



Date: December 3, 2001

TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation
FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: BCRPA - 2003 Provincial Conference

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board approve hosting the 2003 British Columbia Recreation and Parks Association annual symposium.

BACKGROUND

The British Columbia Recreation and Parks Association is a not-for-profit professional association that provides educational opportunities, information and advocacy for the recreation and parks movement in British Columbia. The Association's primary purpose is to enhance the capacity of its members to deliver recreation opportunities that improve the quality of life for all British Columbia. The BCRPA is a key vehicle for building healthy communities, for preserving parks and natural environments, for encouraging cultural endeavour and for contributing to the provincial economy. The membership for the BCRPA is drawn from recreation and parks practitioners from public and corporate agencies, commissioners, board members, fitness instructors, students and volunteers.

Each year, the BCPRA in conjunction with a local community host a three day symposium. This conference is generally held in late April or early May. The objectives for the conference are:

- to provide an educational forum for BCRPA members;
- to provide an opportunity for professionals, volunteers and community leaders in the parks and recreation field to discuss, explore and analyze issues which affect the provision of parks and recreation services;
- to provide an opportunity for networking among those people working and volunteering in the parks and recreation fields;
- to provide a venue for the exhibit of educational and commercial services and products;
- to generate revenue for the ongoing activities of the Association.

DISCUSSION

The sponsoring community's role in hosting a symposium is the commitment of staff resources to manage the event. It is proposed that the Board host the 2003 symposium in the downtown core of the City. The event would be managed by a symposium committee which would consist of Vancouver Park Board staff as well as representatives from neighbouring municipalities. The symposium committee consists of representatives from the various sub-committees: program, hospitality, publicity, exhibits and evaluation committees. It is estimated that approximately 20 Park Board staff would be involved in the various symposium committees.

The BCRPA assumes all responsibility for the financial aspects of the symposium. It is an expectation of the BCRPA that the event be financially self sufficient and should return a profit to the Association. The Association and not the Park Board would be responsible for any deficit incurred by the symposium.

SUMMARY

By hosting the annual BCRPA symposium in 2003, the Park Board would be contributing to the advancement of the parks and recreation movement in the Province. A strong contingent of Park Board staff, volunteers and commissioners regularly attend BCRPA symposiums. Hosting the symposium also provides the Board with the opportunity to showcase its various parks and recreation services and facilities to symposium delegates.

Prepared by:

Stanley District Office
Board of Parks & Recreation
Vancouver, B.C.
TW/ct