



August 23, 2024

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Director, Park Planning and Development

SUBJECT : **Decorative Water Features – Board Briefing Memo**

Dear Commissioners,

The purpose of this memo is to provide an update on the rehabilitation of 11 decorative water features as directed by the Board in their December 11, 2023 [decision](#) in support of the [2024 Water Priority Action Plan](#).

Queen Elizabeth Dancing Waters Fountain

Further to the [Board Briefing Memo of March 12, 2024](#), staff are pleased to advise that the construction Invitation To Tender has closed for the repairs to Queen Elizabeth Dancing Waters Fountain, and staff are presently finalizing the details of the negotiated contract. Staff will bring a Contract Award Report to the Board in early Q4 2024. The project will be funded through previously identified capital funding in addition to funding recently acquired through the Mid-Term Update as the costs have exceeded the initial consultant budget by approximately \$400,000 due to construction cost escalation. Construction of the repairs is anticipated to begin in Q4 of 2024, with completion targeted for Q2 of 2025. As a cost saving approach, the lighting in the water feature will not be replaced due to an estimated \$660,000.00 capital cost and additional ongoing operating challenges associated with underwater lighting systems. Lighting could potentially be re-introduced at a later date, dependent on future capital funding.

Memorial South Park Pond

Staff have retained a consultant to study existing conditions and design a liner to retain water at Memorial South Park Pond. A physical survey and water balance study are underway, to quantify the water volume inputs and discharges throughout the year, and evaporation effects in the dry season. Water inputs include rainwater, surface runoff via catch basins, and field drainage. The adjacent retired wading pool no longer discharges water to the pond; this was a primary source of pond water in the summertime when the wading pool was operational. The existing pond does not have a physical liner; water naturally infiltrates into the soil and evaporates into the air, leading to low water levels in the summertime. The pond is currently dry and the first phase of the renovation, vegetation removal, will commence late this summer/early fall.

In order to become By-law compliant, a feature can only “top up” for evaporative loss. Once the design is complete, a contractor will be retained to install an impermeable liner that will mitigate infiltration effects but will not prevent summer evaporation, effectively like a pool. The resulting standing water in summer has the potential to become stagnant and may require a circulation system. Additional overflow volumes in the wet seasons will be managed by the discharge infrastructure to the City’s combined sewer system.

Construction work for this project is planned for summer of 2025, optimally during dry conditions prior to installation of the liner.



Nine Other Decorative Water Features

Nine other decorative water features were prioritized by the Board for rehabilitation in Dec. 2023. These are listed below and in a [public-facing web page](#). Staff have retained a consultant to design and oversee the rehabilitation of these assets. The consultant is conducting site reviews this quarter and will progress design through Q4. Construction of the repairs is planned to begin in 2025 and progress in a phased manner through to the end of 2026. As noted in the Water Priority Action Plan Board Report, rehabilitation works will progress generally in the order that the sites are listed, until the total funding is exhausted:

- Queen Elizabeth Park waterfall
- David Lam fountain
- Granville Loop Park fountain
- Emery Barnes Park fountain
- Marina Square fountain
- VanDusen Gardens rectangular pond
- Cardero Park fountain
- Nelson Park fountain
- Cathedral Square Park fountain

Staff will also be seeking additional funds in the 2027 to 2031 Capital Plan to continue the rehabilitation works. Given the number of faulty and non-compliant features, future repurposing decisions will also be required.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ian Stewart".

Ian Stewart (*he/him*)

Director, Park Planning and Development (Acting) – Vancouver Parks and Recreation

AS/IS/TM/AG/VT

Copy to: PB Leadership Team
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