

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
SUSTAINABLE CITY ADVISORY
COMMITTEE

DATE: 2018 October 24

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

FILE: 13000 02
Reference: Child Care

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO A DELEGATION - DISCOVERY CASTLE CHILD CARE

PURPOSE: To provide a response to the delegation's request to locate a child care centre in Edmonds Park.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** staff be directed to inform the delegation that their proposal for a child care facility in Edmonds Park does not align with existing City policy and plans and to provide the delegation with zoning information to assist them in the search for a suitable location for their child care facility.
2. **THAT** a copy of this report be forwarded to Mr. Jack Tsai and Ms. Lida Madarshahian of Discovery Castle Child Care, 359 West 23 Street, North Vancouver, BC, V7M 2B6.

REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

At its meeting of 2018 September 5, the Sustainable City Advisory Committee received a delegation from Mr. Jack Tsai and Ms. Lida Madarshahian of Discovery Castle Child Care. Discovery Castle is a privately-run child care business with two child care centres in North Vancouver. The delegation presented a proposal for a child care centre that would involve repurposing an outbuilding on the grounds of Edmonds Park. The delegation is requesting approval from the City to use the building to develop a child care centre for children aged five and under. This report responds to the delegation's request.

2.0 PROPOSED LOCATION

The delegation is interested in renovating or rebuilding on the site of an old washroom building at Edmonds Park. The building in question was built in 1960 to provide washrooms, an electrical control room for the wading pool, storage space and a concession stand in what was formerly known as Richmond Park. The building was assessed by Facilities Management and

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due to its age and condition was closed in 2017. Replacement of the washroom building is scheduled for the last phase of the site redevelopment of Edmonds Park. The replacement plan will begin in 2019 with demolition of the building. The new washroom building is anticipated to be open by 2020 pending approvals by the Parks Commission and Council. As such, the building in question is not available for other uses. It is further noted that the Edmonds Park Master Plan does not include provision of child care facilities on the Park grounds.

3.0 CITY'S APPROACH TO CHILD CARE

The City has long supported the availability and choice of child care options through the creation of supportive policies and zoning. The City's commitment is demonstrated through its five purpose-built child care centres achieved through the development process. Each centre is operated on a non-profit basis to assist with the affordability of child care. Local non-profit operators of the centres were selected by the City through a Request for Proposals process.

Currently, the City is working in partnership with the Burnaby School District to implement its Memorandum of Agreement for Child Care Facilities. Under the Agreement, up to twelve child care centres will be developed on school sites throughout the city. The City will be responsible for the capital costs of developing the centres. The School District will provide land and select and oversee locally-based non-profit child care providers to operate the centres. Non-profit operators will be selected through a Request for Proposals process. The first two centres, Capitol Hill and Montecito, are currently under construction and design work is underway on a third centre on the site of Stride Avenue Community School.

The City has also implemented zoning changes to facilitate more options for the establishment of licensed child care facilities (privately-run or otherwise) throughout the city. In September 2018, Council approved amendments to the Zoning Bylaw to permit child care facilities as an outright use in select commercial districts. Facility-based child care is now a permitted use in the C1, C2, C3, C4, C8 and C9 Commercial Districts in addition to the P1, P5 and P11 Institutional Districts and the RM1, RM2, RM3/RM3s, RM4/RM4s and RM5/RM5s Multi-Family Residential Districts. The City has also produced step-by-step guides to assist operators through the development process and provided information on child care needs in the city.

Although the delegation indicated that they would be willing to consider operating on a non-profit basis in the City park, the delegation's proposal does not align with the City's established approach to the provision of child care services. This model is based on a non-profit partnership approach that includes the selection of operators for City-owned child care facilities through a Request for Proposals process.

While finding suitable sites for child care is challenging, recent Zoning Bylaw changes noted above will provide more options for operators like Discovery Castle.

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4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that staff be directed to inform the delegation that their proposal for a child care centre in Edmonds Park does not align with existing City policy and plans and to provide the delegation with zoning information to assist them in the search for a suitable location for their proposed child care facility.

It is recommended that a copy of this report be forwarded to Mr. Jack Tsai and Ms. Lida Madarshahian of Discovery Castle Child Care, 359 West 23 Street, North Vancouver, BC, V7M 2B6.



Lou Pelletier, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

MM:sla:sa

cc: City Manager
City Clerk