

May 30, 1996

SUBJECT: MUSQUEAM PARK WETLAND RESTORATION PROJECT

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Board approve in principle the development of a wetland restoration project at the southeast corner of Musqueam Park subject to obtaining other government regulatory approvals and to detailed design being to the satisfaction of the General Manager

BOARD POLICY

There is no Board Policy on wetland restoration.

BACKGROUND

In June 1995, Dr. Markus Eymann, in conjunction with the West Southlands Ratepayers Association (WSRA), made application to the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks for a water licence to divert a small drainage ditch and restore a wetland area (80 - 100 m) in Musqueam Park (see Map 1).

The above application has been held in abeyance (July 1995) following a detailed review by the Ministry of Environment, Federal Fisheries and Oceans, GVRD, City Engineering Department, and the Park Board.

DISCUSSION

The purpose of the wetland restoration project is to improve water quality discharging into the Fraser River and to enhance the overall wildlife habitat of the wetland area in general. The project involves constructing a small diverter in a drainage channel which will flow water into an existing depression, which now fills with water during the rainy season only.

According to the WSRA the project will benefit the community in educational awareness of the value of water and its interdependence with nature, enhance the ecological benefits from redirecting run-off water to create an aquatic habitat, and build community connections in the planning, design, and maintenance of the wetland.

During March 1996, a brochure outlining the wetland proposal was circulated throughout the neighbourhood to solicit comments; (see Appendix 1); eleven comments were received, all of which supported the proposal. The WSRA may apply to the Neighbourhood Matching Fund Program to enhance certain aspects of the project in an effort to further build community connections.

.../2

Government regulatory approvals of the Ministry of Environment, Federal Fisheries and Oceans, GVRD, and the City Engineering Department have been applied for and are in various stages of processing. Based on

conversations with staff of the agencies involved, a positive outcome is expected.

The Ministry of Environment has received approval from the Musqueam Indian Band GVRD and Department of Fisheries and Ocean and are awaiting submission of a certified plan from Dr. Eymann to complete theirs, and the Engineering Department's, approval requirements.

CONCLUSION

Board approval in principle will allow the regulatory approvals to be finalized, as the proposed project is on parkland.

Prepared by:

Planning & Development Division
Board of Parks & Recreation
City of Vancouver
DW:sp

Attachment

✓