

July 2, 1999

SUBJECT: EcoCafé Sustainability Society- Approval in Principle to Occupy a Portion of Creekside Park

RECOMMENDATION

A. THAT the Board give the EcoCafé Sustainability Society approval in principle to occupy a portion of Creekside Park subject to the following conditions:

1. All funding be in place before the commencement of construction.
2. The Society's Business Plan be subject to the approval of the General Manager.
3. The Society meet all City permit and licencing requirements.
4. The exact licensed area and all other details be subject to the approval of the General Manager and Director of Legal Services.

B. THAT if all conditions are met the Board grant the Society a licence to occupy the designated area for five years for \$1.00 a year with an option to renew for a further five years.

C. THAT the Society complete their fundraising objectives by July 1, 2001 and update the Board of their progress after one year.

BACKGROUND

The EcoCafé is a community of youth, mentors and sponsors with a goal to integrate sustainability into Vancouver's neighborhoods. They wish to create an ecological centre for learning at a site in Creekside Park, close to Science World. (Appendix A)

The Society has appeared before Board workshops and committees on several occasions and have received general support to continue their planning and fundraising for this project.

DISCUSSION

At the Board workshop of April 19, 1999 the Society updated the Board on their progress to date. They stated that in order to meet their fundraising objectives they required a Board resolution giving support in principle to locate at Creekside Park.

Staff have had several discussions with the Society with regard to a fundraising strategy and ways to reach their financial objectives. Their draft business plan identifies a budget of \$528,495 for the completion of the project.

To date confirmed funding totals \$51,700 leaving an outstanding balance of \$476,795. For the past two years, the society has been offered a grant of \$150,000 from Human Resources Canada which was designated for a youth employment project to employ 15 youth in the construction phase of the project. Since the project has not commenced this funding has been withdrawn. Recent discussions with HRC have indicated that some funds might be forwarded to be used for hiring youth to assist in Ecocafé's fundraising efforts but no final decision has been made at this time.

Staff have expressed to the Society their view that all efforts should now be concentrated on a fundraising strategy in order to achieve their goals. This is by no means an easy task and professional advice might be required to recommend the best way to seek out potential corporate and private donors.

It is felt that if the Board continues to support this project the Society should be given two years to raise the required funds and report their progress back to the Board after one year.

SUMMARY

The EcoCafé Sustainability Society requires Board approval in principle to continue their planning and fundraising efforts and that a two year time period should be sufficient to achieve these goals.

Prepared by:
Revenue Services
Stanley District
Board of Parks & Recreation
Vancouver, BC
pj