

DATE: February 25, 1997

SUBJECT: B.C. RUGBY UNION BEER/WINE GARDEN REQUEST

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Board approve the B.C. Rugby Union's request to apply for a Special Occasion Licence to hold a beer/wine garden in conjunction with the Golden Oldies Rugby Tournament on Tuesday, June 10, and Thursday, June 12, 1997, from 1:00 to 6:00 PM in both Connaught and Trout Lake Parks with all arrangements to the satisfaction of the General Manager.

POLICY

The Board has a policy to approve applications for Special Occasion Licences for beer gardens when they are in citywide parks and in conjunction with major citywide, national, or international events. (Appendix A)

BACKGROUND

In conjunction with the International Golden Oldies Rugby tournament, the B.C. Rugby Union has requested the use of playing fields at Brockton Oval and Connaught and John Hendry Parks for exhibition matches between Vancouver based clubs and touring teams. Three fields will be set up at each park and each field will accommodate three exhibition matches per day. These games are scheduled for Tuesday, June 10 and Thursday, June 12, 1997, starting at 1:00 PM.

The Rugby Union has also requested permission to apply for a Special Occasion Licence to operate beer/wine gardens from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at all three sites. The Rugby Union is proposing to locate an outdoor beer garden at Brockton Oval and beer gardens in enclosed tents adjacent to the clubhouse in Connaught Park and to the community centre in John Hendry Park. Admission would be open only to Tournament participants, their guests and those holding B.C. Rugby Union cards.

Staff have approved the request for field time at the three parks. Staff also approved the application for a Special Occasion Licence at Brockton Oval since it meets the Board's Liquor Policy. Staff can not approve the request to apply for a Special Occasion Licence for a beer garden in either Trout Lake or Connaught Parks because these requests do not fully meet the criteria for staff approval as outlined in the Liquor Policy:

- Connaught Park is located adjacent to a school;

- Depending on siting, park neighbours could be impacted by a
- Beer garden in either park.

If an alcohol event is to occur in Connaught or John Hendry Parks, Park Board approval is required.

DISCUSSION

The Rugby Union's request for the use of John Hendry and Connaught Parks relates to Vancouver based rugby clubs wishing to host exhibition games on their home parks. It also gives the rugby players from other countries the opportunity to experience playing rugby in various locations throughout Vancouver.

The community consultation process for this request consisted of:

I. Information Pamphlets

Pamphlets were distributed to the neighbouring residents of both Connaught and John Hendry Parks (Appendix B). Staff received three responses from resident's adjacent to Connaught Park (two were opposed and one in favour) and one response from a resident adjacent to Trout Lake (opposed). The concerns raised by the residents included the appropriateness of the service of alcohol in a park, the proximity of the Kitsilano High School and the assurance that the event will be completed by 6:00 p.m.

II. Other Community Groups

III. Grandview Community Centre Association

The Grandview Community Centre Association is supportive of the event and beer garden in an enclosed tent adjacent to the tennis courts as indicated in the letter attached (Appendix C).

IV. Kitsilano Community Centre Association/Kitsilano High School

Both the Community Centre and the High School are supportive of the event and the special occasion request providing that the organizers ensure that the consumption of alcohol remains within the enclosed tent.

To address the issues raised through the community consultation process, Rugby is proposing to:

- restrict the consumption of alcohol to enclosed tents;
- provide security during the event;
- ensure that the area is left clean and tidy after each event.

CONCLUSION

Given the international scale of this event, the limited response from residents and the fact that an enclosed tent will minimize impact on neighbours and others using the park, staff recommend that the Board approve this request.

Prepared by:
Recreation Division
Board of Parks and Recreation
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