

Date: April 8, 2010



TO: Board Members – Vancouver Park Board
FROM: General Manager – Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: First Tee Youth Golf – Host Facility Agreement

RECOMMENDATION

- A. That the Board approve the Host Facility Agreement for the use of Fraserview Golf Course by the First Tee of Metro Vancouver/YMCA for the First Tee Youth Golf Program based on the terms identified in this report.*
- B. That all legal documentation is to be in a form which is satisfactory to the Director of Legal Services for the City of Vancouver and the General Manager and*
- C. That the General Manager be authorized to execute and deliver such documentation on behalf of the Board.*

BACKGROUND

The Park Board offers many opportunities for youth to participate in the game of golf. To encourage youth play, the Board offers discounts on green fees, supports various youth golf programs and provides lessons programs through the contracted golf professionals. Youth participants in golf number well over 5000. Staff presented a Youth Golf report to the Park Board Planning Committee in 2006, discussing the possibility of establishing a new program called “The First Tee”. Further work in 2008 and a presentation to the Planning and Environment Committees in March 2010 have moved this concept forward.

The First Tee, an initiative of the World Golf Foundation, was created in 1997 to introduce young people of all backgrounds to the game of golf and the life lessons it teaches. Through the First Tee life skills experience, a curriculum for teaching character education through specific life skills, children and teenagers around the world discover how the skills essential to success on the golf course can help them flourish in life. These skills include self-management, interpersonal communication, goal setting, and mentoring and effective conflict resolution. The life skills experience sets the First Tee apart from other junior golf programs and youth initiatives, and ultimately hopes to instill in participants the First Tee nine core values; honesty, integrity, sportsmanship, respect, confidence, responsibility, perseverance, courtesy and judgment.

A Typical First Tee Program

A First Tee junior golf program is designed to be both fun and educational. First Tee participants are offered six lessons in each of the three levels of the program. The three levels offered are “Par” (beginners), “Birdie” (intermediate) and “Eagle” (advanced). At each lesson, participants are taught the fundamentals of golf, as well as, valuable life skill lessons. All lessons are taught by qualified golf professionals, and all necessary equipment is provided. The program is subsidized and designed to be accessible to children and youth aged 7 to 17.

The program is flexible and is being successfully operated out of different types of facilities that range from pitch and putt to championship golf courses. Facilities are required to have a classroom, driving range area and accessibility to a golf course.

First Tee Program Requirements

The YMCA of Greater Vancouver and the Kids First Sport Foundation, have submitted an application to establish a First Tee Chapter that would operate out of Vancouver Park Board’s Fraserview Golf Course. There are a number of requirements and commitments that are necessary to make this program a reality.

The delivery of the First Tee Youth Golf program will be done through the partnership alliance between the YMCA of Greater Vancouver (the operating charity) and Kids First Sport Foundation. The Chapter will be known as First Tee of Metro Vancouver/YMCA or FTMV/Y.

The YMCA of Greater Vancouver and the Kids First Sport Foundation are collectively responsible for raising funds for the chapter. To date the committee has raised almost \$90,000 for the benefit of operating this program.

To establish a chapter and to provide the program, First Tee also requires a commitment to provide access to a golf course with classroom facilities and a driving range. Fraserview Golf Course will be the initial site with a Host Facility Agreement defining the course and the program operator’s commitments.

DISCUSSION

The Host Facility Agreement confirms the roles and responsibilities of the FTMV/Y and the Park Board in operating the First Tee Program at Fraserview Golf Course.

In general the FTMV/Y will:

- conduct the program
- collect fees from participants and pay the costs for the program including instructions, facility use, equipment and administration
- advertise, market and promote the program

- insure and indemnify the program and the participants to the satisfaction of the City of Vancouver's Risk Management group

As the Facility Host, the Park Board's Fraserview Golf course will:

- provide and maintain the course, driving range and practice areas and charge fees for the facilities which reflect youth rates
- collaborate with Golf Course professionals who will be used as program instructors

The Host Facility agreement will be for an initial term of five years – May 1, 2010 to May 1, 2015 but may be renewed at the Park Board's option for 2 additional 5 year terms.

Annually a report will be provided to the Board on the outcomes of the program including the number of participants, the number of program hours and the annual revenues. Any capital investment undertaken by FTMV/Y will be recognized in extending this agreement. There will also be an annual review of the agreement and each party will have a timed option to terminate the agreement prior to the end of the term.

Other administrative terms such as maintenance of records, dispute resolution, logistics of transactions, student identification cards etc. are also included.

SUMMARY

The First Tee Program, a recognized youth education program teaching both golf and life skills, has been endorsed by the Board in 2008 and is proposed to be offered at Fraserview Golf Course beginning in the summer of 2010. An agreement to use Fraserview Golf Course as the host facility has been developed and is being recommended for approval. The general terms of the agreement are identified in this report.

Prepared by:
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LM/gt