



Date: March 1, 2004

TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation
FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT: 2004 OPERATING BUDGET: INTERIM ESTIMATES

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board receive for information the City 2004 Operating Budget Interim Estimates Report, which includes the proposed 2004 Park Board Basic and Added Basic Budgets.

BACKGROUND

The Park Board 2004 Interim Basic and Added Basic Budget has been completed by staff using the normal rules under the Global Budget methodology.

DISCUSSION

On March 11, 2004, the City Director of Finance will bring the Interim Estimates of the City 2004 Operating Budget to Council for recommendation. The attached report indicates a shortfall that would require a property tax increase of 3.45% to support current programs, and outlines a number of initiatives that would allow Council to approve a budget with a lower tax increase.

This report also includes the Interim 2004 Park Board Global Budget of \$49,003,900 including approximately \$493,800 of Added Basic and one-time adjustments in the Park Board estimates. However, this amount excludes any reductions to be approved by Council to balance the 2004 Operating Budget.

A tax rate increase of 2.68%, as recommended in the attached report, would involve minimal change to the 2004 Park Board budget. The New and Non-Recurring (NNR) Budget would be reduced to \$462,500 from \$740,000 and the Park Board would be expected to provide \$87,500 of efficiencies for a City total of \$1,000,000 in efficiencies not impacting staff or the public.

If Council wishes to further reduce the tax rate to 2.00%, there are a number of options recommended in the report which would impact the Park Board Budget.

SUMMARY

The Interim estimates for the 2004 Basic Operating Budget reflect the current programs provided by the Park Board in 2004 dollars. The Added Basic Budget represents new operating costs associated with the capital additions to the Park Board. All capital additions have been approved by both the Park Board and City Council. The Interim 2004 Budget estimate has been prepared in accordance with established City budget guidelines and is included in the attached council report, which the Board receives for information.

Prepared by:

Corporate Services
Board of Parks and Recreation
City of Vancouver