



Date: December 3, 2004

TO: Board Members – Parks and Recreation

FROM: General Manager – Parks and Recreation

**SUBJECT: Park at Fraser Street & 8th Avenue:
Dedication for Lane Purposes**

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Board support the dedication of a 2.5 feet strip for lane purposes from two lots (2398 Fraser Street (PID: 023-988-321 Lot G Block 107 District Lot 264A Group 1 New Westminster District Plan LMP36132) and 702 East 7th Avenue (PID: 002-608-375 Lot 1 Block 107 District Lot 264A Plans 281 and 1771)) that form part of the park at Fraser Street and 7th/8th Avenues, in order to increase the lane width from 15 feet to the standard lane width of 20 feet.

POLICY

Although not a formal policy, the long-standing practice of the Park Board is to support dedication of strips of park land or the granting of statutory right-of-ways through parks for transportation and/or infrastructure purposes, as long as the review concludes that the outcome is in the public interest.

BACKGROUND

Between 1985 and 2001, the Park Board and the City purchased 14 lots in the vicinity of Fraser Street and 7th/8th Avenues in order to create a new park in park-deficient Mount Pleasant. Fraser Street between 7th and 8th Avenues, as well as portions of the east-west lane located between 7th and 8th Avenues, were closed to vehicular traffic and incorporated into the green space.

The soon-to-be-named park, which was built incrementally over the years, is now complete and includes a children's playground, a community garden, a small plaza, walking paths and lawn.

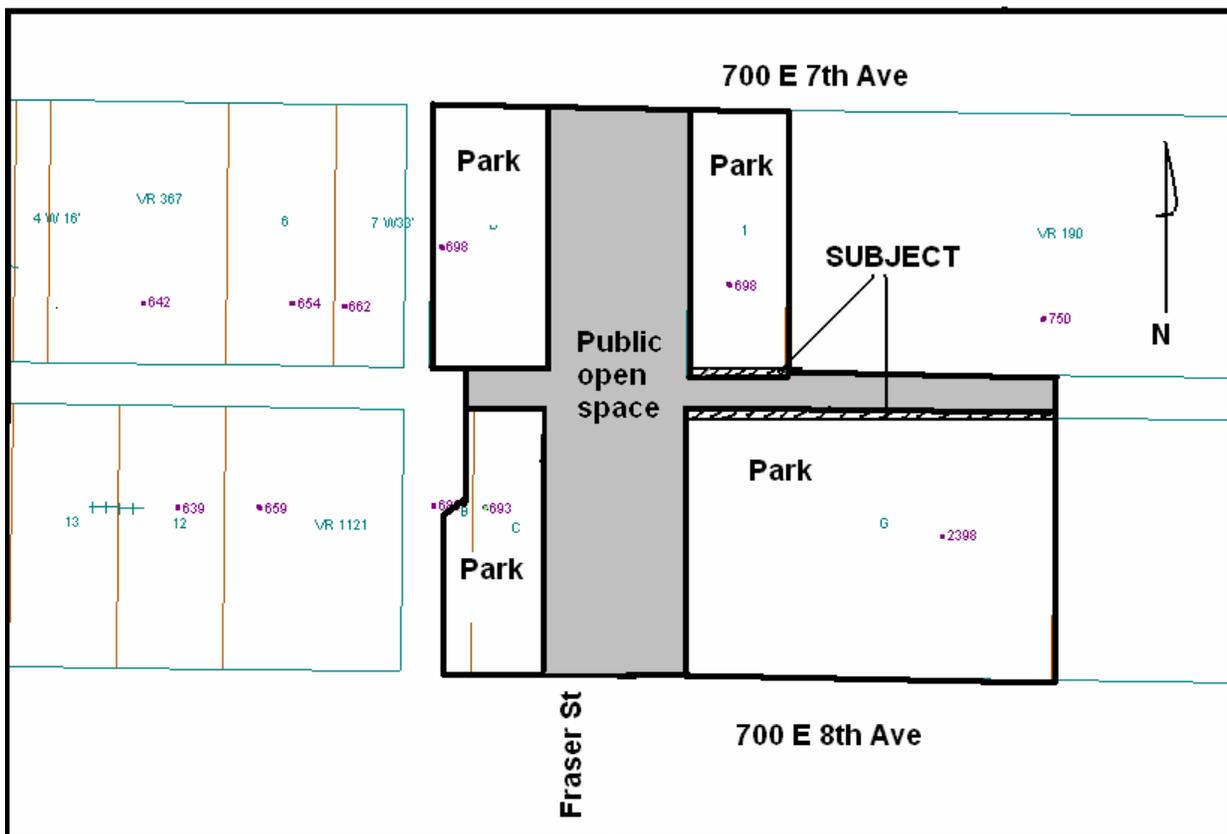


DISCUSSION

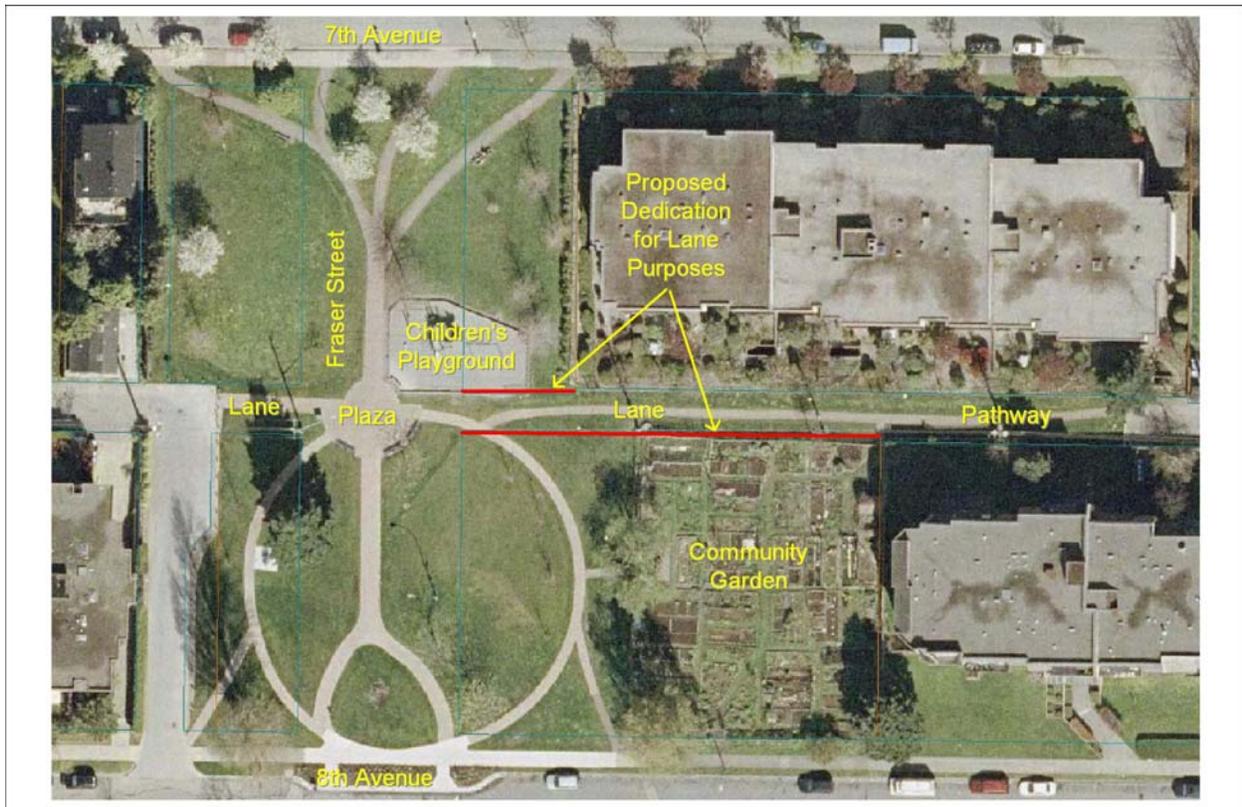
The east-west lane between 7th and 8th Avenues in the 700 block (between Fraser and Prince Albert Streets) currently varies in width. The lane was originally 15 feet wide. Over time, the Engineering Department has been getting property owners to dedicate 2.5 feet of their lot for lane purposes, in order to achieve a standard 20 foot wide lane.

To date, the Park Board has not dedicated the 2.5 feet sought by the Engineering Department for the two park properties in this block (2398 Fraser Street (PID: 023-988-321 Lot G Block 107 District Lot 264A Group 1 New Westminster District Plan LMP36132) and 702 East 7th Avenue (PID: 002-608-375 Lot 1 Block 107 District Lot 264A Plans 281 and 1771)).

The Park Board is seeking for Council to designate this park a “permanent park”. Prior to this request being considered, the Engineering Department is requiring that a 2.5 foot wide strip be dedicated for lane purposes for each of the two park properties (refer to “subject” land identified on plan below). If approved, a total of 543 square feet of park land would be dedicated for lane purposes.



Park Board staff has reviewed the proposal. Widening the lane will not affect the park for the foreseeable future because most of the lane (about 275 feet in length) is currently used as green space, which includes a pedestrian path (see plan below). There are no plans to remove this feature and to allow vehicles in the lane.



In the future, if ever there is a need to allow vehicles in the lane, a discussion involving Engineering, Park Board and the residents in the neighbourhood will be initiated.

If Park Board approves the recommendation contained in this report, a report will be brought forward for Council's consideration.

SUMMARY

Prior to Council's consideration of a request to designate the park at Fraser Street and 7th/8th Avenues a "permanent park", the Park Board is asked to support the dedication of 2.5 feet of land on two lots that form part of this park. Staff have reviewed the request and recommend that the Board support the dedication.

Prepared by:

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MD