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Date: January 12, 2001

TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation

FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT: WCB MEMORIAL

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board approve the installation of small stone memorial and bronze plaque in the Sanctuary at Hastings Park with the following inscription: “ Worker Memorial - In memory of those, who have lost their lives as a result of a workplace accident or an occupational disease” with all details to be to the satisfaction of the General Manager.

POLICY

Under the Board’s interim guidelines the Board approves all memorials in parks.

BACKGROUND

The Board has been approached by representatives from the Workers’ Compensation Board, Business Council of British Columbia, and the Federation of Labour to install a provincial memorial in Hastings Park. (See Appendix 1).

DISCUSSION

The proposed memorial is a simple rock with a bronze plaque with the following inscription “ Worker Memorial- In memory of those, who have lost their lives as a result of a workplace accident or an occupational disease”. The location of the rock is in the Hastings Park Sanctuary overlooking the pond and in the distance, (see Diagram 1) the Iron Workers Memorial Bridge, the scene of one of this province’s worst industrial accidents. Diagrams 2 and 3 are computer renditions of the rock in its proposed location. The area is a contemplative part of the park and is well suited to accommodate this memorial and those visiting it.

The memorial is consistent with the interim guidelines for the placement of memorials in parks adopted by the Board in 1998. The proposal has been reviewed and is supported by the Hastings Park Conservancy.

This memorial is different from the one currently at City Hall in that it is Provincial in scope. It is

the intent of the Worker Compensation Board, the BC Federation of Labour and the Business Council of BC to stage the provincial Annual Day of Mourning (April) ceremonies at this location. This commemorative event draws between 50 and 100 people. In recent years this event has been held in Downtown Vancouver.

Hastings Park is an appropriate site for such a memorial given the context of the local area's long history as the home of many of those who have helped to develop this province's economy and infrastructure from its early days to the present time. This commemorative function adds an important dimension to the emerging role of the newly restored Hastings Park.

SUMMARY

The proposed provincial memorial to commemorate those, who have lost their lives as a result of a workplace accident or an occupational disease is recommended to be sited in Hastings Park. The memorial is consistent with the park environment and the Board's interim guidelines for the placement of memorials.

Prepared by:

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(P/vs)