

Date: April 15, 2008
From: Chris Ronson
To: Councillor Walker
Re: 'Neshama' Children's Accessible Playground, Oriole Park
Relocation of Tennis Courts

Project Description:

Located in Oriole Park (Ward 22, Councillor Walker), the purpose of this community-led initiative is to design and implement a state-of-the-art accessible playground that creates an enriching experience for ALL children, regardless of ability or disability.

Issue:

To update Councillor Walker in more detail on all available options (and cost implications) to relocate the existing tennis courts at Oriole Park, to free up additional site area for the best playground design possible.

Background to Issue:

Parks Forestry and Recreation initially presented a playground concept plan to the community that proposed the removal of the existing 2 tennis courts, creating in its place an enhanced playground with more open sight lines. At this meeting, concern was expressed by some residents regarding the removal of this facility.

Key neighbourhood concerns and comments arising from this meeting were incorporated into an adjusted concept plan that was presented in December 2005 to the community. Three tennis court options were presented, including a 1 court facility 'compromise option' recommended by PF&R. Other nearby community tennis facilities and the relatively low use rates for the Oriole Park tennis court were also discussed.

On March 11, 2008, Councillor Walker recommended a follow-up community meeting to confirm directions regarding the tennis court facility.

Options and Recommendations:

Four options have been developed by PF&R, for consideration by the Councillor, playground fundraising group, and the community. Two options are 2-court facilities. Two options are 1-court facilities. See attachment for detail on options and pros/cons.

As the two-court options have significant drawbacks, these options are not recommended by PF&R. Both 1 court options continue to be recommended, as they provide a balance

between issues of cost, adjacent resident impacts, tree impacts, and community recreational use.

Other options and locations were considered, but were rejected due to budget issues, resident impacts and tree impacts.

Cost Implications:

Cost of tennis court options range from \$125,000 to a high of \$250,000. The funding source will need to be confirmed for this portion of the playground project.

\$125,000 has been identified in the Capital Budget (2013-2017) for reconstruction of the tennis court surface. Further discussion is required between Councillor Walker and Capital Projects regarding the use of these projected funds for tennis court reconstruction/relocation in 2009.

Next Steps:

1. PF&R staff to meet with Councillor Walker to review tennis court options and confirm which options will be placed before the community for consideration
2. update playground fundraising group accordingly
3. Councillor Walker to convene and host public meeting in May 2008
4. decision by Councillor which of the 4 options to proceed with.
5. confirmation that sufficient funding is in place to proceed with this option.

Attachment: Oriole Park – tennis courts updated powerpoint

END OF MEMO