

## 2019-03-13 Mar - Presentation to EUCCA re Handsworth Track

Kitty and Mike Castle, 4139 Sunset Blvd. North Vancouver

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### 1 Intro. [Existing Site]

Good evening everyone.

My name is Kitty Castle. I am here tonight with my husband Mike, to tell you what we know about the Handsworth School rebuild. And, in particular, the demolition of the Handsworth Track.

There has been no recognition of its loss financially to the District and to all the users of this Community Facility.

Elementary and High School track meets are held here as well as regular use by NorWesters Track and Field club, Special Olympics and the community.

- Out of interest is anyone here a Handsworth Parent or someone who has used this track?

### 2 School District Proposal - Permits [Grass Field]

- Rebuilding of Handsworth School is necessary to meet earthquake standards.
- This layout shows the new school and grass field. Ministry funding is for a grass field ONLY. The other options would require external funding, and the School District is not prepared to look for those funds.
- The School District has applied for a combined development permit and development variance permit.
  - The development permit is for hazard and environmental purposes - including a 10 m setback from Top-of-bank at creek.
  - The variance is for parking – from the required 174 to 120 parking stalls.
- This is likely to be before council in the next month or so.
- School District is planning to go to tender in May, with construction starting in late July.

#### 2.1 9 January 2019 Meeting: [6-Lane track]

On 9<sup>th</sup> January a Public Info Meeting was held at the School showing various options:

- This option shows a 6-lane track, with 120 parking stalls. But probably this is not feasible, given the siting of the school, the parking lots, the set back from McKay Creek, and allowing for slopes and fencing. This was not evident at the Public Meeting.
- No detailed study has been done on this option.
- We will also be losing the tennis courts, with 6 basketball hoops, and the gravel field. There is only one basketball hoop shown by the new school.

### 3 Why are we involved?

#### 3.1 Brief History [Existing Site]

- There has been a track there since 1970. Declared dangerous and closed for track events in 1990.
- We became involved as Handsworth parents when I saw a NS News with headline “Handsworth sports track declared dangerous” (show paper) and then we spent the next 6 years organizing and fundraising until a brand new track and field was built and opened in Sept 1996.

### 3.2 Funding

- This track and field cost \$780,000 with the District paying 40% the School District 35% and the School Association raising a princely sum of \$75k; with we got another \$100k from BC21 (lottery funds).

### 3.3 Joint Use Agreement [show agreement]

A Joint Use Agreement was signed by the District of North Vancouver and the School District in November 1996 with the School District being responsible for the Track; and the District the field. However the School District, has been unable to provide major maintenance, such as respraying the surface every 12 years which is needed to maintain the surface and indeed runners are now experiencing significant injuries at Handsworth. This Joint Use Agreement has not worked as the School District has not kept its side of the bargain and accepts no obligation to replace this track, which will now be torn up.

So, Why risk future District funding for a track on School Board Property?

### 3.4 Tracks on the North Shore: [Table of tracks]

Handsworth is the only properly surfaced 6-lane running track on the North Shore. **All** others are either asphalt or have the wrong dimensions.

The red text flags what is wrong with each track.

Apart from Handsworth, other North Shore tracks do not meet standards for competition.

#### 4 What has happened So Far?. [6-Lane track].

##### 4.1 11 Feb:

We had a meeting with School Board officials and it was clear to us that they have not worked out in any detail how a 6 lane track can be achieved on this site. There are serious constraints because of McKay Creek, the parking area, pathways, fencing and the paved concrete area around the school. Also there also appears to be no recognition by the School District of any responsibility for a track. To quote their staff: “ Nobody here is quarterbacking the Track”

##### 4.2 19 Feb:

We made a presentation to School Board - with no apparent results.

##### 4.3 25 Feb:

We made a presentation to District Council – which was far more satisfactory. This resulted in Council instructing Staff to bring back a report on options for the track and field at Handsworth or possibly other locations.

### 5 There are 3 Big Questions:

#### 5.1 Track Issues

- What track could fit at Handsworth, and at what cost? Details need to be worked out.
- Who would pay for it? How do you ensure proper maintenance, and avoid demolition and loss of investment?

## 5.2 Parking [174 Parking stalls]

School Board are asking for a Parking Variance from the required 174 down to 120 stalls.

- Impression at the 9 Jan meeting was that the Variance is to accommodate a future track. But the NV District says it is from a Traffic Report prepared by Binnie Engineering, which is available at District Hall.
- School Board states that the existing school has 107 on-site parking stalls.
- But we have pointed out to District Council that there are 126 parking stalls – 104 to north side + 22 to south side.

So 120 stalls would be a reduction of **at least 6 spaces** from the existing parking capacity. Surely, this is a mistake?

## 5.3 Possible Sites? [Existing Site – last slide]

Where could a Track be built, if not at Handsworth

- Very few sites are even remotely possible for tracks. But no study has been done to address this.
- The District needs to find out if a basic competition track (6 or 8 lane) is even possible in North Vancouver.

## 6 Where are we now?

- We have proposed working with staff, Sports Council and the athletics community to study possible sites and help to develop an overall plan.

In the meantime:

- District Planner, Robyn Hay, is preparing a report for Council.
- If the Development Permit is approved, tenders could go out at the end of May.
- Construction could start the end of July .
- New School Building could reopen in 2021

## 7 Conclusion

Thank you for the opportunity to bring this issue to your attention.

If you have comments or questions for the NV District they can be sent to Mayor Little and Council.

If anyone wants to keep in touch with us on this, please find us at the end of the meeting.

Are there any questions?