Report – Executive Policy Committee – June 21, 2006

Item No. 3 Skateboard Park Site Selection - Fort Garry
File PR-2(32)

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On June 21, 2006, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the City Centre Community Committee and submits the following to Council:

1. That the site at the Fort Garry Community Club, for the new skateboard park in the Fort Garry area, be approved.

2. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

Report – Executive Policy Committee – June 21, 2006

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On June 21, 2006, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the City Centre Community Committee and submitted the matter to Council.

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On June 6, 2006, the City Centre Community Committee concurred in the administrative recommendation and recommended to the Executive Policy Committee that the site at the Fort Garry Community Club, for the new skateboard park in the Fort Garry area, be approved.

Winnipeg

Public Works Department

Report to the City Centre Community Committee

This is a report prepared for the City Centre Community Committee.

ISSUE/TOPIC

Skateboard projects were identified as part of the $43 million Recreation and Leisure Program. One of the Skateboard Park projects to be built is in the Fort Garry Area.

The Fort Garry Community Centre Site is being recommended to be selected for the construction of the Skateboard Park in the Fort Garry Area. (see Appendix A – Site plan of Fort Garry Community Club – Proposed Site for the Fort Garry Skateboard park)

City Centre Community Committee agreement on the Departments recommendation for the site selection is being sought.

RELEVANT BACKGROUND AND/OR HISTORY

Over the course of three meetings held in May and June, 2004 approximately twenty persons came together on an adhoc basis to explore the concept of developing a Skate Park in Fort Garry. Leading up to the meetings, youth made it clear to parents, police and schools that they have no designated, safe, fun area to enjoy skateboard activities. As a result, they are required to travel out of the community, or skate on parking lots, in front of businesses and on streets, creating hazardous conditions for themselves and others.

The enthusiasm of stakeholders prompted the further exploration of a Skate Park for Fort Garry. A Fort Garry Skate Park Committee was formed, including members from: Community Residents, The City of Winnipeg, the MLA for Fort Garry, the Winnipeg Police Service, and business owners in the area. The committee is called SK8 with Marni Morton as the Chairperson.

Initial meetings provided an opportunity for participants to speak their thoughts, experiences and hopes for a community facility. Through discussion members began to identify potential locations, criteria for success of the project, needs assessment to address the demand for such a facility, design possibilities and scope of the proposed project.

Committee members defined the project scope as a permanent outdoor community – use facility.

Since then the SK8 committee have been meeting and planning for the building of the community skateboard park. The MLA for Fort Garry, Kerry Irvin Ross has been providing

support for the project and the group has been working with the CRC from Community Services Department of the City of Winnipeg in bringing other civic departments to the table and hosting a community meeting.

In 2005, the $43 million Recreation and Leisure program identified skateboard parks as one of the projects of the program with the Fort Garry area being designated for a park. Funds for the various projects were then approved in the 2006 Capital Budget.

In the summer of 2005 representatives from Planning, Property and Development, Public Works, the Winnipeg Police Service and Community Services conducted a Site Evaluation of possible sites for the Skateboard Park in the Fort Garry Area. The sites selected for evaluation included:

1. Century Arena Site 1
2. Century Arena Site 2
3. Fort Garry CC site
4. The north side of the Pan Am Pool on Grant Ave
5. The Waverley Soccer Complex
6. Bishop Grandin - Pembina Hwy site

The sites were evaluated on the following criteria:

a) Adequate size
b) Transportation & pedestrian route access & proximity
c) Site access amenities
d) Ancillary amenities
e) Clustering of skate park and other recreational uses
f) Compatibility with adjacent park uses
g) Aesthetic value
h) Visibility/security sightlines
i) Ease of development
j) Compatibility with adjacent land uses
k) Electrical power (lighting potential)
l) Soils

The various criteria above were weighted and scored. The evaluation committee through the rankings and further discussions selected the preferred site as the Fort Garry Community Club location.

The site scored high on all of the criteria and the Skate Park was seen as an asset to an already well-utilized facility. The City representatives involved in the process also agree that the site would work well for the Skate Park.

Since then the committee has engaged the community in formal and informal consultations. In August 2005 the committee hosted a community consultation that was well attended and

community members that attended were in favor of the concept of a Skate Park constructed at the Fort Garry CC site.

In addition, the project and this site have been discussed at the Fort Garry Network meetings over the past 2 years. The Fort Garry Network represents members from various agencies, organizations, resident groups, school division, community clubs and other community residents in the Fort Garry Area. To date there has been no opposition to the project/site from these centres and no other group has come forth to lead the project.

The support gathered to date for the Skate Park at the Fort Garry CC location includes:

a) The Executive and Board members of the Fort Garry Community Club
b) MLA – Kerry Irvin Ross
c) Councilor Jenny Gerbasi
d) Councilor Donald Benham
e) Vincent Massey Collegiate – school adjacent to the site
f) Winnipeg Police Service – station adjacent to the site
g) Holiday Inn – adjacent to the site
h) The GCWCC (Greater Council of Winnipeg's Community Centres)
i) A majority of the households adjacent to the site on 3 sides.
j) The Safeway and TD Bank – across from the site
k) Over 400+ signatures from area residents in favor of the site

Currently there have been only two phone calls to the Community Resource Coordinator from area residents in opposition of this site. The SK8 Committee and the City will keep these residents and others involved in the development process.

The SK8 Committee has also sent letters to the Directors of Public Works, Planning Property and Development and Community Services Departments to formally request that the park be built at the Fort Garry Site.

CURRENT STATUS

The SK8 committee is still continuing to meet. The last meeting occurred in May 2006. The meeting concluded with the City representatives informing the committee that a report would be prepared to get agreement for the Fort Garry Community Centre site in order to proceed to the next stages of the project.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

The efforts of the SK8 committee over the last two years, the positive support at many levels for both the project/ location and the process of its high ranking in relation to other sites in the area are some of the key factors for the endorsement.

The location of the project at this site and its function will enhance the amenities of the community club, provide recreational opportunities for the youth and create an amenity which will be multi-generational in nature.

OPTIONS/NEXT STEPS

The confirmation of the site is required to allow the project to continue to the next stages of its development and to meet the projected opening for Summer 2007.

CONCLUSION AND/OR RECOMMENDATIONS

As stated at the beginning of the document, Skateboard projects were identified as part of the $43 million Recreation and Leisure Program. One of the Skateboard Park projects to be built is in the Fort Garry Area. The delivery of the project to meet the opening of summer 2007 is important for the Program and to the community.

The site as discussed addresses the key selection criteria and has been supported at all levels.

Based on these factors, and the history around the project, the selection of the site at the Fort Garry Community Club for the new Skate Park in Fort Garry is recommended.

Prepared by: John D'Ignazio, Project Coordinator 986-7288

Date: June 1, 2006

APPENDIX A

SITEPLAN OF FORT GARRY COMMUNITY CLUB – PROPOSED SITE FOR THE FORT GARRY SKATEBAORD PARK



Final location of skateboard park to be determined in the Design and Community consultation phases of project.

Preferred location is on the south side of parking lot close to baseball field.