



June 29, 2023

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Tiina Mack – Director, Planning and Park Development

SUBJECT : **Public Engagement on Sunset Neighbourhood Outdoor Amenities**

Dear Commissioners,

The purpose of this memo is to provide an update on the Board Motion passed on May 29, 2023 directing staff to:

Undertake a community engagement process of the Sunset neighbourhood to seek feedback from residents and organizations, including the Vancouver Field Sport Federation, field hockey associations in BC and Canada and community leaders that identifies the desired outdoor amenities for the community by Q3 2023. The engagement shall include data already collected by local community leaders and be included in the findings in a Report Back in Q4 of 2023.

There is existing and emerging data indicating the Sunset Neighbourhood of Vancouver alongside other South Vancouver areas - Killarney, Victoria-Fraserview and Marpole - are among the most underserved communities in the city. On average, South Vancouver and Marpole communities have less access to different social amenities, services, and programs compared to citywide. ([2021, South Vancouver and Marpole Neighbourhood Equity Report, SFU Urban Studies](#)). Van Play, the Parks and Recreation Services Master Plan confirms that portions of the Sunset neighbourhood have very high equity needs in relation to two equity indicators: very high demand for access to recreation with reduced barriers and less than 10% tree canopy coverage.

In order to fulfill an inclusive and accessible community engagement process for Sunset, per the Board's motion, there is neighbourhood level data that will help shape our approach to inclusive and accessible engagement. Sunset Neighbourhood is defined as the area between E 41st Avenue, Ontario St, Knight St and the Fraser River. According to Statistics Canada (2016), Sunset's demographic profile includes:

- An aging population, with seniors outnumbering children
- A majority of the population is part of a racialized community and a majority are first - or second-generation Canadian residents.
- Four in ten Sunset residents usually use a language other than English at home, and the areas is home to the largest concentration of Punjabi speaking residents in Vancouver.



Beginning with a community presence at the vibrant Canada Day celebrations at Sunset Community Centre, (12-4pm) staff will promote the engagement process, learning from those who stop by our tent and asking:

- Whom we need to reach to deliver a reflection of community voices to the Board (for example, community groups, recreation leagues, community leaders, volunteers, staff)
- Where the best places are to reach people (for instance, parks, organized sports, gurdwara, community centre, arts centre and neighbourhood house events)
- Where they get information (radio, print, online, social media, bulletin boards, mail-outs)
- How residents would like to be involved (For instance, in person pop up events offered in multiple languages, comment cards at Park Board facilities, community conversations with outdoor users, community conversations over food, translated surveys)
- Questions about their current use of outdoor amenities, both in Sunset neighborhood and outside the area.
- Encourage them to sign up for a newsletter promoting the schedule and the places we will be visiting and when over the coming months.

Using what we learn this visit, interviews with community leaders, drawing from the Sport Field Strategy, and information provided to staff by Commissioners, we will develop a series of on-site pop-ups visits at parks and outdoor spaces throughout the summer, a series of meetings indoors in the early fall, and a schedule to meet with community organizations, associations and partners (outlined above) throughout the period between July – September 2023. Of note, the Planning and Park Development team is scheduling conversations with the Vancouver Sport Field Federation and other recreational users. Over the summer, we will be visiting sites during peak usage for different user groups including some of the following:

- George Park 500 East 63rd Ave
- MacDonald Park 300 East 44th Ave
- Memorial South Park 5955 Ross St
- Moberly Park 7646 Prince Albert St
- Ross Park 7474 Ross St
- Sunset Park 404 East 51 St

Questions will look at current usage, preferences among outdoor amenities like renovated sport fields, renewed playgrounds, new walking loops, new seating and picnic areas, new fitness equipment, and spray pads among others.

We will share what we have learned with Board inclusive of all this engagement in late 2023.

Regards,

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

Tiina Mack
Director – Park Planning and Development

TM/VT

Copy to: PB Leadership Team
PB Communications