



**Council Member Motion
For the Special Committee of the Whole Meeting of November 2, 2021**

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** October 25, 2021
From: Councillor Loveday, Councillor Alto and Councillor Isitt
Subject: Funding a Facility Programming Study for Oaklands Community Center

BACKGROUND

The Oaklands Community Association (OCA) aims to provide a welcoming, engaging, sustainable community where all members can live, learn and thrive. To achieve this vision, OCA operates the Oaklands Community Center and delivers impactful programming including community development and recreation programs, the provision of childcare, food security and food access programs, and the Sunset Market.

Per the Child Care in Victoria study commissioned for the Mayor's Child Care Solutions Working Group in 2020, the combined neighbourhoods of Oaklands, Fernwood, North and South Jubilee Neighbourhoods have the highest unmet demand for licensed childcare, with a gap of 843 spaces identified. OCA has worked creatively to meet these needs, offering childcare at 3 separate sites. OCA is poised to open 2 new portable childcare learning centers to further cut down waitlists for families.

The current Oaklands Community Center at Oaklands Elementary School is partially shared through lease agreements with School District 61. Due to increasing SD61 facility needs, school programming has displaced some OCA programming. Due to this displacement, the OCA has had to reduce community services and programming. OCA has demonstrated excellence and creativity in serving the community, and for years has made a positive impact without adequate space. In short, the Oaklands community has unmet needs and OCA has the capacity but not the space to meet them.

In 2019, representatives from Oaklands Community Association made several presentations to council to share information about their space needs and build support for the renewal of the Oaklands Community Center. While redeveloping the Oaklands Community Center will not occur during this council term, there is a request from the OCA for funding to conduct a facility programming study, the first step towards a potential renewal or redevelopment of the Oaklands Community Center. City staff have indicated a facility programming study would be helpful for when the City is ready to consider a major project to expand or develop a new center.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council direct staff to report back with implications of funding the Oaklands Community Association to conduct a facility programming study to determine the future needs of the community center, to help envision the renewal or redevelopment of the Oaklands Community Center.

Respectfully submitted,



Councillor Loveday



Councillor Alto



Councillor Isitt