



January 28, 2019

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Malcolm Bromley  
General Manager, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT : **Marpole Curling Club Location - Update**

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Dear Commissioners,

The purpose of this memo is to update you on the options explored to support the Marpole Curling Club in securing a long-term sustainable location, and to advise that staff have determined that the best option is for the club to remain at its current site.

### **Background**

The Marpole Curling Club is a financially stable, non-profit organization with roughly 700 members. In 1959, it built the curling rink on its property at 8730 Heather Street. The club is responsible for utilities and maintenance of the building, and recently renewed the building roofing, drain tiles, and ammonia plant with its own resources. Besides league play, the club supports a variety of programs that include junior and seniors programming, wheelchair curling, public bonspiels, and high school tournaments.

In 1999, at the request of the club, ownership of the building and property was transferred to the City of Vancouver and leased back to the club at a nominal rate for 20 years. That lease expires on December 31, 2019. As City staff had indicated their preference was to not renew the lease beyond 2024, the club reached out to both the City and Park Board for support in securing a long-term home. In the meantime, the City and the club are close to signing a new lease agreement to extend tenure at their existing site to December 31, 2024.

At an In Camera Park Board meeting on February 15, 2018, staff presented a report outlining the request from the Marpole Curling Club for support in securing a long-term location, along with options for consideration, including the possibility of co-locating the facility with the new Marpole Community Centre in Oak Park. The Board authorized staff to “engage in discussions with the Marpole Curling Club to determine the best way to support its continued operation”, and that staff report back to the Board with final recommendations.

Two options were explored for supporting the continued operation of the Marpole Curling Club beyond 2024: co-locating the club with a Park Board facility, or making arrangements with the City for the club to remain at its current site.

### **Relocation to Oak Park**

Staff explored the feasibility of relocating the curling club to Oak Park as part of the new Marpole Community Centre and pool renewal project already funded within the 2019-2022 Capital Plan. Co-location could provide benefits in terms of program development, facility management, and community outreach. However, it was determined that this would be the most expensive option as it requires the construction of an entirely new curling facility.



As well, completion of the new Marpole Community Centre could be delayed with the introduction of a new co-located facility at this stage in the project and there are no additional funds allocated in the current Capital Plan for the extra planning work that would be required. Also, a curling facility requires significant space so relocation would likely result in the loss of at least one sports field and other green space. As most of Oak Park's area is occupied by sports fields and courts, the addition of another building footprint and associated parking would significantly impact existing outdoor facilities.

### **Remaining at Current Site**

The other option explored would be for the curling club to remain at 8730 Heather Street beyond the expiry of its upcoming lease in 2024. This would be a significantly more economical option than the construction of a new building, with no impact to park space in Oak Park, and it would allow for continuous curling club operations. The current building itself is in good condition and is not expected to need major repairs for at least ten years.

For the reasons stated above, staff are no longer considering relocation to Oak Park as a viable option for the Marpole Curling Club. Staff are in discussions with the City to determine a potential arrangement to allow the club to remain at their current site for a longer term, beyond 2024. The participation numbers at both the Vancouver Curling Club and Marpole Curling Club demonstrate demand for access to curling facilities and programs in Vancouver. Recreation staff will continue to work with the club to assist in the development of curling in Vancouver.

Further updates will be provided as this process unfolds.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Malcolm Bromley".

Malcolm Bromley  
General Manager - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

/ds/clc

Copy to: PB Senior Leadership Team  
PB Communications  
PB Planning & Research