

## Janet Hawkins

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**From:** Anne Tomin <anne\_tomin@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, Jul 21, 2015 4:19 PM  
**To:** Public Hearings  
**Cc:** Caroline Smart; Brett Johnson; Vanya McDonell  
**Subject:** Re: Questions regarding your grant submission to Victoria Council

Thank you for the opportunity to further clarify why we believe this will be a great community project worth supporting. Please see our responses to your follow-up questions below. We are happy to provide any additional information to help you in the decision making process. Please do not hesitate to contact us.

Anne Tomin  
EMJS PAC Chair

**From:** [Public Hearings](#)  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 16, 2015 3:27 PM  
**To:** [mailto:anne\\_tomin@hotmail.com](mailto:anne_tomin@hotmail.com) ; [mailto:anne\\_tomin@hotmail.com](mailto:anne_tomin@hotmail.com)  
**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:

### **Ecole Margaret Jenkins School Parent Advisory Committee and School District 61**

1. Clarification on the section where it states that 15% percent of Victoria residents are benefiting from the program; what is meant by that?
- 2.
3. As a community school we anticipate the Naturalized Playground becoming a destination playground and outdoor classroom for the community of Fairfield / Gonzales and beyond. In this sense it might be considered to be one of Victoria's "parks", as we already see this participation with our school grounds being used on evenings and weekends by various members of our community. The 15% is our estimation of people in Victoria who would say they benefitted from this new facility based on the current population. With the classroom aspect, this space will appeal not only to EMJS teachers but also to a wide range of age groups who may wish to host a meet up in the outdoors outside of school hours.
- 4.
5. Is the applicant requesting funds from Oak Bay and if so, how much?
- 6.
7. While the project site resides in the City of Victoria, we agree that there is a notable catchment area in Oak Bay, and that this Municipality would benefit from our project as well. We have not yet applied to the District of Oak Bay for a grant, as our understanding from conversations to date is that the grant program for the District of Oak Bay has typically only been used to fund events. However this year, like the City of Victoria, Oak Bay is making some changes to their grant application process. While we hear that they have never funded a project like a school playground in the past, it has been suggested that it may be worth applying this year for a small grant in the neighbourhood of \$1000-\$2000. The likelihood of being successful with this request is quite uncertain as there is no precedent, but our plan at this point is to make the application to Oak Bay for this small grant which we understand may not be looked at until the new year. Should we receive a grant from the City of Victoria, we would certainly inform Oak Bay of this generosity and request a partnership donation.

- 8.
9. Would the applicant be open to consulting with the Fairfield Gonzales Community Association to determine what would be the general community benefits outside of school hours?
- 10.
11. Margaret Jenkins school has an excellent relationship with the FGCA and we are happy to work together on projects that benefit the community. The before and after school care programs that occur on site at Margaret Jenkins (operated by FGCA) would make wide use of the naturalized playground daily. This program currently has approximately 90 children enrolled who will benefit greatly from the playground. The space would also be made use of as an out-trip location for school-age camps and preschools operated by the FGCA (and likely others). We are excited to know that our new space would serve these programs as well.
- 12.
13. Would this project provide an opportunity to extend the greenway provided by the Chandler/Gonzales pathway?
- 14.
15. While there may be opportunities to coordinate some of the work on the proposed greenway and our playground, the two areas are completely separate on opposite sides of the school grounds so it is not possible to physically combine them. There is however an opportunity to link the two projects and we believe this would enrich both. We have discussed linking the playground and the greenway with painted drawings on the ground (possibly student created). This would create a tributary path that would leave the greenway, meet the playground, and join up with the greenway again. This playful way finding that could also include traditional signage would be fairly inexpensive as the majority of the connection is already a fairly level asphalt surface. We do predict that both projects will attract wider use of the space by the community. EMJS and the FGCA will publicize both projects to the community at large and invite community use of both the Greenway and the Naturalized Playground.
- 16.
- 17.

Please 'reply' to this email, at [publichearings@victoria.ca](mailto:publichearings@victoria.ca) with your response. As this is a time-sensitive application process, we would appreciate your response as soon as possible, and no later than 11:00 am **on Wednesday, July 22**.

For reference, below is the link to the archived video of the meeting where you can listen to the questions should you wish for more detail:

<http://www.victoria.ca/EN/main/city/council-webcasting.html>

Thank-you,

Christine Havelka  
Secretary – Council Committees  
Legislative & Regulatory Services  
City of Victoria  
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6

T 250.361.0571 F 250.361.0348

