



Date: September 3, 2004

TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation
FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Vancouver School Board - Letter of Agreement to Extend Use of a Portion of Sunset Park

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board authorize the General Manager to sign a Letter of Agreement with the Board of School Trustees of School District #39 (Vancouver) extending the lease of a portion of Sunset Park for an additional 3 years to June 30, 2007 under the same terms and conditions.

BACKGROUND

The 20 year lease at \$1/year that permits the Vancouver School Board to use the playfield area of Sunset Park during the school day has expired. Over the next several years changes to this park will be occurring in conjunction with the construction of the new Sunset Community Centre on Main Street.

DISCUSSION

This use of approximately 5 acres of Sunset Park by the Vancouver School Board began in June 1984. During this lease period the students of John Henderson Elementary School have had access to this portion of the park from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm on school days for various school programs and unstructured play. The field is available to the Park Board evenings, weekends and during the summer months. Any special school events outside of the identified school day are also given priority consideration.

In discussions with staff from Vancouver School Board we identified that Sunset Park, based on the construction of a new Community Centre and the demolition of the existing facility, would be undergoing changes over the next several years. Further planning of the park is required. It is anticipated that construction of the new Community Centre will be completed in 2006 and any further changes to the park site would occur beyond that time.

In order to permit the continuation of the Vancouver School Board's use of this playfield area in the interim, staff are proposing a 3 year extension of the existing lease confirmed through a Letter of Agreement between the two parties. This Letter would confirm the commitment to the same terms and conditions as the previous arrangement. The Vancouver School Board would also be involved in discussions on the future use of the park. Staff would consider continuing the long standing co-operative relationship between the two organizations in the use of this park for children during the work of updating the plan for the park. The Vancouver School Board has considered and accepted this extension and proposed Letter of Agreement.

CONCLUSION

An interim 3 year extension of the Vancouver School Board's use of a portion of Sunset Park will permit sufficient time to implement the relocation of the Community Centre and update the plan for the park.

Partnerships with the Vancouver School Board adjacent to park sites have provided positive benefits to both school and local communities.

SUMMARY

Staff are recommending that a Letter of Agreement signed by the General Manager on behalf of the Board extend the current arrangements with the Vancouver School Board to use a portion of Sunset Park for an additional 3 years to June 30, 2007.

Prepared by:

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