

Grandview-Woodland Area Council  
c/o Britannia Community Centre  
1661 Napier Street  
Vancouver  
BC V5L 4X4

Friday 21 September 2012

Dear Ms Blyth:

The directors of Grandview-Woodland Area Council (hereafter GWAC) support the local residents' request for a re-design of the playground at Salisbury Park which minimizes the negative impacts that the park may have on the surrounding neighbours.

GWAC has been approached by concerns residents about the Salisbury Park playground reconstruction. The residents are concerned about the following:

- (1) There are too many areas to sit which may make it enticing for large groups of people to congregate after hours. Of particular concern is the arrangement of the seating wall and play equipment which makes an attractive area for these people to gather, because it allows ample space for them to sit stand and face each other.
- (2) Moving the seating areas and pathway together will create a conflict with the after hour group of people gathered in the park and the occasional pedestrian who want to walk through the park late at night.
- (3) The pathways adjacent to the playground create a conflict; between children using the park and cyclists, and between pedestrians and cyclists.
- (4) The location of the play area is too close to the lane and the stairs and pathway provide an attractive place for kids to play, and enticing them to run out onto the lane.
- (5) There are vehicles that short cut through the park on a regular basis.

The park suffers from excessive and continued late night use. Due to the diligence of local residents the groups have tended to be smaller. However many times throughout the year the residents have seen group of 20-25 people in the park well after midnight and periodically these groups have been over 100 people. In addition to the late night users there are times during the day when families have been prevented from using the play equipment by the people hanging out in the park.

Residents often notice groups of people hanging out in the park abusing pedestrians walking through the park, and on occasions there have been assaults. The residents have also witnessed several assaults, and have even been assaulted by the after hour park users.

The lane adjacent to the park is becoming busier. There has been new development in the area, increased commercial use of the lane, and more traffic using the lane to short cutting around the intersection at Venables and Commercial Drive. Salisbury Drive dead ends at the park preventing vehicles from travelling further north, so some motorists have elected to drive through the park.

The residents are frustrated that the new park design does not address these issues and may actually make some of the issues worse. The residents are concerned that we only have this one chance to design and build the park correctly.

GWAC recognizes that there are many under privileged people in our neighbourhood that may not have appropriate places to go during the night. However the parks should not be made more attractive to this segment of our community, at the expense of local residents.

The directors of GWAC support the local residents request for a re-design of the playground which minimizes the negative impacts that the park may have on the surrounding neighbours.

Sincerely,

The Directors of Grandview-Woodland Area Council (GWAC)

[www.vcn.bc.ca/gwac](http://www.vcn.bc.ca/gwac)

Note: After the GWAC meeting; the parks staff provided the residents with a redesigned park layout which was received on Wednesday, September 13. The redesign is attached as a PDF. The residents are still concerned that the redesign does not address issues 1, 2, 3, and partially addresses issue 4. The fence along the lane should satisfy issue 5, vehicles driving through the park.

To: Sarah Blyth, Park Board Chair

Cc: Aaron Jasper, Park Board Vice-Chair;

Constance Barnes, Park Board Commissioner;

John Coupar, Park Board Commissioner;

Melissa De Genova, Park Board Commissioner;

Trevor Loke, Park Board Commissioner;

Niki Sharma, Park Board Commissioner;

Tiina Mack, Manager of Park Development

Attachment: Revised Playground Layout Sept 6th.pdf

(This letter can be found on the GWAC website at [www.vcn.bc.ca/gwac/articles%20and%20media/12-09-21GWAC\\_SalsburyPark.pdf](http://www.vcn.bc.ca/gwac/articles%20and%20media/12-09-21GWAC_SalsburyPark.pdf))