



West Point Grey Residents Association
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November 10, 2020

Vancouver Park Board Commissioners

Re: Proposed Homeless Shelter for Jericho Hostel

City Council has directed staff to investigate the use of the Jericho Hostel as a homeless shelter as per the motion attached. We understand that this is Park Board land, however, it is unclear what process this investigation would take and we are concerned that the community has yet to be consulted. We are aware Hostelling International has a lease on the building until 2023.

We appreciate the City's efforts to address the needs of Vancouver's homeless population. However, the problems of Oppenheimer and Strathcona Parks should be avoided and not be spread throughout the City and in particular to the Park Board recreation lands of Jericho/Locarno Parks as proposed.

We note that the subject motion acknowledges the need to ensure that the establishment of new shelters avoids locations in close proximity to broader-serving public amenities, however, the Jericho Hostel doesn't meet those requirements so it is inappropriate that this is being considered.

Specifically, with respect to the location of temporary Pandemic Shelter(s), Part A2c of the subject Motion directs that: "Shelter(s) location(s) consider appropriate proximities of 300 meters to sensitive adjacencies like schools, daycares, parks, playing fields, or community centres;"

In the attached map, it shows that Jericho Hostel resides within Locarno Beach Park, across from Jericho Beach Park and is a Park Board facility. It is surrounded by playing fields, and is only steps away from the WPG Community Centre which operates a preschool and popular programs for children, youth and seniors. Queen Mary Elementary School is close by, as is the West Point Grey Academy elementary and high school.

Please consider the following points:

- The Jericho Hostel doesn't meet the location requirements of shelters as noted above and attached;
- Increased risk to children and vulnerable elderly who use the parks and community centre facilities;
- Issues of needles, garbage, weapons, and increased criminal activity;
- No services for shelter residents such as transit, shopping, medical or other services;
- No ability to safely distance for COVID-19 in mainly bunkbed accommodation;
- The existing use as a Hostelling International facility for low cost travelers should remain; and
- No local neighbourhood consultation, with the community only aware through media reporting.

The residents of West Point Grey, particularly North West Point Grey, would appreciate your consideration of the above points and appropriate consultation before a decision is made which could have a serious impact on this area.

Yours truly,

West Point Grey Residents Association Board of Directors

Cc Donnie Rosa, General Manager, Board of Parks and Recreation
Nick Kassam, General Manager, Real Estate & Facilities Management
Sandra Singh, General Manager, Arts, Culture and Community Services

Attachment:

City Council Agenda: <https://council.vancouver.ca/20201008/spec20201008ag.htm>

Memo dated Oct. 2, 2020: <https://council.vancouver.ca/20201008/documents/spec1memo.pdf>

Motion: <https://council.vancouver.ca/20201008/documents/spec2.pdf>

Meeting Minutes: <https://council.vancouver.ca/20201008/documents/spec20201008min.pdf>

Part A2c of the subject Motion directs that: “Shelter(s) location(s) consider appropriate proximities of 300 meters to sensitive adjacencies like schools, daycares, parks, playing fields, or community centres;”.

Map of area surrounding Jericho Hostel with 300 m circle.

