



# City of Port Moody

## Report/Recommendation to Council

Date: August 18, 2020  
Submitted by: Planning and Development Department – Policy Planning Division  
Subject: Delegation Response – Block 8 Academy

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### Purpose

To report back on the City of Richmond's model to foster shared stewardship of parkland and public open spaces between multiple stakeholders.

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### Recommended Resolution(s)

**THAT the report dated August 18, 2020 from the Planning and Development Department – Policy Planning Division regarding Delegation Response – Block 8 Academy be received for information.**

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### Background

At the February 18, 2020 Committee of the Whole Meeting, Council received a delegation from Block 8 Academy regarding the use of public space for childcare businesses in the City. The delegation gave a presentation regarding the lack of outdoor play spaces for childcare use, noting that restrictions on the use of school grounds, in this case Moody Elementary School, result in inefficient use of and unequal access to outdoor spaces. As a result of the presentation, Council passed the following resolutions:

#### CW20/019

THAT the delegation request be referred to an upcoming joint meeting of Council and School District 43 for consideration;

AND THAT the delegation's presentation materials be included in the agenda of the joint meeting as background information.

#### CW20/020

THAT staff be directed to report back on the model being implemented in the City of Richmond to foster shared stewardship of parkland and public open spaces between multiple stakeholders.

This report responds to resolution CW20/020.

## Discussion

The *Community Care and Assisted Living Act's Childcare Licensing Regulation* requires that all licenced childcare facilities in BC provide at least 6m<sup>2</sup> of outdoor play area for each child. As many potential childcare operators struggle to find outdoor space that meets provincial regulations on-site, there has been an increase in childcare operators requesting access to municipal and school district lands to meet the outdoor play area needs of the children in their care.

At the direction of Council, staff contacted City of Richmond staff to better understand their model to provide childcare businesses with access to public lands. Richmond staff are currently working on creating a permitting system to which childcare businesses can apply for the use of municipal parkland as their approved outdoor play area, but have noted that they do not have the staffing capacity to implement the permitting system in the short term.

When it is implemented, Richmond's childcare park use permitting model will require the following:

- the park space will need to meet the requirements of the *Childcare Licensing Regulations*;
- a minimum \$5 million of liability insurance, listing the City and any other affected organizations on the rider;
- a plan to handle any waste, recycling, and grey water;
- an agreement with the City about what activities can take place in the park;
- a user fee to utilize the park; and
- a deposit to cover any costs associated with routine maintenance or restoration of the City's park space.

In addition, Richmond School District No. 38 (SD38) allows for off-site day cares to use school property; however, each childcare business negotiates the exact parameters of the childcare business's use of school lands directly with the affected school. On sites where schools are situated beside municipal park space, SD38 will defer to the City of Richmond as to which daycares are allowed to use the municipal park site as part of the childcare's outdoor space.

### Staff Comments

In consideration of implementing a model similar to the City of Richmond, staff have the following comments:

- there are outstanding questions related to creating a permitting system to provide childcare businesses with access to public lands, particularly playgrounds. While staff support the use of the City's parks by childcare businesses for the purposes of day trips and field trips, having City parks as part of a childcare business's daily programming would require new capital funding and additional maintenance for parks and playgrounds already experiencing considerable daily use by residents and visitors;
- COVID-19 has pushed many City programs and residents outdoors and, as such, City parks have seen a significant increase in usage throughout Port Moody. City recreational programs have also moved outdoors for safety reasons, while usership by

residents has also increased due to a lack of safe recreational opportunities elsewhere and the number of children who have not been in school regular sessions. Integrating childcare businesses safely into park space would be a significant challenge at this time;

- there are also very few parks that meet the requirements of the *Community Care and Assisted Living Act's Child Care Licensing Regulation*, which include the need to have one toilet and wash basin on-site for every ten children or fewer. The parks with playgrounds and existing washroom facilities (Westhill, Glenayre, Rocky Point Park, Old Orchard Park, Heritage Mountain Community Centre) also tend to be the ones with existing pre-school and daycare programs on site (although some have existing separate private playgrounds for onsite daycares) which could lead to a greater demand for these spaces; and
- there are concerns around moderating the use of park space by childcare businesses at this time. With the demand for park space from childcare businesses being potentially substantial, mandating who gets to use the space and who doesn't will likely be difficult, especially as these spaces are open to the general public as well. If childcare businesses require the park spaces in perpetuity as part of their programming requirements, the City cannot remove the park space use from the childcare business without putting childcare business licensing in jeopardy. This would also have the added effect of parents potentially losing their childcare.

### Other Option(s)

1. THAT staff report back on a potential regulatory framework for the use of municipal park space by childcare businesses, including resourcing implications.
2. THAT staff continue to monitor the outcomes of the City of Richmond's regulatory framework for the use of municipal park space by childcare businesses.

### Financial Implications

Additional staff and resources would be required to create, implement, and monitor the permitting system regulating childcare business use of municipal park space. Staff will report back with more information on the financial implications should Council direct staff to pursue this initiative further.

### Communications and Civic Engagement Initiatives

There are no communications or civic engagement initiatives associated with the recommendation of this report at this time.

### Council Strategic Plan Objectives

The potential use of municipal park space by childcare businesses discussed in this report aligns with the Council Strategic Plan objective to expand and make the most of our parks and green spaces.

### Report Author

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## Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Delegation Response - Block 8 Academy.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Sep 1, 2020

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Mary De Paoli, Manager of Policy Planning - Aug 25, 2020 - 3:06 PM

Julie Pavey-Tomlinson, Director of Environment and Parks - Aug 26, 2020 - 4:26 PM

Ron Higo, General Manager of Community Services - Aug 27, 2020 - 8:51 AM

Tracey Takahashi for Dorothy Shermer, Corporate Officer - Aug 27, 2020 - 8:54 AM

Natasha Vander Wal for Rosemary Lodge, Manager of Communications and Engagement -  
Aug 27, 2020 - 12:10 PM

Paul Rockwood, General Manager of Finance and Technology - Aug 27, 2020 - 1:23 PM

Jeff Moi for Tim Savoie, City Manager - Sep 1, 2020 - 10:50 AM