



## **MEDIA RELEASE: District of Peachland approves land acquisition to preserve Turner Park**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - October 29, 2020

Peachland, B.C. – The District of Peachland has made a strategic park acquisition to preserve 6114 Turner Avenue, historically referred to as Turner Park, for future public use.

Following due diligence on the property, Council authorized the removal of conditions at their meeting on October 27, 2020. The District of Peachland will take ownership of the lands on March 30, 2021. A Park Plan, which will include a public consultation process, will be developed in the future to determine future park uses and maintenance.

“Council is pleased to deliver on the community’s desire to re-gain access to this former public space,” said Mayor Fortin, highlighted by the overwhelming support to purchase the lands through a recent petition. “Conversations around the potential acquisition of this site have been on-going for decades,” continued Mayor Fortin. “I am pleased we can secure the Turner Park site for generations to come.”

The purchase is being funded by short-term borrowing from the Municipal Finance Authority at low interest rates; the loan repayment will come from multiple funding sources, including the potential resale of the lower portion of the property that fronts Princeton Avenue. The District also has over \$700,000 in the Parkland Acquisition Reserve Fund. Park improvements will be considered in future budget deliberations and funding opportunities from senior levels of government.



The District has been in discussions with the owner’s agent prior to the property being formally listed and an offer was presented at the beginning of September 2020. The 3.34 hectare (8.26 acre) property was purchased by School District #23 in 1976 from the Turner Family as a future school site. The District of Peachland obtained permission in 1979 to utilize the property until the land was required for school purposes or disposed of by the School District. The District of Peachland made an offer to purchase from the School District in 2006 and was outbid by the current owners, SSC Ventures. SSC Ventures applied for rezoning to develop single and multiple family residences; however, decided instead to list the property for sale in September.

The property was listed for \$3.5 million and the District negotiated a purchase price of \$3.1 million. The upper portion of the site fronting Turner Avenue is one of the only remaining undeveloped properties in Peachland able to accommodate athletic fields and other park amenities requiring flat land.

-30-

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