



Date: December 9, 2011

TO: Board Members – Vancouver Park Board
FROM: General Manager – Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Funding Application to B.C.'s Community Recreation Program for Southeast Vancouver Seniors' Centre

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT the Board approve a funding application to British Columbia's Community Recreation Program for \$1.0 million for the Southeast Vancouver Seniors' Centre.*
- B. AND THAT, should the funding application be successful, staff report back to the Board on project details, budget estimates and funding sources.*

POLICY

Federal and/or Provincial funding programs typically require a resolution of Council and Board as part of the application package.

On February 1, 2011, Council approved a \$2.5 million contribution toward the Southeast Vancouver Seniors' Centre as part of the 2011 Capital Budget, noting that the City's commitment is conditional on receiving external funding.

On May 4, 2009, the Park Board approved "THAT staff investigate siting options to add approximately 10,000 sq. ft. of program space to the existing Killarney complex in order to accommodate the proposed seniors' centre".

On January 30, 2007, Council approved "THAT Vancouver City Council direct staff to provide further guidance by undertaking exploratory work relating to potential funding sources, governance models and site/building selection with the goal of developing a new seniors' centre in Southeast Vancouver at the earliest opportunity".

BACKGROUND

On September 30, 2011, the British Columbia government announced a \$30 million Community Recreation Program. The program guide, published in October, states:

“The Program aims to invest in those capital projects that make communities healthier, more active places in which to live. Specifically, projects will be selected based on their contribution towards: a) extent to which the community is advancing the principle of being more physically active; and b) providing community health benefits.”

Program details include:

- each municipality is allowed to submit one application;
- priority will be given to smaller communities;
- the cost-sharing formula will be up to 80% provincial contribution, with the balance being the applicant contribution;
- the program has no defined funding cap.

Eligible projects must:

- be for construction, renewal, expansion or material enhancement of community public infrastructure;
- not be started (construction) prior to application;
- stipulate a construction completion date of no later than March 31, 2015;
- be duly authorized by a resolution of the applicant’s Municipal Council or Regional District Board;
- be consistent with the planning practices and guidelines of British Columbia; and
- meet the requirements of all applicable federal and provincial legislation.

Project selection criteria will be focused on the following:

- extent to which the community is advancing the principle of being more physically active; and
- providing community health benefits.

The deadline for submitting applications is December 28, 2011.

DISCUSSION

Staff reviewed candidate projects among those previously approved but not fully funded, those included in the 2012-2014 Capital Plan, as well as those identified as possible emerging priorities over the next three to five years. Staff recommend that the Southeast Vancouver Seniors’ Centre (see Map 1) be selected as the project to submit to the Community Recreation Program.

Map 1: Location of Southeast Vancouver Seniors' Centre within city



The Southeast Vancouver Seniors' Centre project involves construction of an addition to Killarney Community Centre that would focus on programming for seniors (see Map 2). The size of the proposed facility has fluctuated over the last decade between 3,500 and 10,000 square feet.

The final approved budget will ultimately determine the size of the seniors centre. Current approved funding consists of the City's \$2.5 million contribution. If a \$1 million contribution can be secured from the Province and \$2 million from other sources, the budget would increase to \$5.5 million. This would allow for the construction of a 7,000 to 8,000 square foot facility.

The Provincial program requires that construction must be completed by March 31, 2015. This three-year window allows for one year to confirm additional partnership funding, one year to prepare construction plans and tender the project, and one year to construct the project.

Map 2: Killarney Recreation Complex



Community benefits

Seniors place great value on opportunities for social interaction. A seniors' centre can support social integration, foster wellness and contribute to a larger sense of inclusion and belonging. A seniors' centre combined with other nearby facilities (e.g. the fitness centre and other facilities at Killarney Community Centre, Killarney Pool and the walking/running track at Killarney Park) will give seniors a wide range of venues and activities in their community.

In 2006, there were about 15,000 residents in Southeast Vancouver (south of 41st Avenue between Knight Street and Boundary Road) who were 55 years and older. This is expected to grow to about 18,000 by 2021.

Financial implications

The 2011 Capital Budget included \$2.5 million in City funding for the Southeast Vancouver Seniors' Centre project. This commitment was made on the basis that other governments and non-profit partners would participate in the funding of this facility.

The Community Recreation Program presents an important opportunity to tap into Provincial government funding (\$1.0 million) to support this needed community facility in Vancouver.

If the funding application is successful, staff will report back to Council and Park Board on project details, budget estimates and funding sources. The City will continue to explore funding opportunities with other partners. The project will proceed once all funds are fully committed by others.

Next Steps

Council will be considering this issue on December 15, 2011. Resolutions of the Board will be reported to Council.

SUMMARY

The Southeast Vancouver Seniors' Centre is a project well suited to B.C.'s Community Recreation Program: it clearly fits the program goal of making communities healthier, more active places. If the City is successful at leveraging funding from the Provincial Government and other partners, a facility of 7,000 to 8,000 square feet can be built at Killarney Community Centre by early 2015.

Prepared by:
General Manager's Office
Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
Vancouver, BC

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