



Date: July 20, 1998

TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation
FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: MOLSON INDY USE OF CREEKSIDE PARK

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board receive this report for information.

BACKGROUND

In March 1997 City Council approved the relocation of the Indy race course to its new site. The Board was subsequently approached to permit the race track to run through the parking lots of Creekside Park in order to allow portions of Quebec Street to serve residents and businesses during the event.

At its meeting of March 9, 1998 the Board passed the following motion

- A. That the Board approve in principle the use of Creekside Park by the Molson Indy Vancouver Race for a four year period beginning in 1998 subject to a suitable agreement being developed that, as outlined in this report, provides reasonable compensation to the Board, that protects and enhances the park design and facilities, and that ensures that any operating costs associated with the event are borne by the promoter and**
- B. That the Board approve the commencement of landscape work prior to the completion of the final agreement with all work subject to the approval of the Director of Planning. If at any point a suitable agreement is not reached, the organizer will, at its own expense, restore the site to its original form.**
- C. That this approval in principle is made on the understanding that there will be some form of legacy program offered by the Molson Indy.**

Subsequent to the Board's approval in principle, considerable work has been undertaken by the race organizers in the development of the race course. Race organizers have made a significant investment in redesigning and making alterations to the Park. The redesign of the park was undertaken by the original architects who were engaged by the race organizers. Major

landscaping has largely been completed. The relocation of about forty trees was undertaken with relative success. At this time, three trees appear to have died as a result of the relocation and will be replaced with comparable trees by the organizers. The track is nearing completion and its physical impact on the Park has been minimized. The two small grassed areas at the north and south ends of the parking lots have been paved to become part of the track. These areas will be returned to green space at the end of the four year period at the expense of the race organizers.

DISCUSSION

Staff have met with the race organizers to negotiate the terms and conditions established by the Board in its approval of the event and a verbal agreement has been reached.

There is agreement that the race organizers will be responsible for any direct costs associated with the event including added supervision, maintenance or repair costs incurred by the Board as a result of the event or the development of the track.

There is agreement that a fee of \$5,000 [\$20,000 per year for a four day closure] will be paid for the use of the park for the event. The fee is based on the complete closure of a park for a four day period for the exclusive use of a commercial event. The types of activities which will take place within the Park boundaries during the event have been discussed and will include spectator zones, refreshment and activity tents and other related activities. Advertising will likely be focused on the race course.

There is also agreement that the race organizers will provide or contribute to a legacy for the area. The City also required a legacy in its approval of the event. It is a Board practice to involve the community in discussions about significant improvements to a park. In order to accommodate this process the race organizers have agreed to post a \$100,000 letter of credit. The organizer will either develop an agreed upon amenity or provide funding from the letter of credit once a suitable project(s) is identified.

In addition to the legacy, the race organizers are supportive of using portions of the track outside of Creekside Park for recreation activities during the rest of the year. While these areas are not under the jurisdiction of the Board, staff will work with race organizers to determine whether this is feasible.

Prepared by:

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