

DATE: August 30, 1995

SUBJECT: WOMEN'S MONUMENT

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Board give final approval to the monument selected by the Women's Monument Committee for installation in Thornton Park, with all arrangements subject to the satisfaction of the General Manager.

THAT the Board approve for inclusion in the 1997-1999 Capital Plan the improvements to Thornton Park as described in this report.

POLICY:

The Board has guidelines to govern Commemorative Installations in civic parks.

The Board supports the civic Public Art Policy for the governance of the installation of any art piece on public land.

The Board approved, in principle, the request of the Capilano College Women's Centre to locate the proposed Women's Monument in Thornton Park subject to the policy and procedures of the City's Public Art process and subject to final approval of the Board.

BACKGROUND

The Capilano College Women's Centre approached the Board with a proposal to use Thornton Park as a site for the installation of the Women's Monument. On July 19, 1993 the Board gave approval in principle for the proposed monument to be located in Thornton Park subject to the policy and procedures of the City Public Art process and subject to the final approval of the Board.

The Women's Centre Committee has followed the Public Art process. Ninety eight submissions were received. Three finalists were selected through a juried process. The winning design, the "Marker of Change", was chosen October 7, 1994.

DISCUSSION

Staff had the opportunity to view the final selection with respect to any issues related to installation, safety and maintenance. There did not appear to be any concerns posed by the design, the material or installation. The actual design consists of 14 granite benches 5.5 feet long and 16.5 feet apart in a circle 98 feet in diameter.

The design of each bench draws reference to a fallen female body. The circle of benches is surrounded by a ring of inlaid ceramic tiles which will record the names of all the donors, 15 names per tile. The total effect is one of simplicity, serenity and contemplation.

Each 5.5 foot granite form is 21 inches wide, 12 inches thick and 2,500 lbs. set on two plinths 8X18X6 inches. The fine construction granite has a pink hue but includes black, grey and white material. It will have a very finely finished matt surface. Each stone slab will have a shallow, textured depression about 3 ft. long on its surface which, to quote the artist "will serve as a reservoir for collected rain water and as a vessel of memory.... a collection of tears". On the inner side of the circle each bench will be encised with one of the names of the fourteen women murdered at the L'Ecole Polytechnique. The outer side of every other bench will have the dedication inscribed in one of seven different languages. Signage of the dedication in English and French Braille and raised letters will be included by the Monument.

Staff and organizers have reviewed any problematic issues related to installation and long term maintenance. Agreed upon installation procedures and surface finishes will address any of the identified concerns.

The Park Board, the Office of Cultural Affairs, the Public Art Committee, and the Women's Centre Committee have resolved together any issues around commitment to permanence, review periods, accessioning, transfer of title and ownership, waiving Moral Right (related to removal or relocation of the monument), liability insurance, copyright and documentation. These are issues covered under the City's Public Art policy and its administration. There will be a Letter of Agreement between the City and the project sponsor, the Capilano College Women's Centre to cover these matters. The Women's Centre will also have a contract/agreement with the Artist.

The Public Art policy and above mentioned agreement also includes the requirement for a maintenance fee. As determined by the Policy, this fee is 10% of the monument construction budget, in this case \$11,500. The City maintains these fees in a trust and the accumulated interest covers the cost of required maintenance.

The date for the installation of the monument is anticipated to be the summer of 1996. The committee must still raise another \$140,000. Quarry work on the granite in Quebec has begun. Construction on site will not begin until all of the funds have been secured.

While considering the actual siting of the monument a number of park issues were reviewed including safety and lighting and the need to restore the original Edwardian design and plantings. The Women's Centre Committee had received complaints and concerns about safety due to the lack of sufficient lighting.

To bring back the original Edwardian heritage park design it is recommended that some landscaping and turf upgrading be included in the 1997-1999 Capital Plan. There is a need to take out an asphalt path that diagonally dissects one of the large grassed squares. There is also a need to pave the north/south pathway from the centre point north to Station Street. This is a well used route which becomes muddy in wet weather. Plantings will be used where possible to restore the formal

shrubberies particularly at the original focal points of the park (Appendix B).

Staff have identified the need to add more lighting fixtures to the existing perimeter standards to direct more light into the park. There is also a need to relocate an existing light standard to the new intersection of the north/south and east/west paths. The proximity of this park to the Skytrain Station and new Bus Depot in the old train station provides another reason for improvements in the level of lighting, particularly on the North side.

The anticipated cost for these improvements to lighting and landscaping is estimated to be \$35,000. Staff are recommending that this project be undertaken in 1996 in conjunction with the installation of the monument, and with funding to come from the new Capital Plan.

CONCLUSION

The design of this monument will be an asset to the park design and for prospective park users. It is inviting and will allow for informal and organized gatherings of people relative to special occasions. The park improvements will both enhance the aesthetics of the park and increase the safety of people at night.

Prepared by:
Recreation Division
Vancouver Board of Parks & Recreation

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