

Date: July 9, 2009



TO: Board Members – Vancouver Park Board
FROM: General Manager – Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Kitsilano Beach Playground

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT the Board approve the upgrading of the Kitsilano Beach playground to an accessible playground in partnership with the Legacies Now Society and other funding partners.*
- B. THAT the Board authorize the General Manager to enter into the necessary agreements with the Legacies Now Society and other funders, as outlined in this report.*

POLICY

Board approves park redevelopments and significant agreements with third parties.

BACKGROUND

The Kitsilano Playground is on the Board's list of playgrounds needing significant upgrading and/or replacement, and it was included in the 2006-08 Capital Plan.

Originally a conventional upgrade was anticipated, but through an initiative spearheaded by the Legacies Now Society (LNS) an opportunity has arisen to not only replace existing equipment, but also augment the playground to become fully accessible to people of all abilities. The proposed site of the playground is intended to be the approximate site of the current playground. (See Diagram 1)

The purpose of this report is for the Board to approve the concept of a universally accessible playground at that location and authorize the General Manager to negotiate and execute the necessary agreements, with the partners.

DISCUSSION

Partnership

Legacies Now Society is an agency set up by the Province of British Columbia to deliver Legacies prior to the 2010 Winter Games. For about one year the Society has been involved in a project creating universally accessible playgrounds in Whistler, Richmond and Vancouver. The projects are to be funded by LNS as well as a number of charitable organizations such as the Rick Hansen Foundation (RHF), Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC), and Municipality and the Provincial Government.

LNS was recently successful in putting together a partnership among these groups with the Province contributing \$250,000, the Park Board up to \$100,000 and the two charities RMHC (\$100,000) and RHF (\$50,000) respectively.

A further partner in the group is Shane's Inspiration, a California based charity that specializes in designing universally accessible playgrounds. This charity will offer its design expertise to the development of a concept plan as an in kind contribution. Staff have reviewed Shane's work and are satisfied with their credentials.

While the concept design is to be undertaken by Shane's Inspiration, design development, contract documentation and site review will be undertaken by a local landscape architect, yet to be selected, to ensure compliance with local codes and Park Board standards.

The Park Board's contribution to the project is the site, a project manager, \$100,000 from its playground capital account and ongoing operation and maintenance of the playground.

Agreements

In terms of agreements there will be three related to the donation and services rendered in kind.

- 1) Legacies Now
- 2) Rick Hansen Foundation
- 3) Shane's Inspiration

The first two agreements deal with the receipt of the donation, design review and recognition, while the third is a standard consultant agreement, except that no fees are payable. Recognition of the partner contribution would be consistent with the Park Board naming and recognition policies and guidelines.

Process and Timetable

The design and public process for the playground upgrade will be done in the fall of 2009 with an enhanced level of community involvement to ensure the inclusion of interested

residents as well as people of differing abilities. Design is to be completed prior to the 2010 Winter Games.

Construction will start in the spring of 2010, with completion and official opening during the summer of 2010.

SUMMARY

This report recommends the upgrading of an existing playground at Kitsilano Beach into a universally accessible playground. The project is a partnership among Legacies Now, three charities and the Park Board. The playground is expected to set new standards of excellence in playground accessibility.

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