

Janet Hawkins

From: Cross, Kathie <kcross@sd61.bc.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, Jul 21, 2015 5:27 PM
To: Public Hearings
Cc: Cross, Kathie
Subject: Answers to City of Victoria Councils' Questions - from Central Middle School

From: Public Hearings <PublicHearings@victoria.ca>
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2015 3:13 PM
To: Cross, Kathie
Subject: Questions regarding your grant submission to Victoria Council

Below are the questions posed by Council on your grant submission at the July 15, Special GPC meeting:

Central Middle School

1. Is your committee open to engaging with Fernwood and Rockland Neighbourhood Associations to determine how these improvements may have a general community benefit? (E.g.: use of greenways after school hours).

Our Committee is definitely willing and excited to engage with Fernwood and Rockland Neighbourhood Associations to explore how these improvements will impact on the general community. We have partnered with both Associations previously for the first part of this project and the only reason we didn't contact them about this particular aspect is due to time constraints. We only became aware of this funding opportunity at the beginning of June and so wanted to get our application for City of Victoria assistance in as quickly as possible. We experience that the school grounds are well used during non-school times but expect that this project will significantly enhance community usage. We are happy to involve both Neighbourhoods Associations and hope they will participate in our grand opening ceremony.

2. Is there a potential for the School District to make a contribution for this project?

The budget for the Naturalized Playspace in its entirety is \$75,000. The School District has contributed to the project as a whole. Fundraising for this cutting edge project has been a struggle because it is one of the first naturalized playgrounds at a school and many funders (as well as the School District until we started this project) are unfamiliar with this type of concept and the many health and wellness benefits it can provide. Funds committed by the School District have been used in earlier parts of the project that funders typically do not want to fund such as professional design studies. Additionally they have contributed countless hours in helping us vision the specifics of the project and in liaising between the school, the designer and the contractor. The School District will also make ongoing contributions for this project through their maintenance program.

3. A lot of your budget is for trees and the City has a nursery. Would an in-kind contribution from Parks be satisfactory?

We would welcome in-kind contributions by the City for any of the trees, plants or shrubs identified on the list submitted with our application. Also included with the application are many square metres of soil, mulches and other ground cover and we would also appreciate these types of supplies. Please note that the cost of the plants in our budget includes the cost of bed/pit preparation, delivery, planting, staking and mulch finish, so plants alone would only partially fulfill our request.