



August 2, 2023

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Tiina Mack – Director Planning and Park Development

SUBJECT : **Sunset Community Outdoor Amenities - Public Engagement Update - Board Briefing Memo**

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Dear Commissioners,

The purpose of this memo is to provide an update on engagement that has occurred and that is scheduled in August through early October in response to the [Board Motion passed on May 29, 2023](#), directing staff to undertake a community engagement process of the Sunset Community. This is a follow up to the [first memo](#) on this topic provided on June 29, 2023.

**Canada Day Event:** Beginning with a presence at the vibrant Canada Day celebrations at Sunset Community Centre staff promoted the engagement process, learning from hundreds of residents who stopped by our tent. We used this early listening to help develop our strategy and received approximately 300 written comments. Overall we heard that participants felt underserved when it comes to outdoor amenities. There was a strong contingent who came out to support the idea of a synthetic turf field and a smaller group was interested in soccer and cricket facilities. We also heard a good deal about the loss of a swimming pool and the need for a pool or splash-pad particularly for those who might struggle to get across town to the closest pools. We heard about the need for more shade trees, concerns for current street tree health, and an interest in accessible and senior-friendly walking paths and trails. Some respondents discussed how both sport-fields and other outdoor amenities provide much needed gathering spaces for residents

**Vancouver Field Sport Federation (VFSF) Meeting:** Staff met with the VFSF on July 20, 2023 and received input from various sport organization representatives, including field hockey. The VFSF stated that field hockey is a priority and will be providing a letter to Commissioners in response to this Motion.

**Pop-Up Park Visits:** Staff are planning a series of pop-ups visits at neighbourhood parks (George, MacDonald, Memorial South, Moberly, and Ross Parks) throughout the summer during times of peak usage for different user groups to understand and listen to current park users. We will be asking about current usage, preferences among outdoor amenities like renewed playgrounds, new walking loops, new seating and picnic areas, renovated grass sport fields, and spray pads, among others, as well as opportunities for open input and idea sharing.

**Meetings:** We are organizing a series of meetings indoors this fall with community organizations that include, sport, seniors, and family representatives (e.g. Sunset Community Centre, South Vancouver Neighbourhood House, Moberly Arts and Cultural Centre, Moberly School and Ross Street Temple). Outreach materials will be translated into English, Punjabi and Traditional Chinese and in - person events will be supported by Punjabi speaking staff as much as possible.

**Multilingual Survey:** The final engagement step will be a multilingual survey conducted by a third-party organization that seeks to hear broadly from residents.



**Promoting Participation:** Working with the communications team, staff will ensure there is a combination of posters, social media, radio and print ads, and will activate a listserv created using the names collected at the Sunset event, as well as a webpage on Vancouver.ca.

**Next Steps:** Staff will share preliminary engagement findings this fall and will also provide a complete summary of all of the engagement in late 2023.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tiina Mack". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Tiina Mack, Director Park Planning and Development

Copy to: PB Leadership Team  
PB Communications