

Date: November 26, 1999

SUBJECT: 2000 SPECIAL EVENTS

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board approve the 2000 Calendar of Major Events as described in Appendix B, with all arrangements to the satisfaction of the General Manager.

POLICY

Special Event Guidelines were approved in 1991 to cover issues of sound and the requirement for Board approval of an Annual Calendar of Major Special Events in the Fall of each year (Appendix A).

BACKGROUND

Each year event organizers apply to the Board to hold their event on parkland. In 1999, there have been approximately 350 permits issued for events, runs and walks. The Board processes these applications, takes a fee according to the fee schedule, and establishes the conditions to govern set up and event activities. Where appropriate, a deposit is retained to cover extra services or potential damage. In addition, when staff are required to facilitate the event, charges for staff recovery are applied. The site is assessed with Operations and Horticulture staff before the deposit is released. Where appropriate, there is debriefing of major events with the organizers and in most instances the City's FEST Committee. (FEST is a committee established by the City and chaired by the Engineering Department with regular representation from the Police Department, Fire Department, Transit and Parks, Health, Permits & Licenses, Risk Management and other departments as required). All major event organizers, whose event will impact on streets or traffic or require Engineering and/or Police services, bring their event proposal and plans to this committee. FEST reports to Council with an annual calendar of major events. The Vancouver Park Board permitting process is separate from this. The management of permitting and supervising special activities and events is a demanding City and Park Board activity, particularly between May and September.

To November 1999, special event/run permit fees have totaled approximately \$15,000. During this same period event organizers have been billed an additional total of \$3,500 for recovery of staff supervision costs.

Prior to 1991, it was the practice of the Park Board to individually approve recurring major events each year when:

- the organizers request a reserved use of park space;
- the event restricts the access of other park users;
- the activity is in variance with one or more of the Park By-laws such as: an admission fee, sale of goods other than souvenirs, sale of food, use of liquor outside the Board Policy, an elaborate set up, an extended period of use, or a significant impact on the surrounding neighbourhood.

Since November 1991, the Board has approved the upcoming year's Calendar of Special Events instead of individually approving major events. This procedure has worked well and streamlined the process. Any unusual new and/or major event requests still come to the Board for special approval.

DISCUSSION

Staff have reviewed the 1999 major special events. Specific event issues will be addressed and recommendations for 2000 are followed up with the event organizers. Most special events restrict access to a

portion of a park by other park users during the event. Seawall access is not closed during runs or walks, with the exception of the Walk with the Dragon which requires restricted access to a small portion of the seawall for a short period. This is an exception because of the large number of participants. There are a few runs which require full road closures during the run or a road closure of a short distance while runners are on that portion of their route.

The following requests are from existing event organizers to modify their event. These events, as detailed below, are included in the 1999 calendar for approval.

Vancouver Sun Run

The Vancouver Sun Run will be held on Sunday, April 16, 2000. At the May 10 Board meeting approval was given to extend the road closure as requested by the organizers so that they could start the run 45 minutes later, anticipating a resulting increase in participation.

This will require the Stanley Park Roadways to be closed April 16th until 10:30 - 10:45 a.m. They are also closed again on Sunday, May 7th from 7:00 - 10:00 a.m. for the Vancouver International Marathon. All Stanley Park stakeholders and staff will be informed and aware of the road closures. Staff and event organizers will work closely with the stakeholders in advance of the Sun Run to minimize the impact to their operations. The Fest committee has given their approval of this later start time.

Scotia Bank ½ Marathon

In 1999 this event took place the last week in June with a start and finish at the Roundhouse Community Centre and incorporating the seawall. There were about 1,200 runners. The event, a fundraiser for Breast Cancer Equipment, is one of a series across Canada and organizers hope to increase participation each year. As a result, organizers would like to change the route to allow for a greater capacity of runners. Runners will be on the seawall from the Vancouver Aquatic Centre to the Lumberman's Arch, where they will be picked up in buses and returned to the start at UBC. Runners will be on the west side of the seawall from approximately 8:45 - 10:30 a.m. The FEST Committee is working with the organizers to facilitate more of the run route occurring on city streets.

Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival

In February 1999 the Board approved the addition of a second performance tent to be assessed at the completion of the season. A review of this assessment and subsequent Board report will be submitted in January of 2000. Approval of Bard on the Beach in this report is for the same level of activity as in 1999 and is subject to changes that may result from the report in January.

Caribbean Festival

This event has been held at New Brighton Park prior to its redevelopment. During the past two years a much scaled down event was held at John Hendry Park. Amplified music, an integral aspect of this cultural event, has had an impact on the residents in close proximity to the park. Staff will be meeting with the event organizer to discuss plans for 2000 and possible sites that can accommodate the expected attendance and amplified music.

New Requests

A new request as described below is included in the Calendar for Board approval subject to further consultation and arrangements agreeable to the General Manager and, where appropriate, the FEST committee.

First Night Celebration

This is a family oriented, non- alcoholic, arts celebration of the New Year. It is taking place in Science World and on the paved Indy site south of Science World. The area of park land incorporated into the event is the small section between these two venues. It will be used in a passive way for participants to walk from one venue to the other. The only area of activity is in the gazebo where non-amplified drum performances will take place. It has the support of City Gate residents and the Fest Committee.

Tesol 2000 Fun Run

This is a fun run for 500 participants of a Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages conference being held on March 17. The run route will go along Coal Harbour sea walk, under the causeway, around Lost Lagoon and back. Proceeds will be used for awards during the conference.

Trans Canada Relay 2000

This is a federal millennium project which will arrive in Vancouver at the SeaBus terminal at Canada Place on April 13. Generally, the route will follow Harbour Seawalk, around Stanley Park, over Burrard Bridge and along the False Creek shoreline then east along Burrard Inlet into Burnaby. This request is for the leg of the relay that goes around Stanley Park. There may be additional special events in different areas of the city along the route. These have not been determined at this point.

Homecoming 2000

The Provincial Millennium project invites British Columbians to return to their home towns to help mark the millennium with family and friends. This is a request for a one-time-only event in which organizers hope to hold a special celebration with entertainment, multicultural foods, games for kids and a fireworks finale. Jericho Park, at the same location as the Folk Festival, is a site that is large enough and that is away from the congestion from Symphony of Fire. Since it occurs close after the Folk Festival, there will be community consultation before final approval. In the event that the local community expresses a strong disapproval of the event, staff will work with British Columbia 2000 event organizers to find an alternate location. The dates requested are August 5, 6, 7.

Corporate Events

There are no requests at this time for major convention/receptions on parkland. Should staff receive such a request the process is to consider each request on its own merits (e.g., the nature of the event, location requested) and, if not within guidelines, bring the request to the Board. A substantial fee will be negotiated depending on the scale of the set-up, requirements of the event, site requested and time required for staff consultation and site supervision.

Staff has received a request for advance approval of a corporate event scheduled for May 13 - 16 in 2001. The event is a conference for Mobile Data Solutions, a province wide business having its head office in Richmond. MDSI would like to hold this conference at the Westin Bayshore Hotel however the hotel cannot accommodate the 500 - 600 delegates for meal functions. The request is for the use of Marina Square Park, adjacent to the Westin Bayshore, for a tented meal space during the conference and a reception space on the first evening. If approved, staff will work with the conference organizers, Advance Group, to place the tent and conduct the activities within the guidelines of the Park Board. Advance Group requires advance approval from the Park Board for this aspect of the conference before they can proceed with planning.

Staff would like to present a report to the Board in the near future that will address the issues of corporate requests for park use and make recommendations which will facilitate these requests.

The proposed 2000 Calendar has been compiled based on the requests and information available at this time from event organizers (Appendix B). Approval of this report confirms the event, date and

location. Issuance of permit is subject to receipt of complete application, agreement to conditions of use, permit fee payment and insurance coverage.

The Events Calendar also lists many regular events which do not normally require Board approval. They are included to provide an overview of the nature and scope of activities held on City parks. Any new and/or unusual requests will come to the Board for consideration as they are received. Applications for new major Special Events must be submitted in writing to the Park Board six months in advance of the requested event date in order to receive consideration. This allows adequate time for community consultation and overall consideration of the event request.

SUMMARY

Advance approval of the 2000 Calendar gives staff and organizers the time required to ensure that all arrangements for the major special events held on Vancouver's parks and beaches are conducted in a timely manner.

Prepared by:

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WA/wa Attachments