



To: Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services
 Committee
From: Dave Semple
 Director of Parks and Public Works
 Operations
Re: Disc Golf

Date: April 12, 2007
File: 11-7400-20-INBOX

Staff Recommendation

That the proposal from Thompson Community Association for the installation of a 9-hole disc golf course at Morris Neighbourhood Park, as outlined in this report, be approved.

Dave Semple
 Director of Parks and Public Works Operations
 (3350)
 Att. 3

FOR ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT USE ONLY					
ROUTED TO:		CONCURRENCE		CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER	
Community Recreation		Y	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	<input type="checkbox"/>
REVIEWED BY TAG		YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO	<input type="checkbox"/>
			REVIEWED BY CAO		
			YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO

Staff Report

Origin

On February 12th, 2007, the Parks Division received a proposal from the Thompson Community Association to supply and construct a disc golf course in Morris Neighbourhood Park (Att. 1).

Analysis

Description of Disc Golf:

Disc golf is played similar to traditional golf, only instead of hitting a ball into a hole, the objective is to throw a flying disc into an elevated metal basket. As players progress from the “tee” to the “hole,” the terrain changes in and around the “fairways” provide challenging obstacles. Ultimately, the “putt” is tossed into the basket and the hole is completed. Similar to traditional golf, the objective of the game is to complete the course with the fewest number of attempts.

Disc golf is a recreational activity that is gaining popularity because it is playable by all skill levels and age groups and requires minimal equipment. There are currently disc golf courses in Vancouver, Burnaby, Delta, Langley, Maple Ridge, Squamish, and Whistler.

Disc Golf Course Requirements:

The proposed disc golf course requires the installation of nine chain-link baskets, corresponding tee-off areas, and signage in and around the site (Att.2). The tee-off areas will comprise of 4ft x 4ft concrete pads.

Site Analysis:

Morris Neighbourhood Park is located south of Granville Avenue and west of Railway Avenue on Cabot Drive. This 6.75 acre site is a five minute walk from the Thompson Community Centre and Burnett Secondary School. Morris Park features a children’s playground, a basketball hoop, a walking path, and grass playing fields (which are not programmed for organised play).

This site is a suitable choice for a disc golf because it is of an adequate size, it is close to public transportation of its proximity to Burnett High School and Thompson Community Centre.

There are 24 single family residential housing units situated along the southern and eastern edges of the park. The proposed disc golf course would take this proximity to residential houses in consideration when it comes to design. Factors that staff would take into consideration when designing the course include: establishing buffer distances from residences to the holes; angling trajectory paths into the park; shorter fairways (distances between “tees” and “holes”); and signage around the site (Att 3).

Analysis of Alternative Site Options:

In addition to Morris Neighbourhood Park, two additional site options were examined. Thompson/Burnett Community Park has the advantage of being in the immediate vicinity of the

Thompson Community Centre and being attached to J.N. Burnett Secondary School. The site has disadvantages in that it is already quite heavily programmed for sports and recreational use. A disc golf course would have to be designed to play along the periphery of the park, where it would impact pathways and the residences that back on to the northern and western edges of the park.

Dover Neighbourhood Park has the advantage of less programming, but its small size and its proximity to roads on all sides poses a challenge to creating an adequate disc golf facility.

Neighbourhood Consultation:

As this proposed disc golf course will impact the typical usage of the park, staff will proceed with a neighbourhood consultation process in collaboration with the Thompson Community Association. This process would include having the proposed course laid out inside the park using portable units and inviting the community to provide their feedback.

Financial Impact

The Thompson Community Association is proposing to contribute \$10,000 for material costs related to the project, broken down as follows:

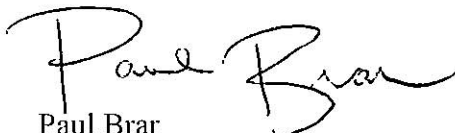
- \$5,000 for the purchase of nine disc golf baskets
- \$3,500 for the purchase of concrete to construct nine tee pads and install nine baskets.
- \$1,500 for signage production

The City's contribution would cover the labour costs of installing the proposed disc golf course, which would be approximately \$4,000. The funding source for the City's contribution is Parks Capital Projects General Development 2007.

Annual maintenance of this proposed disc golf course is estimated to be minimal as the only foreseeable costs are related to replacement of baskets or signage due to vandalism. Grass cutting will not be significantly changed since the equipment and schedule for the park would remain the same.

Conclusion

The proposal from Thompson Community Association presents the City with a unique opportunity to work collaboratively with the community and add a new programming element into its parks inventory. Upon successful completion of the neighbourhood consultation process staff will proceed with construction and installation in the summer of 2007.



Paul Brar
Coordinator, Parks Programs
(1250)

PB:pb



Jamie Esko
Acting Manager, Parks – Program
Planning & Design
(3341)

Attachment 1

February 12, 2007

Mayor Malcolm Brodie and members of Richmond City Council
6911 Number Three Road
Richmond BC V6Y 2C1

Dear Mayor and Council,

Re: Disc Golf Project

The Thompson Community Association is pleased to offer to fund all or part of a disc golf park in our area. The Board has set aside \$10,000 for this purpose though the new estimates from Parks total \$16,000. This would be the first disc golf park in Richmond. At this point, we favour Morris Park as a site but may still consider Thompson Park if neighbourhood and design issues create concerns at Morris. The sport is quite popular and growing but does not attract the amount of traffic that a basketball and tennis court would.

Thompson is proposing a disc golf course, as the sport is playable by nearly everyone, requires minimal maintenance and no direct supervision. Both construction of the course itself and the associated discs are very inexpensive compared to most sports. Disc golf is popular among young adults and older adults and can be played throughout the year. With thoughtful design, we believe that a Morris Park course can offer an interesting game without impacting neighbours negatively. As the basics of disc golf are just a pad for 'teeing off' and a 50cm basket that stands about 1 meter off the ground for each 'hole', adding a course is minimally intrusive. We are looking at a nine hole design but may reduce this to six holes depending on 'how it plays'. The proposed course will be suitable for all ages and abilities but will be more the equivalent of a 'par three' than a 'championship' course.

The main advantages of Morris Park are that it has a fair amount of underutilized space and quite a few trees as well as some 'hills'. Should Morris prove unworkable, we believe we can place the course around the boundaries of Thompson Park and the adjoining green space. While the topography is less interesting, the proximity to Blair and Burnett Schools and the community centre offers advantages including washrooms and the possibility of loaning out discs.

Thompson Community Association is excited about the possibility of disc golf. Past President George Atkinson brought the idea back from a BCRPA conference many years ago but we couldn't seem to find a way to make it work. Last year, we connected with a young enthusiast, Jayson Momeyer, who got us re-enthused and re-committed to the

April 12, 2007

- 5 -

initiative. With a minor amount of funding and a little Parks staff assistance, we can introduce a new sport to Richmond that residents and visitors will be able to enjoy for decades. Thompson is prepared to commit to required maintenance of the disc golf course, as we are for the climbing rocks we installed along Granville Avenue.

We hope that Council will approve the project, another idea to *get Richmond moving*.

Sincerely

Bernie Smerdon
President

cc: Paul Brar, Richmond parks Department

DISC GOLF BASKETS AND TEES



BASKET



TEE PADS



Legend
① ② ③ Disc Golf Tee ←..... Disc trajectory
* Basket or 'Hole'

Disc Golf at Morris Park