

Date: October 6, 1999

SUBJECT: JOINT OPERATING AGREEMENT WITH THE SOCIETY FOR HASTINGS PARK

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT the Board agree in principle to enter into a joint operation agreement with the Society For Hastings Park.
2. THAT the joint operating agreement include the following description of responsibilities:
 - A) Responsibilities delegated to the Society: local on site programming fund raising community development, promotion and outreach.
 - B) Joint responsibilities with the Board and city wide programming space allocation, stakeholder communication, parking and support services
 - C) Advisory responsibilities of the Society: site development, financial planning and management

BACKGROUND

The Hastings Park Working Committee (HPWC), a group of citizens representing community residents, recreational interests, the Pacific Racing Association community social and recreation agencies, environmental issues and arts and culture, has been a close partner of the Board in the development of a plan for the greening of Hastings Park. As the plan is implemented and the park facilities become operational, the HPWC wishes to continue its partnership with the Board through the establishment of a Joint Operating Agreement.

DISCUSSION

The HPWC is in the process of transforming itself into a registered society, to be called the Society for Hastings Park.. Work is currently underway to write a constitution and by-laws. The essential elements of this document are described in Appendix 1.

During the spring of 1999, the HPWC and Board staff met several times in workshops facilitated by John Talbot, to determine the nature of the joint relationship between a Hastings Park Stewardship Society and the Board. The following are the results of these workshops.

The Society will accomplish its responsibilities by relating to the Board in the following ways:

Delegated responsibilities

These are functions given by the Board to the Society as their sole responsibility. These functions are:

- recreation programming organized by the society or other community organizations directed at the citizens of the Hastings Community.
- fund raising to support programming or park development
- community development, promotional and outreach activities that will increase the involvement of the community in the use and development of the park.

Joint Planning Responsibilities

These are functions whose responsibilities are shared equally between the Society and the Board. These functions are:

- recreation programming organized for citizens of the City and Region.
- decision making regarding the allocation of space to potential users of the facilities and spaces on site.
- development of communication materials and liaison activities that educate the public about the development and use of the park.

Advisory Responsibilities

These are functions about which the Board must seek the advice of the Society before final decisions are made. These functions are:

- Site development planning
- Planning and allocation of capital and operating budgets for the park.

Many of the responsibilities described above will be phased in over a number of years as the park develops and the park's jurisdiction is transferred from the City to the Park Board. During the next 3 years, the PNE will continue to be the principal operator of the site.

Upon approval by the Board of the recommendations in this report, work will begin on the development of a detailed Joint Operating Agreement which will be brought to the Board for approval at a future meeting.

CONCLUSION

The formation of a Society For Hastings Park and the development of a Joint Operating Agreement with this organization will insure that the local community and City-Wide interests continue to be involved in the implementation of the park plan and the operation of the facilities and spaces on site.

The division of responsibilities described in the report are similar to those contained in the standard joint operating agreements in place with the community center associations.

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