



Exhibition Place

Item No. 13

April 27, 2011

To: The Board of Governors of Exhibition Place

FOR INFORMATION

From: Dianne Young
Chief Executive Officer

Subject: **Upgrades to BMO Field**

Summary:

At its meeting of September 11, 2009, the Board approved of changes to BMO Field which were as follows:

- (a) Replacement, by and at the sole cost of Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment (MLSE), of the current Field Turf field at BMO Field with a natural grass field at an estimated cost of \$3.5M;
- (b) Commitment of \$2.0M by MLSE for community sports facilities in the form of the construction of the necessary installations at Allan Lamport Stadium (Lamport) to allow for the relocation and erection of a winter bubble (the bubble previously used at BMO Field) at a cost of approximately \$1.2M; and, a commitment of approximately \$0.8M for the construction/installation of a Field Turf field at Lakeshore Collegiate Institute in Etobicoke (subject to an agreement between the City and the Toronto District School Board (TDSB)).

Financial Impact:

There are no negative financial implications of this report.

Decision History:

At its meeting of September 11, 2009 the Board approved a report addressing the changes to BMO Field, Lamport Stadium and the Lakeshore Collegiate Institute Field which report was subsequently approved by City Council.

At its meeting of March 4, 2011, a member of the Board requested a report relating to the completion of the recommendations approved by the Board and City Council about BMO Field upgrades.

Issue Background:

Following approval from City Council, Exhibition Place, City Parks, Forestry and Recreation Department and MLSE proceeded to immediately implement the construction of the natural grass field at BMO Field and the renovation of Lamport Stadium and installation of the winter

bubble at that facility. During 2010, negotiations continued between the City and the TDSB to finalize the project at the Lakeshore Collegiate Institute in Etobicoke and construction is now expected to start shortly on this field with an expected completion target of July 2011.

Comments:

Following approval by City Council, MLSE proceeded to upgrade BMO Field and as of the Spring 2010, BMO Field has had natural grass. Renovation of Lamport Stadium also proceeded on a timely basis and the bubble was completed and community soccer was booked as of January 2010 in Lamport Stadium and has continued into 2010/2011 indoor soccer season.

With respect to the installation of a Field Turf field at Lakeshore Collegiate Institute, this matter has been managed solely by City Parks, Forestry and Recreation Department through an agreement between the City and the TDSB. It is my understanding that as part of these negotiations, there was an agreement to issue a Request for Proposals by the TDSB for a private sector party to not only construct the Field Turf field (with a contribution of approximately \$0.8M from MLSE) but also erect a bubble over the field to allow for winter play.

As a result of the RFP, the TDSB entered into an agreement with Nustadia Recreation Inc. ("NRI") to construct the field turf and bubble however, as reported in the media, NRI has had some difficulty obtaining financing for the entire project as envisioned and is therefore at this time proceeding to only install the playing field using funding provided by MLSE. NRI shall operate the playing field (according to City and TDSB requirements) and have an option in its arrangement with TDSB to construct a bubble at a later date provided that the City's use of the playing field in July and August shall not be interrupted. The agreement between the City and TDSB also provides for the exclusive use of the Lakeshore Collegiate field by the City during the months of July and August each year which is key to the City fulfilling the current requirements of the funding agreement between the City, Province and Federal government to provide facilities for community sports purposes.

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