

Date: January 5, 2010



TO: Board Members – Vancouver Park Board
FROM: General Manager – Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Concept Plan Approval - Kitsilano Beach Park Playground

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board approve the concept plan for the proposed upgrade of the Kitsilano Beach Park Playground as described in this report and illustrated in Appendix 1 and 2.

POLICY

The Board approves new park designs.

BACKGROUND

The Kitsilano Beach Park Playground is on the Board's list of playgrounds needing significant upgrading and/or replacement, and it was included in the 2006-08 Capital Plan.

On July 20, 2009 the Board approved the upgrading of the Kitsilano Beach Park playground to an accessible playground in partnership with Shane's Inspiration, Legacies Now Society, the Province, Ronald McDonald House Charities Canada and the Rick Hansen Foundation. The total budget for the project is \$500,000.00.

In October, the Board awarded the landscape architecture consultancy contract to HB Lanarc Consultants Ltd to assist staff and Shane's Inspiration with the public process and concept plan development. Upon approval of the concept plan developed by Shane's Inspiration, HB Lanarc will be responsible for further design development of the playground and production of construction drawings and tender documents as well as project management during the construction stage.

The purpose of this report is for the Board to approve the concept plan and location of the proposed new playground (see Appendix 1 and 2).

DISCUSSION

A public workshop, led by Shane's Inspiration, was held in mid-November 2009. The workshop provided the community and school age children the opportunity to image, discuss and sketch the playground they would like to see at Kitsilano Beach Park. These

ideas were incorporated into a concept plan that was presented to the community at an open house in early December.

A proposed new location (see Appendix 2) for the playground was presented to the community at both the November and December public events. The location was well supported by the community for a number of reasons, including its closer proximity to the existing washrooms and concessions, universal access from the parking area, separation from the basketball area and oversight from the lifeguard tower.

The concept plan presented at the open house in December was reviewed and well received by Kitsilano residents as well as parents and children of all abilities from neighbourhoods across Vancouver. The comments received were generally positive and the community's suggestions informed further refinement of the concept plan.

Shane's Inspiration has developed the attached concept plan (see Appendix 1) with guidance from staff, input from the community and support from HB Lanarc.

Ongoing review of the playground design as it progresses from concept plan to detailed design development is planned with our Operations and Park Development staff as well as with the 2010 Legacy Now Advisory Group (consisting of representatives from BC Blind Sports, Beyond the Box Basics, International Play Association, UBC School of Landscape Architecture, Rick Hansen Let's Play Project, Vancouver School Board, Sunnyhill Health Centre, and the Canucks Autism Network).

Upon approval of the playground concept plan, the consultants will begin focusing on detailed design development and producing construction documents for tendering in early March. Construction is anticipated to begin in April and the playground is scheduled to be open to the public early summer.

SUMMARY

The recommended concept plan for the playground at Kitsilano Beach Park is well supported by the community, funders and staff. The new playground, to be located 100m south of the existing playground, is designed to meet the needs of children of all abilities.

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Appendix 1
Kitsilano Beach Park Playground Concept Plan Jan 08 10 - presented to Board.pdf

Appendix 2
Proposed New Location of Kitsilano Beach Park Playground – presented to Board.pdf