



Date: July 21, 1998

TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation
FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: MEETING PLACE CIRCLE IN MUSQUEAM PARK

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board approve in principle the construction of a Meeting Place Circle in Musqueam Park subject to the results of a community consultation process.

THAT the General Manager be given permission to give final approval based upon the results of the consultation process.

BACKGROUND

Gail Sparrow, the Chief of the Musqueam Band has approached staff for permission to construct a Meeting Place Circle in Musqueam Park. The arrow on the attached map indicated the exact location of the proposed installation.

The Band is planning to organize a community picnic September 6, and would like to have the circle in place by that date. They plan to make this an annual event in the Dunbar community.

DISCUSSION

The following is a description of the Circle and its symbolism. A model of the circle can be viewed in the General Manager's Office.

“The Meeting Place Circle design represents all 4 human races, represented by the standing poles within the circle, and right and left views represented by the standing poles outside the circle. The whole represents all living organisms and their inseparable relationship with one another.

The standing poles, which represent humans and their views, are connected by the wires which represent the web of life; the fish represent the organisms and the interconnection of all life itself. The fish represent the organisms and the interconnection of all life, and the web is obviously connected to the vies which are outside of the circle. The circle of round river rocks represents the waterways matrix, which reflects the current status of the quality and quantity of air, and water of which all organism depend on.”

The shadows which the suspended fish will represent the ability of nature to cross all bounds and therefore is all mighty and demands a great deal of respect.”

The logs will be 16 ft long and buried 4 ft deep. They are 10 inches in diameter. The area will be 20 ft. square. The Musqueam Indian Band will take responsibility for installation all maintenance, and will do a structural check once every 5 years.

B.C Hydro, Dunbar Community Centre, VanCity Credit union and the David Suzuki Foundation are partners with the Band in the project.

SUMMARY

The normal practice for park develop projects is to conduct a community consultation process and report the results to the Board prior to final approval. However, the Board will not be meeting again until September 7. This report is recommending that the consultation be done, and that the General Manager be given permission to give final approval based upon the results of the process.

Prepared by:
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