

TO : CITY MANAGER DATE: 1999 MAY 06
FROM : DIRECTOR PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES
SUBJECT : SCHOOL DISTRICT SPORTS FIELDS
PURPOSE : To provide Council with information regarding sports fields in Northeast Burnaby.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT this report be received for information purposes.

REPORT

At its meeting of 1999 May 05, the Parks and Recreation Commission received the attached staff report on the above subject and adopted the two recommendations contained therein.



KATE FRIARS
DIRECTOR PARKS, RECREATION
AND CULTURAL SERVICES

tc
Attachment
c:\data\wp\council\ 990505

SUBJECT: SPORTS FIELDS - NORTHEAST BURNABY

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT a copy of this report be forwarded to Council for information.
2. THAT a copy of this report be forwarded to Ms. Barb Peabody.

REPORT

Appearing on the Commission agenda of 1999 April 21 was the attached letter from Ms. Barb Peabody. In her correspondence, Ms. Peabody expressed concerns regarding the development of sportsfields in the Northeast area of Burnaby including facilities at the new Burnaby Mountain High School.

Sportfield - Burnaby Mountain High School

As discussed in a previous Commission report, community usage of a school sports field is only practical if the field is either rock-dust or artificial turf surface. A natural grass sports field is too fragile a surface to handle both school and community play. The grass fields at Burnaby South, Burnaby North, and Burnaby Central are an example of school use only fields. Cariboo Hill oval handles both community and limited school use because the field resides primarily on park land.

A rock-dust field option at Burnaby Mountain High School was not preferred by the School District and, at that time, funds were not available for the artificial turf option. Due to budget limitations, the School District will be installing a natural grass field. While Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services was not involved in the field's layout or construction details it was recommended that the construction of the field base follow the specifications used for recent field renovation projects, which could accommodate an artificial turf installation at a later date. This technique was used on the recent Bonsor Park and Confederation Park sports field renovations.

Sportsfields - Northeast Burnaby

In addition, Ms Peabody expressed concern about the lack of available sports fields in the Northeast area of Burnaby. The Northeast area of Burnaby currently has a total of 12 park sports fields while the Southeast area has 11. Both the Northeast and Southeast areas are proportionately low compared to the other regions of Burnaby.

The following is a list of park sports fields in the Northeast area:

- Squint Lake Park - full size grass field; (2) mini grass fields
- Forest Grove Park - full size rock-dust lit field
- Bell Park - mini grass field
- Charles Rummel Park - (2) mini grass fields
- Keswick Park - mini grass field
- Westridge Park - (4) mini rock-dust fields

Sportsfields - Cariboo

The Cariboo Hill oval sport field has been prioritized to receive an upgrade as it was rated highest problem sports field by user groups and staff collectively.

At its meeting of 1999 March 17, the Commission approved a recommendation to consider funds in the 2000-2004 Capital Program for installing an artificial surface at Cariboo Hill oval. This installation will meet current and future demands created by the community and the school.

This report is provided for information purposes. The contents of this report have been shared with Ms. Peabody.

GP:BC:mc

Attachment

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April 6, 1999

3005 Vega Court
Burnaby, BC
V3J 1B2

COMMISSION AGENDA

DATE: 99/04/21

CORRESPONDENCE: (c)

RECEIVED
Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services

APR - 8 1999

Mayor and Council
C/o Clerks' Department
Burnaby City Hall
4949 Canada Way
Burnaby, BC
V5G 1M2

Refer To	Initials
DD	atc

Dear members of Burnaby City Council
and members of Burnaby Parks Commission:

I have just learned that a recent newspaper article (Burnaby Now, March 31) mentions that the Parks Commission is planning to ask City Council for almost one million dollars to install a synthetic surface to "the east Burnaby pitch that is shared by Cariboo Hill Secondary and private users such as the Edmonds Soccer Club." Unfortunately, because I understand that I need to have this letter in tomorrow, I do not have the time to do the research on this that I would like to, in order to fully understand the issues and confirm the relevant facts. I would, however, like to ask a question.

My purpose in writing is not necessarily to oppose this project or to set up an "us versus them" situation, but I do want to ask a question, given the huge amount of money under consideration here: In making this decision, has the Parks Commission taken into account what is the overall plan for fields in Northeast Burnaby area (the Lougheed Mall area)? The reason I ask this is that members of this community have watched in disappointment as the "field" plans for our long-awaited new high school site have been whittled away from the original two fields (in my notes of May '95), to one track/field, to no track but an all-weather field so that it can have more use, to one field that's not all-weather because there's not money for it (at least this is my understanding of the sequence, and the best I can confirm it from my notes and with other community members, on short notice). [I was told that the new high school will be focusing instead on a cross country program, with students running through the community, rather than track and field activities - although they will explore the possibility of having students perhaps make use of the track at SFU. This, however, is not nearly the same as having programs on site or right in the community.]

I think that our high school students, when they finally get to move to Burnaby Mountain School, in their own neighborhood, will find it odd if the plans for their school field(s) have been successively downgraded, while just as they are leaving Cariboo School, a million dollars is going into upgrading one of three fields there!

A REPORT ON THIS SUBJECT WILL BE SUBMITTED AT A FUTURE MEETING

I know that there are varying relationships between Parks and School District for different fields, and I don't fully understand how they apply in this case. I also know that environmental considerations have had some impact on the plans for fields associated with the new school.

The community was, however, looking forward to new fields which could have been used by the community as well as the high school students. If there is now only a single field, not all-weather, and with no track, then are there plans for upgrading other fields in Northeast Burnaby in the short or medium term? I am aware of plans for the further development of Bell Park in the future, but my understanding is that this would be many years down the road.

I recall both Edmonds Soccer and Cliff Avenue Soccer making presentations re potential use of Stoney Creek School field, if it were upgraded (this was during site footprint discussions approximately 5-6 years ago). I also know that the fields of both Cameron School and Stoney Creek School have drainage problems, making them unusable, even for students, much of the year. I know, too, that during the three years my children were involved in soccer (ages 6-9), our practices were at Confederation Park, Kensington, and Edmonds School, and our games were virtually all in other parts of Burnaby, too – primarily at Confederation Park, Burnaby South and Westridge.

What I don't know is the current situation regarding field use across Burnaby, and how our community compares to others in terms of need. I do hope, however, that the downgrading of plans for our high school field(s) is taken into account by those making the decision on the large spending item currently under consideration. I know that our high school students will wonder about it.

Thank you for your consideration of this input.

Sincerely,

Barb Peabody

Barb Peabody

