



To: Finance Committee

Date: March 7, 2011

From: Greg Halsey-Brandt
Councillor

File:

Re: General Currie Playground Tot Lot

Recommendation

1. That the 2011 Capital Plan and the 5 Year Financial Plan (2011-2015) be amended to include \$50,000 for the General Currie School Tot Lot improvements as part of the 2011 Unsafe Playground Equipment Capital programme.
2. That the Tot Lot improvements be funded from surplus 2010 Casino revenue account.

Origin

In 2008 the playground equipment at General Currie School/Park was largely destroyed in a fire. Equipment suitable to school age children was replaced through insurance coverage. Equipment for pre-school age children was almost entirely removed and replacement equipment is presently scheduled for 2012 under the Unsafe Playground Equipment Capital Programme. At their meeting of March 1, 2011 the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee reviewed a number of pre-school playground initiatives which identified the considerable scope of remedial and new works to be undertaken over the coming years.

Analysis

The entire playground is located on City property. Apart from the children attending General Currie School (it will have all day kindergarten in September 2011), the park equipment is heavily used in the afternoons by neighbourhood children particularly from early May to the end of October. Similar to other neighbourhoods in the City Centre area, the neighbourhood is almost entirely composed of townhouses and apartments with no yard space or other nearby parks.

Existing equipment in the park is only suitable for older children and the small piece of equipment to be replaced is becoming hazardous. The equipment has been in this condition for 3 years. There are no tot swings in the park.

The 2011 Capital Plan includes a submission of \$200,000 for Unsafe Playground Equipment Replacement and these funds are currently allocated for the Richmond Nature Park and the tot structures at Dixon School Park and Blundell School Park. General Currie tot structures are currently planned to be replaced in the 2012 budget.

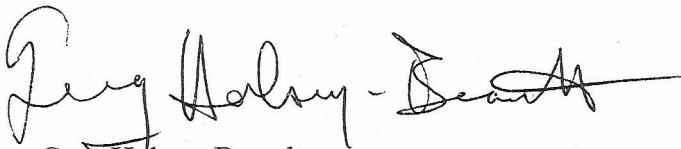
Financial Impact

The budget for the General Currie tot playground equipment replacement is \$50,000 which includes site preparation and playground equipment. If the project were approved for 2011, it would be included in the same tender as the Blundell and Dixon projects.

The Casino Revenue 2010 account presently has over \$1.4 million in uncommitted funds.

Conclusion

Pre school children in the General Currie neighbourhood have been deprived of play structures in their park for over 3 years. The development of this park and others in the City Centre area have lagged behind the rapid growth in population as Richmond densifies the City core with multi-family projects. In order to catch up with the usage demand it is appropriate to add additional funds to the parks capital budget.



Greg Halsey-Brandt
Councillor



NATURE PARK



NATURE PARK



DIXON



DIXON



BLUNDELL



GENERAL CURRIE