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MOTION ON NOTICE

1. Vancouver to Provide Real Grass Not Artificial Turf for 2015 FIFA Women's World Cup

MOVER: Councillor Carr

SECONDER: Councillor Ball

WHEREAS

1. Vancouver is hosting six games plus the final match for the 2015 FIFA Women's World Cup, a soccer tournament projected to be the world's largest ever women's sporting event;
2. The games are scheduled for BC Place Stadium, which has artificial turf, but men's premier leagues refuse to play on artificial turf because it is an inferior surface that poses greater risk of player injury and increased concussions;
3. The laws of Canada prohibit gender discrimination in the contexts of employment and public facilities and our Vancouver Park Board has been a leader on equal access for women in our recreational system;
4. No men's World Cup tournament has ever been played on anything other than grass and, when men's premier teams demand that grass is put down on the field, their demands are met, including when Manchester City refused to play in Vancouver unless the game was played on grass;
5. Eighteen elite women soccer players from eleven different countries, including Brazil's five-time World Player of the Year Marta and Abby Wambach of the USA and Nadine Angerer of Germany (the 2013 and 2014 FIFA Women's World Player of the Year), filed a lawsuit against FIFA and the Canadian Soccer Association (CSA) in the Human Rights Tribunal Court of Ontario that the use of artificial turf in the 2015 FIFA Women's World Cup is gender discrimination as it "devalues the players' dignity, state of mind and self-respect by requiring them to play on a second-class surface";
6. Although the decision to play the 2015 Women's World Cup on artificial turf was made by FIFA and the CSA, the negative press will damage the reputation of Vancouver as a world class sporting event host city.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT the City of Vancouver inform FIFA and the Canadian Soccer Association (CSA) that we intend to provide a grass field for the 2015 FIFA Women's World Cup games played in Vancouver and we urge FIFA and the CSA to require grass fields for the entire 2015 tournament.

- B. THAT the City of Vancouver press the BC Government and PavCo (BC Pavilion Corporation), the owners of BC Place, to lay down grass for the 2015 FIFA Women's World Cup games being held at BC Place at their expense.

- C. THAT, in the event that PavCo (BC Pavilion Corporation) will not provide the funds needed to lay down grass for the 2015 FIFA Women's World Cup that the City of Vancouver offer the funds (estimated at \$250,000), from our Capital Budget "emerging priorities", and investigate whether the grass can be re-used after the tournament for Vancouver fields in need of new grass.

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