



Date: January 4, 2012

TO: Board Members – Vancouver Park Board
FROM: General Manager – Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Harbourview Daycare – Burrardview Park Lease Renewal

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT the Board enter into a lease with the Kiwassa Neighbourhood Services Association for a portion of Burrardview Park for a term of five years plus two five year renewal options from February 1, 2012 to February 1, 2027.*
- B. THAT once the form of the lease has been approved by the General Manager and the Director of Legal Services, that the General Manager be authorized to execute the document on behalf of the Board.*

POLICY

On October 23, 1990, City Council approved the Civic Childcare Strategy, committing the City to being an active partner with senior governments, parents, the private sector and community in developing and maintaining a comprehensive childcare system in Vancouver. An action plan was adopted as part of this strategy directing staff to secure childcare facilities as a condition of rezoning land.

On April 23, 2002, Council approved "Moving Forward Childcare: A Cornerstone of Childhood Development", which set out a strategic plan for the integration of childcare and child development services within a hub framework for the City.

In June of 2003 a protocol for the maintenance and expansion of childcare services in the City of Vancouver was approved:

WHEREAS accessible, affordable, and quality childcare is essential to the health and well-being of the City of Vancouver's children and families;

AND WHEREAS child development and childcare play a crucial role in the economic stability of our City;

AND WHEREAS it is critical that all levels of government, including those at the local level, and the private sector, take an active partnership in ensuring successful child development opportunities;

AND WHEREAS the City of Vancouver has been a leader at the municipal level on the issue of childcare;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Vancouver commit to working in collaboration with the Park Board and School Board to maintain and expand childcare services in the City;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that city staff organizes a policy forum for City, Park Board and School Board elected representatives and staff to develop a process to achieve these ends.

In response to this motion the Park Board also passed a similar motion to support these key principles.

In December of 2011, the Board and City Council approved motions that directed staff to reinstate the Joint Council on Childcare and renew its goals and previously adopted Terms of Reference along with an objective of an increase of 500 childcare spaces, at a minimum, in the next three years.

BACKGROUND

As per the policies, the City and the Park Board support a framework for a coordinated comprehensive range of child development services which includes early childhood education, childcare as well as parenting/care giving services and support. The City is also committed to the development and maintenance of a childcare system based upon the principles of quality, affordability, and accessibility. While neither the City nor the Park Board directly operates these services, both provide opportunities for not-for-profit societies to deliver such services.

Burrardview Park is a 2.76 hectare neighbourhood park located in the Hastings – Sunrise community. Since 1974, a local not-for-profit service provider - the Kiwassa Neighbourhood Services Association, has provided licensed childcare services from a portable structure located in the south west section of the park. The program provided 25 spaces for 3 to 5 year-old children and the facility and program operated at no cost to the Park Board.

In September of 2010, the Park Board approved an expansion of the building to accommodate 32, 3-5 year olds in two groups of 16 in a one-level, renovated building (at no cost to the Board). The total park land dedicated for the Harbourview Daycare use is approximately 6,500 square feet.

DISCUSSION

The Kiwassa Neighbourhood Services Association has been providing quality services to the community for over 35 years. The Association has fulfilled its mandate under the existing lease and their programs continue to support children and families in the Hastings Sunrise community.

Staff are recommending an agreement for 5 years plus two 5 year renewal options. As owners of the building, this will allow the Association to secure tenure at the site to continue operations for the benefit of the community. This term is also consistent with other agreements that the Park Board/City has with not-for-profit operators of daycare facilities.

The lease will include terms and conditions similar to those of the previous lease, except for the length of the term, and include:

- A. \$10 per year lease fee
- B. use of the facility
- C. insurance and indemnification requirements
- D. Association to maintain, repair and pay for all operating costs associated with the facility
- E. termination clause to cover various situations

SUMMARY

This lease agreement meets the City of Vancouver's commitment to the development and maintenance of a comprehensive childcare system based upon the principles of quality, affordability, and accessibility.

Prepared by:
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