

Henry Hudson Elementary PAC - Feb 20, 2025, 6:30pm-8:00pm

Meeting notes ([previous meeting minutes](#))

Attendance

- VSB
 - VSB District Principal: Doug Roch
 - Principal: Sonja Rodestvedt
- PAC Executive
 - Chair: Ryan K.
 - Treasurer: Ron M.
 - Secretary: Nic S.
- Committee Leads
 - Fundraising Lead: Katelyn Z.
 - Activities Co-Leads: Diana M. and Emma L.
- Parents – Approx. 10
- Habitat Systems – Dave Warner

Welcome and Land Acknowledgment

Speaker: Ryan K

Playground Design Update

[About Habitat Systems](#)

- Habitat is a distributor for [Landscape Structures](#) team
- Active across VSB and several public spaces around Greater Vancouver – and other Provinces/Territories in Western Canada

Playground Design planning and overview

- Discussions with Sonja and the HH team started 3 years ago on new playground design
- 8 months ago, conversation between PAC and Habitat started on specific designs

- Habitat team as worked closely with VSC contracted landscape design company for to properly integrate designs ideas into the new school build plans
- Both designs are approximately 350 square meters – approx. 60% of current overall available space that will be surfaced
 - The available space is large and still provides room with options for expanded structures
- Both designs include the old blue and red monkey bar unit
- Both designs reflect available funds
- Playground Designs Q&A
 - Durability / Warrantee – 100 years on posts and beams.
 - Other components have a range of warranties depending on materials.
 - Components can be replaced when their materials
- Process for any future repairs
 - VSB to engage with habitat for fixes.
 - VSB Grounds team will do assessment and manage the process.
 - VSB grounds budget will usually cover cost.
- Playground will be manufactured in US – considerations for tariffs on cost
 - Currently, playgrounds are not listed in tariffs
 - For the moment, no imminent increases in cost expected
 - Once ordered – price is fixed
- Future expansions/additions in remaining space can be considered in future years
 - Lots of space left for future additions (40% remaining in surface area)
 - Swings could be an option but were not included based on the need for size of footprint (16ft on either side)

Project Timelines:

- Habitat currently booking into early July.
- Installation timing won't be booked until order is complete.
- Goal would be by end of summer, however a decision on design is required – followed by VSB approval process
- VSB ground work timelines also depend on overall construction schedule
- Design 2 with flexxnet element needs additional approvals, which could impact timelines

Design 1

- Larger footprint of two designs
- Netplex tower - accessible fabric for all abilities (Surrey playground)
 - Design facilitates play with upper mobility
 - Integrates rest spaces as different levels
- Access points for younger kids
- Rope climbing section
- Overhead trekker monkey bars
- 18ft track ride (single handle on beam)
 - Height is usually suited to 8yr plus – adjustable for final design
- Tightrope climber (rope for feet, disk on bar for hands)
- Communication Boards
- Saddle spinner
- Curva spinner (works for solo or multi child play)
- Slides – 1 x double, 1 x single

Design 2

- Volo design (new to VSB - requires additional approval)
 - Multi layered parallel play
 - Tighter footprint as compared to design 1
- Existing monkey bar unit
- Flexx net climber
- Alpine slide
- Communications Boards
- Saddle Spinner
- Sol spinner (rope)

- Overhead trekker monkey bars
- Tight rope climber
- Curva spinner
- Climbing wall

Surfacing

- Options
 - 1 - Pour in place (most accessible for wheelchair)
 - 2 - Playground grass (more interactive for neurodiversity)
- Costs for two surface options are very similar
- Base is rubber in both – no pellets
- Both good for fall protection
- Rubber thickness adjusted to areas of play
- Different options can be combined – some additional costs for more complex install
- VSB covering cost of surfacing
- Pour in place
 - Virgin rubber for pour in place (bottom is recycled rubber)
- Playground grass
 - Grass is softer
 - Zeolite ore – infill for grass – 100% natural and environmentally safe
- Temperature response – ie how it is in heat
 - Rubber mix is half colour, half black (cost factor). Does warm on sunny days.
 - Grass - less likely to warm up
- Woodchips will not be used – they mold are a challenge to manage
 - Even when the surface is mixed, woodchips move onto rubber, making it not accessible

Plans: South West corner (York and Maple)

- Some designs being looked at for surfacing area

- Limited play equipment options – more likely natural, low height interactive elements
- Due to roots and utilities - limited options for digging/burying
- Options could include painted games (hopscotch, etc)