currently located at Riley Park Community Centre.
- A new community centre to replace the Riley Park Community Centre.

The legacy facility, illustrated in Diagram 1, is about 10776 m<sup>2</sup> (116,000 square feet) in size. The siting of the facility was defined to be between the existing Nat Bailey Stadium and the Vancouver Racquets Club. The agreement provides for the Board updating its Master Plan for the Hillcrest/Nat Bailey/Riley Park area with a final building site location to be confirmed to OCOG no later than July 31, 2005. Total investment at this location is \$28 million.

A community based planning study will need to be undertaken between now and then. Such a Master Plan update would also have to address the siting of the new Percy Norman Pool, identify the scale and nature of investments required to retain Nat Bailey Stadium, the associated traffic and parking impacts associated with the various project components, urban design and neighbourhood park protection. Staff intend to report back on the terms of reference for the Master Plan update in the coming months.

### **Practise Rink Facility**

The Venue agreements provide for OCOG to contribute \$2.5 million towards the upgrading of either the Killarney or Trout Lake rink as a practice venue. The size of the ice would have to be international size for the Olympics and then revert to NHL size ice. A minimal seating requirement of 250 seats is called for. The Board has until January 31, 2006 to advise OCOG of its choice. Total expected investment is \$5 million.

Staff believe that a decision needs to be taken in respect to the preferred location. The Killarney Pool project currently underway provides some opportunities that should be evaluated. The joint construction of a pool and rink complex could generate significant cost savings in design and construction, and furthermore energy related savings during the operation of the buildings. These potential factors need to be quantified and weighed against considerations of community investment equity, relative building condition and immediate funding availability. Staff, with some consulting assistance, will undertake work over the summer months in order to bring a report back early in the fall so that the Board can consider whether Trout Lake or Killarney is the preferred site.

Design work on Killarney Pool will continue through to development of a schematic design for the Board's approval in September.

### **Financial Implications**

The Olympic Games provide unprecedented opportunity for infrastructure renewal of sports and community recreation facilities. The various agreements provide for the City/Park Board to invest up to \$15 million, which will result in a \$71 million sports and recreation infrastructure renewal program, with the balance of \$ 56 million to be funded by the Provincial and Federal governments through OCOG.

Diagram 2 illustrates the various funding and renewal options available to the Board and the City. Many of the City/Park Board commitments would need to be funded in the 2006-08 Capital Plan and the Olympic Games have effectively cast a good portion of the Park Board's facility renewal priorities to be included in the next Capital Plan.

### **SUMMARY**

Careful planning in the Bid phase of the Olympic Games has positioned the Board to capture significant sport and community recreation legacies which will benefit the athletic and recreation needs of the Board and its partners and stakeholders. The Olympic Games will be a dominant factor in the Board's emerging facility renewal agenda. Between now and 2010 the Board is expected to deal with a great many issues related to staging the Olympic Games. In the short term the Board will receive reports on the choice of Practice Rink and the terms of reference for the Hillcrest/Nat Bailey/Riley Parks Master plan update.

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