Agenda – Executive Policy Committee – March 7, 2007

REPORTS

Item No. 2 Spray Pad Conversion Projects - River/Osborne Community Centre and River Heights Area
File PR-1

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On February 27, 2007, the City Centre Community Committee concurred in the administrative recommendation and recommends to the Executive Policy Committee:

1. That the site for the proposed spray pad conversion at River/Osborne Community Centre be changed to Fort Rouge Park.

2. That the River Heights Community Centre be the site for the spray pad conversion proposed in the River Heights area.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

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1. That the site for the proposed spray pad conversion at River/Osborne Community Centre be changed to Fort Rouge Park.

2. That the River Heights Community Centre be the site for the spray pad conversion proposed in the River Heights area.

COUNCIL DECISION:

On June 26, 2005, Council approved the allocation of Recreation and Leisure Facilities Funding ($43m) which included the following:

> F. Spray Parks/Pads
> Free access, fully accessible outdoor aquatic play areas incorporating several colorful, interactive water features.
> - River/Osborne CC Spray Pad Conversion – $0.25 million
> - River Heights Spray Pad Conversion – $0.25 million

Winnipeg

Public Works Department

Report to the City Centre Community Committee

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

ISSUE/TOPIC:

Six Spray Pad projects were identified as part of the $43 million tri-level funding agreement dedicated to recreation and leisure facilities/amenities. Two of the Spray Pad conversions identified in Appendix A of the Recreation, Leisure and Library Facility Policy (RLALF), approved by Council May 18, 2007 include:

- "River/ Osborne C.C. Spray Pad conversion - $0.25 million "
- "River Heights Spray Pad Conversion - $0.25 million"

City Centre Community Committee agreement on the Departments recommendations with regards to site selections is being sought.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the site for the proposed Spray Pad conversion at River/Osborne Community Centre be changed to Fort Rouge Park.

2. That the River Heights Community Centre be the site for the Spray Pad conversion proposed in the River Heights area.

RELEVANT BACKGROUND AND/OR HISTORY

On May 18, 2005 Council approved the Recreation, Leisure and Library Facility (RLALF) Policy. In March 2006, Council approved capital funding for these projects.

An administrative working group (established in November, 2006) consisting of representatives from Community Services Department, Planning, Property and Development Department, and Public Works Department to date have:

- Surveyed nine Canadian municipalities with regards to their experiences with Spray Pads and Spray Pad conversions.
- Assessed proposed and potential sites taking into consideration such criteria as:
    - anticipated demand based on current wading pool usage
    - demographics
    - proximity to other wading pools

- compatibility with existing uses within the park/site
- clustering of park & other recreational uses
- ancillary amenities
- visibility
- current operational costs
- facility condition and preservation requirements
- ease of development
- dedicated stakeholder group

- Dialogued with area Councillors and stakeholders including; area residents, neighbourhood schools, parent councils, Fort Rouge Resource Centre, resident's associations, representatives of Winnipeg School Division # 1, Chair of CentreVenture's Heart of Gold Plan, River/Osborne Community Centre Manager, River Heights Community Centre Board and Manager, President of the General Council of Winnipeg Community Centres (GCWCC) and nine local daycares.
- Held formal public consultations
    - Community Information Session Tuesday, February 6th – St. Augustines United Church – 109 Pulford

    (Dealing in part with preferred spray pad location in the Fort Rouge Area)
    - Open House Saturday, February 17 – at the River Heights Community Centre.

    (Dealing in part with preferred spray pad location in the River Heights Area)

<u>River/Osborne</u>:

Rationale for Proposed Site Change:

There remains strong opposition from community residents and stakeholders to convert the wading pool located at River/Osborne Community Centre to a Spray Pad.

- The current wading pool is located on Winnipeg School Division # 1 property, and any changes would require negotiations and a change to the existing joint use facility agreement with the Winnipeg School Division. Representatives from the Winnipeg School Division have suggested that community input would of course be a key consideration.
- The River/Osborne wading pool is a unique wading pool – one of two wading pools in the city with a soft liner, and different configuration which residents suggest is ideal for toddlers.
- The River/Osborne Community Centre wading pool is a high utilization site open 7days/week (2006 average daily attendance – 90)

Fort Rouge Park represents an alternative conversion site in the same general area, which has the support of community residents and stakeholders.

- The unanimous response from the Public Community Information Session held February 6th was to not convert the wading pool at River/Osborne Community Centre to a Spray Pad but to instead convert the wading pool in the Fort Rouge Park to a Spray Pad.
- This option has the support of Councillor Gerbasi, the administrative working group, the community residents and stakeholders including local schools, parent council, daycares, the area Police constable and the community centre.
- A Spray Pad conversion at Fort Rouge Park would represent an investment in City of Winnipeg owned property.
- The wading pool at Fort Rouge Park is currently not operational without a financial expenditure, as a result of fire damage to the building in 2006. Conversion of the wading pool would provide an opportunity to help revitalize a park which has been in decline over the past few years.
- CentreVentures Heart of Gold Plan has identified the Fort Rouge Park as a destination park for the future, and initial discussions suggest that a Spray Pad could be complimentary to future development plans.
- The Fort Rouge Park is situated in close proximity to several Manitoba Housing units home to numerous low income families who remain in the city throughout the summer.
- A Spray Pad provides the potential for more flexible hours of operation, given that there is no requirement for lifeguard supervision as a result of zero water depth. This could greatly enhance accessibility for residents in the area. (The Fort Rouge Park wading pool was a 3 day/week site in 2006 as opposed to a 7 day/week site at River/Osborne C.C.)

Support for the Spray Pad conversion at Fort Rouge Park versus River/Osborne Community Centre includes; community residents and stakeholders, (four local daycares, principal of Fort Rouge School and the Parent Council, Gertrude-Wardlaw residents association, Fort Rouge Resource Centre, Manager of River/Osborne Community Centre), Councillor Gerbasi and the administrative working group.

River Heights Community Centre:

The RLALF policy approved by Council identified River Heights as an area for a Spray Pad conversion but did not specify a particular site.

The Administrative working group consisting of representatives from Community Services Department, Planning, Property and Development and Public Works assessed all eight wading pool sites located in the River Heights area including; River Heights C.C., Sir John Franklin C.C., William Osler Park, Brock Cordova Park, Montrose Park, TR Hodgson park, Cresentwood C.C. and Harrow Park, taking into consideration agreed upon criteria (as outlined previously in this report).

Strong support for the River Heights Community Centre has been expressed by the River Heights Community Centre Board and Manager, area residents, local daycares in the area, Councillor Leipsic and the administrative working group.

The River Heights Community Centre Board has passed a motion endorsing the site. The Public Open House held February 17th, further supported a Spray Pad conversion at this location.

CURRENT STATUS

Community representatives were informed at the Community Information Session and the Public House that a report would be prepared to seek agreement for the Fort Rouge Park and the River Heights Community Centre sites in order to proceed to the next stages of the project.

A Request for Proposal is being prepared, which bundles the four remaining Spray Pad conversions included in the RLALF policy (St. Norbert Community Centre, Provencher Park, and tentatively River Heights Community Centre and Fort Rouge Park).

OPTIONS/NEXT STEPS

The confirmation of the sites is required to allow the project to continue to the next stages of its development and to complete construction in 2007.

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

Date: February 19, 2007

APPENDIX A

SITEPLAN OF FORT ROUGE PARK – PROPOSED SITE FOR THE SPRAY PAD CONVERSION



APPENDIX B:

SITEPLAN OF RIVER HEIGHTS COMMUNITY CENTRE - PROPOSED SITE FOR THE SPRAY PAD CONVERSION

