



Date: July 10, 2004

TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation
FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Special Event - 8 + 1 Planets Exhibition

RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. THAT the Board approve the display of an inflatable globe (the Sun) by Procreation Design Works and 8 + 1 in Vanier Park from October 2, 2004 until October 9, 2004 with all arrangements to the satisfaction of the General Manager.**
- B. THAT the Board approve the display of the 8 + 1 Planets Exhibition by Procreation Design Works and 8 + 1 in Coal Harbour and Stanley Park from September 2, 2005 until September 11, 2005 with all arrangements to the satisfaction of the General Manager.**

POLICY

Board approval is required for events over 1,000 people and/or events which significantly impact on regular park users and neighbours and/or have extensive set-up/take down (see Appendix A - Special Events Policy).

The Culture and Recreation Committee discussed this request at their June 9, 2004 meeting. The Committee recommended approving the event subject to further clarification regarding the visual impact of the displays on adjacent residences.

BACKGROUND

8+1 Planets Exhibition is a display of 11 giant inflatable globes mounted on series of 10 ft high, 34 square foot stages (see Appendix B). The globes represent the 9 planets, the Sun and the Moon and are between 36 ft – 52 ft in diameter. Each globe requires a technician to operate the lighting and projections inside each unit. The globes are inflated by three fans powered by generators and will be illuminated 24 hours for the duration of the Exhibition. On site security will be provided by the organizer during the event.

The event organizer is Procreation Design Works. Procreation Design Works and 8 + 1 are privately owned companies specializing in creative designs and events which focus on providing artistically unique entertainment for the public. 8 + 1 Planets Exhibition will tour ten cities around the World.

EVENT REQUEST

The event organizer is requesting two display dates:

October 2 to 9, 2004 - Vanier Park

In conjunction with International Astronautical Congress Convention from October 2 to October 9, 2004, organizers are requesting permission to place one globe, the Sun at Vanier Park for display (see Appendix C).

September 2 to 11, 2005 - Coal Harbour

The organizer is requesting permission to place the Exhibition along Coal Harbour Park as well as placing 2 Planets at Stanley Park by Hallelujah Point (see Appendix D). In addition, the organizer is also requesting to place an Educational Village (2 tents - 20 x 40 and 20 x 50) at Devonian Park which will house their sponsors and partners of the event. The Exhibition requires two full days for set-up and take-down.

DISCUSSION

The Vanier Park display will not impact either park users or neighbours. The Coal Harbour display will have some impact on the residences directly to the south of Harbour Green Park. As Appendix B illustrates, the height of the inflated globes will have a visual impact on the lower floor residents bordering the Park. The event organizer has indicated that the operation of the inflatable globes (lights and generators) should not have a significant impact on either park users or park neighbours. If approved, residential notices would be distributed to the immediate neighbourhood at Coal Harbour prior to the 2005 Exhibition. In addition, there will be some congestion along the seawall as the expected attendance is estimated up to 5,000 visits throughout the day.

The event organizer is also requesting that "sponsorship" signs be placed at each location. Sponsorship is required to offset the costs associated with the event. Staff will work with the event organizer to ensure that these signs meet the special event signage policy.

Staff are recommending approving both the Vanier Park and Coal Harbour events. While it is difficult to assess the exact impacts a new and unique event will have on a park, staff believe that most of the identified impacts can be managed.

CONCLUSION

8 + 1 Planets Exhibition represents an exciting and memorable event for Vancouver. The City provides a stunning backdrop for this unique visual display of artistry. It is anticipated that this event will be popular with city residents.

Prepared by:

Stanley District
Board of Parks & Recreation
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