

Thompson Community Association

Speaking Notes: "Thompson Youth Park" presentation to Council

(February 8, 2010)

- Good evening Your Worship Mayor Brodie, and, Councillors
- Introduce myself *Kim Jones*
Pres., Thompson Community Association
- The Thompson Community Association is contributing \$250,000 to the 'Thompson Youth Park' project. This is our largest financial contribution to the community in our history.
- This proposal before you today will result in the creation of an exciting new 'Youth Park' at the Thompson Community Centre that will provide a combination of healthy activity and social opportunities for youth.
- The park's design will also serve more than just our youth. This new park will also be multi-purpose and family oriented. It will provide an appealing 'backyard' environment for our many neighbouring apartment dwellers.

Project Background:

- A great many grade 8 and 9 youth from the Burnett S.S. utilize the current (much smaller) children's playground equipment, at the Thompson Community Centre, during lunch and after school. Unfortunately, this interferes with the ability of the preschoolers, plus the younger children from the Blair E.S., to make use of the playground equipment that is really appropriate for their age group. The older high school kids want active play and they need something suitable for their size and play needs.
- Their need has been our Association's priority for quite some time.
- Two years ago our Board took the initiative and approached the City to begin work on developing an older ages playground that would incorporate some skateboarding elements.
- In November 2009 our Board adopted a motion to fund Phase 1 work up to \$250,000 with the expectation that the City will fund Phase 2 work with a matching \$250,000 contribution. Phase 3 work will be negotiated with the City at a future date.
- We are asking the City to join with us by committing to fund the second phase of this project with a matching \$250,000 contribution.
- We look forward to a partnership with the City on this project.