



VANCOUVER  
BOARD OF  
PARKS AND  
RECREATION

February 28, 2025

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Director, Park Planning and Development

SUBJECT : **Kitsilano Secondary School Synthetic Turf Field Lights Update – Board Briefing Memo**

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Dear Commissioners,

The purpose of this memo is to provide background information and a status update on the proposed installation of high mast field lights at the Kitsilano Secondary School synthetic turf field to provide an opportunity for community sport use. After a collaborative process undertaken by Vancouver School Board (VSB) and Park Board staff teams, the teams have reached a joint conclusion that the lighting project cannot proceed at this time. Key considerations include the limited lifespan of the existing synthetic turf, unsecured capital funds for the field's future replacement, and the existing renewal demands for existing Park Board wholly owned and operated artificial turf fields.

As capital funds for field replacement cannot be confirmed at this time, which is required for the light installation and use agreement, the VSB and Park Board staff will continue to explore opportunities for Park Board permitted access to the field.

## **DISCUSSION**

The synthetic turf field at Kitsilano Secondary School was constructed by the VSB for school use in 2016 without field lights, and it has been used for school programming primarily during school hours, with some school sponsored use in evening hours since that time. The field is also used informally by individuals and sports groups outside of school hours but is not a sanctioned use and it is not currently used for Park Board programs.

In recognition of a potential community sport access opportunity, the former Board directed staff in a [2019 Motion](#) to install field lights at this location and on December 5, 2022, the Board directed staff to "*prioritize the reallocation, nominally up to \$2 million from the New Diamonds and Playfields budget, to deliver sports field lights at Hillcrest mini turf field (\$800,000) and Kitsilano High School fields (\$1.2 million), optimally both to be completed by November 2023, and report back to the Board in Q1 2023 with costs, proposal and timeline*".

Staff subsequently provided Memos to update the Board on the progress of the Kitsilano Field lighting initiative along with other sport field initiatives on May 26, 2023, July 7, 2023, November 23, 2023, April 11, 2024, and October 9, 2024. Staff also presented a Sports Field Development presentation at the October 16, 2023, Board Meeting.

Discussions between Park Board and VSB leadership staff over the past two years about community access and the addition of field lights have occurred, to enable Park Board sports group permitting of lit field use. Both groups have concluded that the lighting project cannot



proceed at this time. Ultimately, the two parties determined that installing lights at this location will not be possible, as neither party can commit to future funding for this renewal.

Despite the capital investment not being supported at this time, staff will pursue the development of a use agreement that will enable community access to new rental hours at this location.

Park Board and VSB staff, guided by the VSB/VPB/VPL/COV Memorandum of Understanding, are currently updating existing joint use agreements (JUA) for synthetic turf fields located on Park Board property. A JUA for the Kitsilano High School site will be modelled after this process.

### **NEXT STEPS**

There will be an opportunity to reopen the dialogue about light installation when the field surface is due for replacement in approximately three to five years and as a part of capital planning processes. The funds allocated to this project will be redirected to other growth-related sport field capital projects.

Staff will provide a further update to the Board about the shared use of the existing field, when appropriate.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tiina Mack".

Tiina Mack (*she/her*)  
Director – Park Planning and Development

Copy to: PB Leadership Team  
Ian Stewart, Associate Director, Park Development  
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