

October 5, 2020

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Donnie Rosa  
General Manager, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT : **Air Force Garden of Remembrance Relocation - Board Briefing Memo**

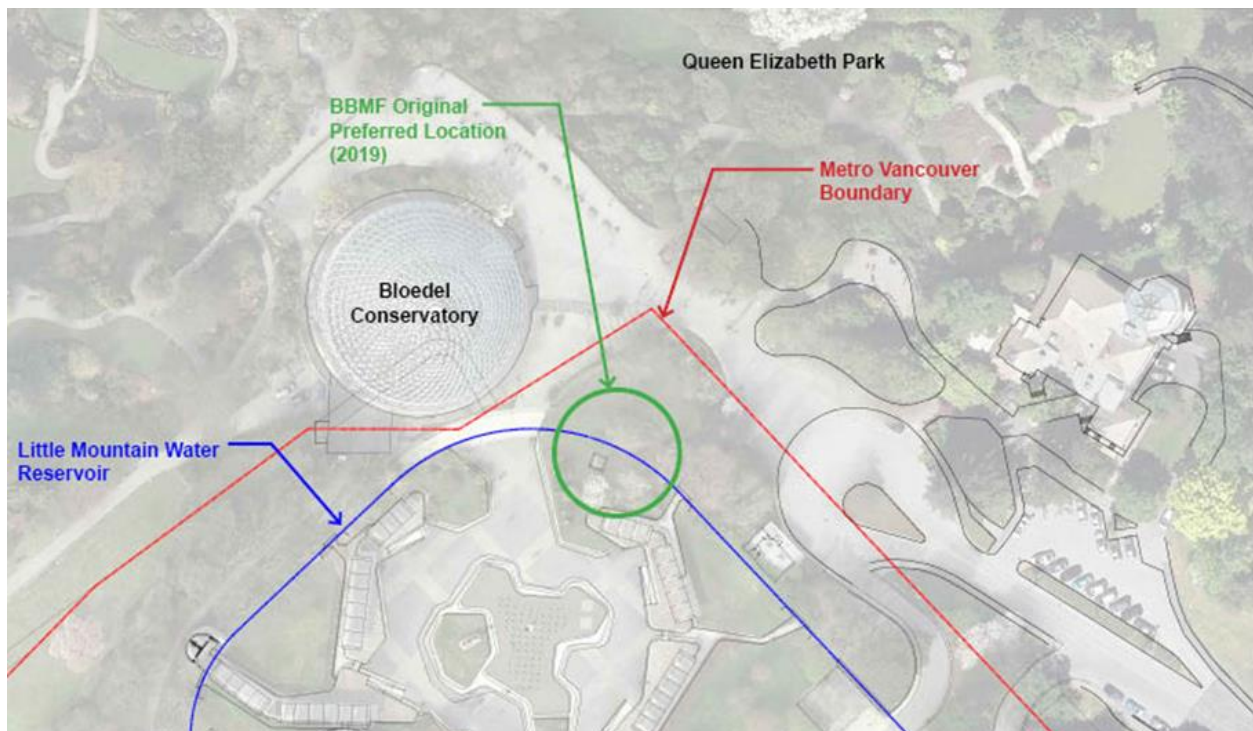
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Dear Commissioners,

The purpose of this memo is to provide you with an update on the [Air Force Garden of Remembrance relocation](#) from Stanley Park to Queen Elizabeth Park, which was approved by the Board on January 28, 2019.

The Air Force Garden of Remembrance is a memorial garden built in 1952 to commemorate pilots who fought in the Battle of Britain in 1940. It is co-funded by the Battle of Britain Memorial Fund (BBMF) and the Park Board, and is maintained by Park Board operations staff. With the garden outgrowing its site in Stanley Park, relocation to Queen Elizabeth Park provides an opportunity to respectfully memorialize the WWII air forces at a more suitable location that is highly visible, accessible, and can accommodate an annual event and procession.

In the spring of 2019, the BBMF notified staff of a preferred location for the memorial in the grassed area at the top of Queen Elizabeth Park (see Figure 1 below).



**Figure 1: Queen Elizabeth Park – Preferred Memorial Garden Site (2019)**



Upon further investigation, it was confirmed that the preferred site is located within the footprint of Metro Vancouver's Little Mountain Water Reservoir, which is an essential component of the system that provides drinking water to Vancouver residents. As any work required on or near the water reservoir requires approvals from Metro Vancouver, staff vetted the feasibility of the potential site with Metro's Water Services branch. For technical, safety and security reasons, Metro advised that an alternate location, off the reservoir footprint, should be sought. Metro also highlighted their ongoing need to maintain the reservoir, which could result in the deconstruction of any elements within its footprint should repairs or maintenance of the reservoir be required.

Staff advised the BBMF of the approval process with Metro Vancouver and concerns raised, along with the impacts this would have on the timeline for relocating the memorial.

On February 12, 2020, further site meetings were held with the BBMF to review alternate locations. In the Spring of 2020, staff received correspondence from BBMF expressing their dissatisfaction with these alternate locations, clarifying their preference to be at the very top of Queen Elizabeth Park "closest to the sky". As such, staff are looking into alternate sites within the park that meet this request. To assist with developing concepts and identifying the best site options, Vancouver-based [Lees & Associates](#), one of Canada's top memorial design firms (Komagata Maru Memorial, Air India Memorial, among others), have been contracted to produce concept design options.

Once options for three preliminary concepts at three different sites within Queen Elizabeth Park are prepared, a comprehensive community engagement and consultation process will follow to obtain feedback on the design concepts. The results of the stakeholder and community engagement will then be brought to the Park Board for final decision (targeting Spring 2021). Once the Board has approved the preferred concept, detailed designs will be completed with construction targeted for Fall/Winter 2021.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donnie Rosa".

Donnie Rosa  
General Manager - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

jh/ed/lh/clc

Copy to: PB Senior Leadership Team  
PB Planning, Policy & Environment Team  
PB Communications