



CITY OF VANCOUVER

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: April 23, 2008
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Meeting Date: May 13, 2008

TO: Vancouver City Council

FROM: Director of Planning in consultation with the General Manager of Engineering Services, the General Manager of Parks and Recreation and the Director of Social Planning

SUBJECT: Allocation of Community Amenity Contributions (CACs) from various rezonings

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve allocation of \$1,246,454 from the community amenity contributions collected from 14 rezonings: 6475 Elliott Street, 2450 West 2nd Avenue, 1175 Broughton Street, 601 West 10th Avenue, 1475 Howe Street, 1100 West Georgia Street, 4028 & 4078 Knight Street, 4176 Alexandra Street, 1302 East 12th Avenue, 711 West Broadway, 950 Quebec Street, 1650 West 1st Avenue, 833 Helmcken Street, and 1221 West Georgia & 1250 Melville Street to the following projects:

- a. \$34,040 to five community gardens located at Argyle & 57th Avenue, East Broadway and Clark Drive, 66th Avenue and East Boulevard, Gore and Keefer Street, and Pine Street and 6th Avenue;
- b. \$11,244 to the Eastside Crosscut Greenway;
- c. \$55,150 to Downtown Historic Railway Interpretive Programming;
- d. \$65,064 to intersection improvements at Morton and Beach Avenue as part of the Downtown Transportation Plan implementation;
- e. \$51,903 to improvements to the Seaside bike route at Hornby and Howe Streets;
- f. \$50,228 to bicycle connections as part of the Kingsway and Knight Street intersection improvements;
- g. \$58,122 to the 29th Avenue Bikeway;
- h. \$450,000 to Oppenheimer Park Renewal;
- i. \$410,703 to the Childcare Endowment Fund, targeted for the #1 Kingsway childcare facility, on terms and conditions resulting from the review of the

- Endowment Reserve as stated in the Council report Child Care Issues and Endowment Reserve, RTS 6752.
- j. \$60,000 to the Childcare Endowment Fund, targeted to the City Gate II childcare facility, on terms and conditions resulting from the review of the Endowment Reserve as stated in the Council report Child Care Issues and Endowment Reserve, RTS 6752.

GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The General Manager of Community Services RECOMMENDS approval of the foregoing.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The City Manager RECOMMENDS approval of the foregoing.

COUNCIL POLICY

The following Council-adopted policies are relevant to this report (in order of date of adoption):

- Civic Child Care Strategy (1990)
- Vancouver Greenways Plan (1995)
- Vancouver Transportation Plan (1997)
- Bicycle Plan (1999)
- Financing Growth (Community Amenity Contribution) Policy (1999, amended to February 12, 2004)
 - 2.3.1 The specific amenity must be approved by City Council and should be determined (a) as part of the rezoning process where possible; or (b) through an inter-departmental process.
- Downtown Transportation Plan (2002)
- "Moving Forward" - Childcare: A Cornerstone of Childhood Development" (2002)

The following Council decisions related to specific projects are relevant to this report:

- On February 15, 2005 Council approved the 29th Avenue bike route to connect UBC at Imperial Drive to Ontario Street bike route.
- On March 29, 2005, Council adopted in principle the proposed improvement plan for the Clark-Knight Corridor.
- On May 30, 2006 City Council approved a motion calling for the creation of 2010 new food-producing garden plots in the city by 2010 as a legacy for Vancouver.
- \$1.4 million was allocated to the Oppenheimer Park and Park Fieldhouse renewal project in the 2006 - 2008 Capital Plan.

PURPOSE & SUMMARY

This report seeks Council approval to allocate remaining funds from community amenity contributions (CACs), received as a condition of 14 separate rezonings, to various transportation improvements, community gardens, childcare, and park amenities as summarized in Table 1.

Table 1: Recommended Allocations

Donor Site (see Figure 1)/ Unallocated funds remaining	Recommended Projects	Department	Recommended Allocation (\$)	Funds Still To Be Allocated
833 Helmcken \$60,000	Child Care	Social Planning	\$60,000	\$0
1221 W Georgia and 1250 Melville \$1,366,874.57	Oppenheimer Park and Fieldhouse Renewal*	Parks	\$416,700	\$950,175
1650 W 1 st Avenue \$44,684	Community Gardens (see locations in recommendation)*	Engineering	\$500	\$0
	Downtown Historic Railway (DHR) Interpretive Programming*	Engineering	\$44,184	
6475 Elliott St \$18,243.85	Community Gardens (see locations in recommendation)*	Engineering	\$7,000	\$0
	Eastside Crosscut Greenway	Engineering	\$11,244	
2450 W 2nd Ave \$10,965.68	Downtown Historic Railway (DHR) Interpretive Programming*	Engineering	\$10,966	\$0
711 W. Broadway \$145,000	Community Gardens (see locations in recommendation)*	Engineering	\$7,000	
	Child Care	Social Planning	\$138,000	
1302 E 12th Ave \$682	Community Gardens (see locations in recommendation)*	Engineering	\$682	\$0
1175 Broughton St \$65,064.35	Normalize Intersection (Spot Improvement 1 - Downtown Transportation Plan): Morton Ave. at Beach Ave	Engineering	\$65,064	\$0
601 W 10th Ave \$272,703	Child Care	Social Planning	\$272,703	\$0
950 Quebec St (Greyhound property) \$4,857.80	Community Gardens (see locations in recommendation)*	Engineering	\$4,858	\$0
1475 Howe St \$51,902.97	Improve Seaside route for cyclists at Hornby and Howe Streets	Engineering	\$51,903	\$0
4176 Alexandra St \$65,122	Community Gardens (see locations in recommendation)*	Engineering	\$7,000	\$0
	29th Avenue Bikeway	Engineering	\$58,122	
1100 West Georgia St \$33,300	Oppenheimer Park and Fieldhouse Renewal*	Parks	\$33,300	\$0
4028 Knight & 4078 Knight \$57,228	Community Gardens (see locations in recommendation)*	Engineering	\$7,000	\$0
	Bicycle connections surrounding Knight/Kingsway	Engineering	\$50,228	
		TOTAL	\$1,246,454	\$950,175

*Indicates that the project has been recommended to accept funds from more than one donor site.

BACKGROUND

Community Amenity Contributions (CACs) are voluntary offerings associated with rezonings which help address growth costs, area deficiencies, and/or community needs and impacts associated with the rezoning. They may take the form of cash contributions or an amenity provided in-kind by the development. CACs are generally for capital facilities, but may also involve associated operating costs.

In most cases, the specifics of the CAC are decided at the time of rezoning. However, in some cases the decision as to the purpose to which all, or a portion of, a CAC is not fully determined at that time. In cases where CAC allocations were to be determined at a later date, the funds were set aside in the Community Amenity Reserve.

Recently, staff of the various departments came together to consider the allocation of these unallocated CACs. They first reviewed the projects that had provided the CACs to seek direction that may have been provided through the consultation and public hearing process. They then proposed projects that Council had already identified as a priority through approved plans and policies (e.g. 2006-2008 Capital Plan, 2010 Community Gardens, etc). In addition, staff took into account the following factors:

Financing Growth Policy - CAC Allocation Guidelines:

1. Projects should comply with CAC allocation guidelines:
 - a. proposals should serve on-site and/or community needs where the rezoning took place;
 - b. they should be growth related and/or alleviate past deficiencies;
 - c. they should be operationally viable; and,
 - d. they should further existing policy directions.
2. Project should seek to address community interests which were raised during the original consultation and public hearing process.

Factors identified by staff to assist in the selection of appropriate amenity projects:

3. The allocations should:
 - a. Strive for efficiencies (e.g. partnering to ensure value for money);
 - b. Look to a distribution of resources between categories of amenities, recognizing that some categories have fewer revenue opportunities than others;
 - c. If feasible, seek to achieve multiple goals on one site.
4. Avoid creating new amenity projects or displacing funding from existing projects which have close to sufficient funding already (e.g. allocations should support approved Capital Plan projects which are jeopardised by cost escalations or funding shortfalls).



Figure 1: Donor Sites

DISCUSSION

The following discussion is organized by address of the contributing rezoning, and outlines the amounts of CACs recommended to be put to each project. Appendices A through D provide additional details on the recommended projects.

833 Helmcken Street

On April 30, 1991, Council approved the rezoning of 833 Helmcken Street to CD-1 Comprehensive Development District and a condition of that rezoning secured a CAC of \$420,000. On November 21, 1991, Council approved allocation of \$360,000 of these funds to rehabilitate the City-owned Gresham Hotel. Council resolved on April 14, 1992 that the remaining \$60,000 would be allocated to park, affordable housing, daycare and/or street trees in Downtown South. Staff recommends that these funds be allocated to the Childcare Endowment Fund, targeted for #1 Kingsway Child Care, on terms and conditions resulting from the review of the Endowment Reserve as stated in the Council report Child Care Issues and Endowment Reserve, RTS 6752.

1221 W. Georgia and 1250 Melville

Rezoning of 1221 W Georgia and 1250 Melville to CD-1 were approved on September 25, 1990 and July 31, 1990 respectively, with a total CAC contribution of \$1,776,000. Council resolved on April 14, 1992 that the funds would be allocated to parks and/or social amenities. Some social amenities (two child cares and a community centre) have already been provided in this area with CAC funds from other projects, therefore staff recommends park creation or improvement projects for allocation of the remaining funds. Funds remaining from these CAC contributions total \$1,366,875.

Staff recommends that a portion of these funds, \$416,700, be allocated to the Oppenheimer Park and Fieldhouse Renewal. Staff propose that the allocation of the remaining funds, totalling \$950,175, be deferred for the time being, pending completion of staff plans to deliver potential daycare, parks, transportation infrastructure, and housing projects for the Triangle West DCL area. These capital projects may require the addition of CAC support to be achieved.

1650 W. 1st Avenue

On October 5, 1993 Council approved the rezoning of 1650 West 1st Avenue to CD-1, and a condition of that rezoning secured a CAC of \$44,684. From the report and minutes there was no direction from staff, the public, or Council for recommending allocation of the CAC. Staff recommends that \$500 be allocated as part of a \$34,040 allocation to the Community Garden projects at several locations; and that the remaining CAC funds, totalling \$44,184, be allocated to Downtown Historic Railway (DHR) Interpretive Programming. The funds would pay for the creation of historically accurate interpretive boards that tell the history of the streetcar in Vancouver. The boards will be permanently placed at station stops along the Downtown Historic Railway Line between Granville Island and Cambie Street (e.g. Moberly Station).

6475 Elliott Street

On September 21, 1999 Council approved a CD-1 text amendment for 6475 Elliott Street, and a condition of that rezoning secured a CAC of \$18,244. From the text amendment report and public hearing minutes there was no direction from staff, the public, or Council for recommending allocation of the CAC. Staff recommends that a portion of these funds, \$7,000 be allocated as part of a \$34,040 allocation to the Community Garden projects at several locations. Staff recommends that the remaining CAC funds, totalling \$11,244, be allocated to the implementation of the Council approved Eastside Crosscut Greenway.

2450 W. 2nd Avenue

On September 21, 1999 Council approved the rezoning of 2450 West 2nd Avenue to CD-1 and a condition of that rezoning secured a CAC of \$10,966. The main concern voiced by neighbours during the course of the rezoning was around parking impacts of the proposed expansion. Otherwise there was no direction from staff, the public or Council for recommending allocation of the CAC. Staff recommends that these funds be allocated to be allocated to Downtown Historic Railway (DHR) Interpretive Programming.

711 W. Broadway

On July 6, 2000 Council approved a CD-1 text amendment for 711 West Broadway (Holiday Inn), and a condition of the rezoning secured a CAC of \$850,000 to be allocated by Council for public amenities within the neighbourhood. Council approved allocation of \$475,000 to the False Creek Community Centre (FCCC) expansion and allocation of another \$230,000 for the heating/venting upgrades to FCCC, leaving \$145,000. Council approved a recommendation for the balance of the funds to be directed to public amenity opportunities with special attention to childcare. Staff recommends that a portion of these funds, \$7,000, be allocated as part of a \$34,040 allocation to the Community Garden projects at several locations. Staff recommends that the remaining CAC funds, totalling \$138,000, be allocated to the Childcare Endowment Fund, targeted for #1 Kingsway Child Care, on terms and conditions resulting from the review of the Endowment Reserve as stated in the Council report Child Care Issues and Endowment Reserve, RTS 6752.

1320 E. 12th Avenue

On September 12, 2000 Council approved the rezoning of 1302 East 12th Avenue to CD-1 and a condition of that rezoning secured a CAC of \$682. From the CD-1 rezoning report and public hearing minutes there was no direction from staff, the public, or Council for recommending allocation of

the CAC. Staff recommends that these funds be allocated as part of a \$34,040 allocation to the Community Garden projects at several locations.

1175 Broughton Street

On April 24, 2001 Council approved the rezoning of 1175 Broughton Street to CD-1, and a condition of that rezoning secured a CAC of \$65,064. Concerns from neighbours included density and scale of the development, noise and traffic, parking and tree loss. There was no direction from staff or Council for recommending allocation of the CAC. Staff recommends that these funds be allocated to the planned Downtown Transportation Plan spot improvement to normalize the Morton Avenue and Beach Avenue intersection.

601 W. 10th Avenue

On July 26, 2001 Council approved the rezoning 601 West 10th Avenue to CD-1, and a condition of that rezoning secured a CAC of \$562,500. \$289,787 was allocated for daycare facilities leaving \$272,703. From the CD-1 rezoning report and public hearing minutes there was no direction from staff, the public, or Council for recommending allocation of the CAC. Staff recommends that these funds be allocated to the Childcare Endowment Fund, targeted for #1 Kingsway Child Care, on terms and conditions resulting from the review of the Endowment Reserve as stated in the Council report Child Care Issues and Endowment Reserve, RTS 6752.

950 Quebec Street

On March 25, 2004 Council approved the rezoning of 950 Quebec St (Greyhound property) to CD-1 and subsequently Council approved a CAC of \$945,652. Specific allocations at the time of rezoning included \$495,652 to the City Gate childcare centre, \$300,000 to the Affordable Housing Fund, \$100,000 toward the Mount Pleasant Civic Centre, and \$50,000 to the downtown skateboard park. Due to late payment of the CAC contribution, \$4,858 is remaining from interest generated. Staff recommends that these funds be allocated as part of a \$34,040 allocation to the Community Garden projects at several locations.

1475 Howe Street

On April 20, 2004 Council approved the rezoning of 1475 Howe Street to CD-1 and a condition of that rezoning secured a CAC of \$51,903. The site is within the Granville Slopes area. An in camera report from December 7, 1989 on the allocation of CACs for the Granville Slopes area presented two options for funding a 0.6 acre park (May and Lorne Brown Park). This park has since been fully funded. The report also stated that if there was money left over after all park costs were covered the remainder should be made available for social housing and/or other amenity needs in the new neighbourhood. Staff recommends that these funds be allocated to the planned improvement to the Seaside bicycle route at Hornby and Howe Streets.

4175 Alexandra Street

On June 16, 2005 Council approved a CD-1 text amendment for 4176 Alexandra Street (York House School) and a condition of that rezoning secured a CAC of \$65,122. Public concerns voiced at the time of the rezoning included traffic and parking impacts. Otherwise there was no direction from staff or Council for recommending allocation of the CAC. Staff recommends that a portion of these funds, \$7,000, be allocated as part of a \$34,040 allocation to the Community Garden projects at several locations. Staff recommends that the remaining CAC funds, totalling \$58,122, be allocated to the construction of the Council approved 29th Avenue Bikeway.

1120 W. Georgia Street

On September 15, 2005 Council approved a CD-1 text amendment for 1120 West Georgia Street and a condition of that rezoning secured a CAC of \$33,300. From the report and minutes there was no

direction from staff, the public, or Council for recommending allocation of the CAC. The public benefits achieved from the original CD-1 rezoning included a Heritage Revitalization Agreement and Designation of 1160 West Georgia Street, funds for the Affordable Housing Fund, a public sculpture garden, pedestrian right-of-way between Alberni and Georgia, and money for public art. Staff recommends that these funds be allocated to the Oppenheimer Park and Fieldhouse Renewal allowing completion of this project.

4028 & 4078 Knight Street

On October 6, 2005 Council approved a CD-1 text amendment for 4028 & 4078 Knight Street and a condition of that rezoning secured a CAC of \$57,228. From the report and minutes there was no direction from staff, the public, or Council for recommending allocation of the CAC. The original CD-1 rezoning of the site provided space for a library. Staff recommends that a portion of these funds, \$7,000, be allocated as part of a \$34,040 allocation to the Community Garden projects at several locations. Staff recommends that the remaining CAC funds, totalling \$50,228, be allocated to the construction of the bicycle connections surrounding Knight and Kingsway, approved by Council as part of the Kingsway/Knight public realm plan.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The longer the funds remain unallocated the more the value of the funds is diminished due to rapidly increasing construction costs and land values.

If Council were to approve the recommendations in this report \$1,246,454 collected as CAC payments from 14 separate rezonings would be allocated to various parks improvements, community gardens, greenways, transportation improvements, and child care initiatives.

CONCLUSION

Staff recommends that Council approve allocation of remaining funds from CACs, received as a condition of 14 separate rezonings, to various transportation improvements, community gardens, childcare, and park amenities as shown in Table 1.

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COMMUNITY GARDEN PLOTS

On May 30, 2006 City Council approved a motion calling for the creation of 2010 new garden plots by 2010 as a legacy for Vancouver. Engineering Services along with Social Planning is heading up this effort. They are planning for the creation of approximately 40 Community Gardens across the City, each providing an average of 40 individual plots by 2010.

In addition to being an excellent source of nutritious, high quality food, Community Gardens build community capacity, encourage neighbourliness, increase safety, and green the urban environment. Community gardens and other forms of urban agriculture are recognized as important neighbourhood gathering places that promote sustainability, neighbourhood liveability, urban greening, community building, intergenerational activity, social interaction, crime reduction, exercise and food production.

Costs associated with starting a community garden project involve the cost of preparing the land by removing unwanted vegetation and debris, adding compost, and providing a water connection. These costs range from \$6000 to \$8000 per garden depending on the size of the property and the complexity of bringing water to the site. Resources are also needed to mentor individuals with no knowledge of gardening or setting up community gardens. Building raised beds, fencing, pathways and other community garden infrastructure would be the responsibility of the non-profit groups chosen to manage the community gardens.

Specific locations for community garden projects that are being recommended for allocation of CAC funds include Pine Street and West 6th Avenue, Argyle Street and West 57th Avenue, East Broadway and Clark Drive, Gore Street and Keefer Street, and 66th Avenue and East Boulevard. Staff are seeking Council support to contribute \$34,040 of the unallocated CAC's to the listed existing and proposed Community Gardens.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

Eastside Crosscut Greenway

The Eastside Crosscut Greenway is one of the Council approved citywide greenways that is not yet built. The proposed City Greenways network of sixteen routes will be approximately 140 km long when complete. When the network is complete, a City Greenway will be no more than a 25-minute walk or a 10-minute bike ride from every residence in Vancouver.

When complete the Eastside Crosscut Greenway will be one of the longest in the City. A phased approach to implementation will allow funding through future Capital Plans. A coordinated review has taken place with existing processes such as Visioning, Neighbourhood Centres, and other programs to seek potential scheduling efficiencies. The community consultation which has taken place in the Norquay Village area provided staff with information which will allow this section of the greenway to proceed in 2007. Staff are seeking Council support to contribute \$11,244 of the unallocated CAC's to the Eastside Crosscut Greenway in the Norquay Village area in order for this project to be advanced in 2007.

Downtown Transportation Plan Spot Improvement: Morton Avenue at Beach Avenue

This improvement was approved by Council as part of the Downtown Transportation Plan on July 9, 2002. The improvement involves the normalization of the intersection at Morton Avenue at Beach Avenue in order to improve safety and enhance the pedestrian environment. Designs for this improvement will be finalized in the fall of 2007. Staff are seeking Council support to contribute \$65,064 of the unallocated CAC's to the Spot Improvement at Morton Avenue and Beach Avenue endowment to further the implementation of the Downtown Transportation Plan.

Seaside Bike route Improvements between Howe and Hornby Streets

The Seaside Bikeway is one of the Council approved citywide bikeways. The improvement to this bikeway between Howe and Hornby Streets involves changes to improve the cyclist and pedestrian circulation in this section of the bikeway. Review and design of this improvement is scheduled for 2007. Finalizing the design will require input from stakeholders such as Parks. Staff are seeking Council support to contribute \$51,903 of the unallocated CAC's to the Seaside bike route improvements between Hornby and Howe Streets.

29th Avenue Bike Route

The 29th Avenue bike route is one of the Council approved citywide bike routes that is not yet built. The 29th Avenue bike route will connect UBC to the Ontario Street Greenway (and the nearby destinations of Queen Elizabeth and Hillcrest Parks, and Nat Bailey Stadium). Design work is being finalized for this bike route. Construction of this route is planned for summer 2007. Staff are seeking Council support to contribute \$58,122 of the unallocated CAC's to the implementation of the 29th Avenue Bikeway.

Bicycle connections surrounding Knight Street and Kingsway

Two bicycle routes are planned for this neighbourhood which would improve connectivity for cyclists and pedestrians using these routes. The North-South Borden-Dumfries bike route was approved as part of the Clark-Knight Corridor Plan and will link to the BC parkway in the north and south to routes such as 37th Avenue Ridgeway-midtown bike route/Greenway. Scoping of this project and preliminary design work is underway, and staff expects to involve the community in fall 2007 regarding the design. Construction is expected in late 2007-early 2008. Staff is seeking Council support to contribute \$50,228 of the unallocated CAC's to the bicycle connections surrounding the Knight Street and Kingsway area.

Downtown Historic Railway Interpretive Programming

To fund the research and creation of historically accurate interpretive boards (4 feet by 6 feet freestanding) that tell the history of the streetcar in Vancouver and the historic trams that are currently in the possession of the City. The boards will be permanently placed at station stops along the Downtown Historic Railway Line between Granville Island and Cambie Street, such as at Moberly Station. The purpose is to enhance the experience of using the Downtown Historic Railway, to ensure users learn about the history of Vancouver and the Streetcar in Vancouver, and to showcase the conservation efforts performed by the City and assisting societies. The interpretive programming will also tell the history of the neighbourhoods in which the DHR stops are located. Starr is seeking Council approval to contribute \$55,150 to Downtown Historic Railway Interpretive Programming.

CHILD CARE INITIATIVES

Since the late 1980's Council has recognized the important role that child care plays in supporting economic growth and healthy child development by approving a wide range of policies, including Financing Growth. While Council has always recognized that the primary responsibility for funding child care operations rests with parents and that the overall mandate for service is that of senior levels of government, the City contributes to the supply and viability of licensed group child care facilities through Community Amenity Contributions (CACs) and Development Cost Levies (DCLs). CACs can be in the form of "in-kind" or cash contributions. When offered in cash, funds are placed in an interest bearing account known as the Childcare Endowment Reserve fund and are paid out as grants to non-profit operators in City-owned facilities secured through development on an annual basis at Council's direction. Recent initiatives such as the economic development strategy lend themselves to reinforcing the opportunities that child care brings to the City of Vancouver. Two key projects under development which will benefit from the CACs recommended in this report are Citygate II and #1 Kingsway. Funds will be allocated on the terms and conditions resulting from the review of the Endowment Reserve as stated in the Council report Child Care Issues and Endowment Reserve, RTS 6752.

Citygate II

The proposed childcare at Citygate II is located at 941 Main Street and was a result of the rezoning conditions for False Creek in the early 1990's. As part of the agreement with the developer, a retail space and a shell space for a future child care was built. The original plan was to finish and furnish the child care with revenues from the retail leases; however due to a number of factors, the revenue from the retail space has not been realized. Council has approved the capital in the interim to finish the space, and revenues from the retail are now accumulating in the endowment fund. Given that the costs of infant and toddler care total approximately \$1600 per month per space to deliver, endowment funding is essential if spaces are to be affordable for families. Parents pay approximately 85% of the cost of care and the provincial government contributes about 13%. The Strathcona area immediately adjacent to Citygate is both the poorest served in terms of licensed group childcare, and has the highest ratio of children with low school-readiness scores in the City. Staff is seeking Council support to contribute \$60,000 of the unallocated CAC's to the Childcare Endowment Fund, earmarked for Citygate II.

#1 Kingsway

The new #1 Kingsway Child Care Civic Facility will open in 2008 and will accommodate 12 infants, 12 toddlers and 25 three to five year olds, as well as evening and weekend family programs to support a more integrated approach to services for families and children in the Mount Pleasant neighbourhood. Because #1 Kingsway is a City project, no CAC's have been available to contribute to the Childcare Endowment Fund. Many families with economic and other challenges live in the eastern half of Mount Pleasant, and will benefit from the support that licensed childcare and the associated programs offer. These families will also require the financial relief that the Childcare Endowment offers. Staff is seeking Council support to allocate \$410,703 of the existing unallocated CACs to the Childcare Endowment Fund, targeted to the #1 Kingsway project.

OPPENHEIMER PARK AND PARK FIELDHOUSE RENEWAL

Oppenheimer Park is a unique and heavily used park serving a diverse population in the downtown eastside. The park fieldhouse is a base of operations for services in the park provided through the Carnegie Centre, and this building has serious deficits in relation to its program functions. The park as a whole urgently needs upgrading to support the level and kind of usage it receives. The renewal work is overdue, and should be done in a timely fashion in order to minimize disruption of the lives of those for whom the park and its programs are a critical lifeline.

Oppenheimer Park renewal is a joint initiative of the Park Board and Community Services. Design specifics are being developed through a public process with park stakeholders, including park users, local residents, community agencies and businesses in the downtown eastside. Guided by this input, a conceptual plan will be developed for Park Board approval and as a basis for subsequent construction drawings, tendering and construction. The desired outcome is to create a beautiful and durable park, of a standard consistent with other parks in the downtown core.

The project is scheduled for years two and three of the 2006 - 2008 capital plan cycle, with design work underway in 2007 and construction slated to start in early 2008. Allocation of \$1.4 million to the project was approved by Council and Park Board in the 2006 - 2008 Capital Plan. Additional funding is needed at this point so that the work program as originally conceived does not have to be scaled back to meet budget. Staff is seeking Council approval for \$450,000 of the unallocated CAC's to be contributed to this important project.