



June 21, 2023

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Steve Kellock – Director, Recreation Services

SUBJECT : **Marpole Community Centre Renewal – Update**

Dear Commissioners,

The purpose of this memo is to update Park Board Commissioners on the process, design, and upcoming construction of the aging Marpole-Oakridge Community Centre. This highly anticipated project will mark the first Park Board community centre renewal since Trout Lake Community Centre in 2012.

Background and Development

The Marpole-Oakridge Community Centre (MOCC), located in Oak Park, was built in 1940 and serves a growing community with approximately 40,000 people currently living within a 2 km walking distance of the site. Planning for the renewal of MOCC is grounded in community engagement, Park Board direction, needs assessments, and related planning studies.

These studies include a [Marpole Community Centre Needs Assessment Study](#) to define the building program and the [Oak Park Schematic Master Plan](#) approved by the Board in 2019, siting the new facility at the park's south end. Extensive public engagement in 2018 and 2019 informed these project studies and identified community priorities for building design and surrounding landscape. The Marpole-Oakridge Community Centre Association (MOCA), who operates the community center under a joint operating agreement with Park Board, has been a valuable partner and involved as a partner in all the planning for this renewal. Specifically, MOCA provided extensive input and insight regarding the recreation needs of the Marpole neighbourhood.

Design development started in 2020 with staff in the City's Real Estate, Environment and Facilities Management (REFM) department leading the project with support from Park Board staff. Along with ongoing contributions from MOCA representing the broad community needs, the project team has also facilitated targeted engagement with groups underrepresented in the broad engagement efforts, including Seniors, Persons with Disabilities, and Family and Youth Advisory Committees.

The 42,000 sq.ft community centre will include a gym, fitness centre and fitness studios, sensory room, multi-purpose spaces, kitchen, and fieldhouse with change and washrooms for sport field users. This project will also deliver a 74-space childcare for children 0–4 years on the second level. The project team is targeting Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification and building the facility to Passive House standards.

The building will be surrounded by trees, basketball courts and outdoor fitness equipment, an outdoor performance space, and gathering areas. The outdoor pool portion of the project is currently unfunded and will be delivered in a future phase with the connected spray park and playground as funding becomes available. The phased approach resulted from substantial construction cost escalation. In the interim, the existing playground, splash pad and fieldhouse will remain open to maintain existing service levels.



Fig 1: Bird's eye view from the south showing the Community Centre overlaid onto an image of Oak Park



Fig 2: East entrance with the outdoor performance space on the right



Next Steps

It is anticipated that construction will commence early fall, the community centre construction will conclude in 2025, and that demolition of the existing facility is expected in 2026.

Staff will provide an update to the Board on the construction contract award within the next few months. Planning is also underway for a ground-breaking ceremony to celebrate this important project milestone that will provide Commissioners with an opportunity to celebrate with the community.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Kellock".

Steve Kellock
Director – Recreation Services

JL/LT/EE/VT

Copy to: PB Leadership Team
PB Communications