



April 9, 2021

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

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

SUBJECT : **WE Choo\$e West End Calisthenics Park Project – Board Briefing Memo**

Dear Commissioners,

The purpose of this memo is to provide an update on the [West End Participatory Budgeting Pilot](#) (WE Choo\$e), and the 'West End Calisthenics Park' in Barclay Square Park, which was one of fourteen (14) potential projects identified through this process. The project received the highest number of community votes along with a grant of \$50,000 towards implementation. Park Board staff are now proceeding with the next steps of this project, including a public engagement launch through the [Shape Your City](#) website.

Background

In 2017, City Council approved recommendations for a participatory budgeting pilot in the West End to explore a unique opportunity to reinvest incremental revenue from the [West End Parking Strategy](#) back into the community, through community engagement and localized community improvement projects. In September 2018, members of the West End community were convened to decide how \$100,000 of revenue generated in their community should be spent as part of the City's first-ever participatory budgeting program. They learned about the program and the guidelines for the pilot, and established a stewardship committee (the WE Choo\$e Impact Team).

Park Board staff were approached by the WE Choo\$e team in 2019 to help support the pilot project by identifying a suitable site to accommodate a potential West End Calisthenics Park. Barclay Square Park was identified as an appropriate location to accommodate such amenities.

In February 2020, the WE Choo\$e Impact Team and City of Vancouver staff announced the results of the community vote on the fourteen (14) potential projects identified through the pilot. The 'West End Calisthenics Park' to be located in Barclay Square Park received the highest number of votes.

In March 2020, [Council approved](#) allotting \$100,000 of incremental new revenue from the market-based West End resident parking permit sales for funding and implementation of projects that receive the highest number of votes through the WE Choo\$e community voting process. The West End Calisthenics Park project received a grant of \$50,000 for implementation.

Next Steps

Park Board staff have met with the WE Choo\$e group representatives to confirm objectives, process, and engagement plans for the project.

An online public engagement survey has launched on the [Shape Your City](#) webpage and will run until April 30, 2021. This survey will inform residents about the WE Choo\$e project and collect public feedback on the location and type of equipment proposed, which will include accessible, senior-friendly equipment.



The public engagement will be advertised through site signage and advertising in the West End Seniors' Network newsletter. Paper surveys will also be made available at Barclay Manor and at Kay's Place located in the Denman Place Mall.

Based on the survey outcomes, staff will finalize the selection and location of the new equipment and prepare construction documents. It is anticipated that construction will begin in summer 2021.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Donnie Rosa". The signature is written in a cursive style with several loops and a long tail that extends to the right.

Donnie Rosa
General Manager - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

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Copy to: PB Senior Leadership Team
Park Development
PB Communications