



Date: July 13, 2005

TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation

FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT: Special Event – VSO Performance

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board approve the use of Lumberman's Arch in Stanley Park for a free performance of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra on August 7, 2005 with all arrangements to the satisfaction of the General Manager.

POLICY

The Special Event policies as outlined in Appendix A were approved in December, 2003.

BACKGROUND

In 2001, the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra performed a free concert at Lumberman's Arch. The event was sponsored by the BC Lottery Corporation and attracted approximately 6,000 participants. Since 2001, concerts have not been organized in the Park due to lack of funding.

The 2001 concert was a successful special event. The only area of concern was the event's traffic management plan – the Park experienced “traffic” grid lock as participants accessed and exited the park. Some of the traffic problems were attributed to a strike at BC Transit.

DISCUSSION

The 2005 proposed event consists of an afternoon rehearsal followed by an evening concert of Vancouver Symphony Orchestra. The event is being organized by a committee headed by the Vancouver Board of Trade – Spirit of Vancouver.

According to the Board's Special Event Policy, the approval of new special events is based on:

1. evaluating the compatibility of the event with the Park Board's mandate;
2. determining the suitability of the site to accommodate the event;
3. consulting with various park stakeholders and Park Board staff.

Compatibility with Park Board's Mandate

For the purposes of special event approval, compatible events can be defined as those which focus on recreational activities which are physical, social, cultural, artistic and/or environmental in nature. A free concert in the park is compatible with Park Board's mandate on artistic and cultural perspectives.

Site Suitability

It is an objective of the Park Board to match special events with an appropriate park site. This is accomplished by evaluating the event and the site using the following criteria:

- compatibility of the event with existing use/users of the park;
- intensity and frequency of other park use/users;
- park condition – protection and preservation;
- availability of amenities on site (washrooms, hard surfaces, etc.).

Lumberman's Arch is an appropriate site for this event. As previously mentioned, a similar event was successfully staged on this site in 2001. The site can accommodate the expected attendance and staging without compromising the park's condition. Lumberman's Arch only hosts a limited number of other special events - primarily runs and walks.

Traffic Management

Through promotional materials, event participants will be encouraged to access the Park by alternative transportation methods. BC Transit has agreed to monitor the transit service during the event and increase the service to the Park if it is necessary.

Consultation

An immediate stakeholder, the Vancouver Aquarium, is on the event's organizing committee. The other immediate stakeholder is Theatre Under the Stars (TUTS). Their performance may be impacted by the sound from the evening concert. Organizers will consult with TUTS to mitigate competing sound conflicts.

Through the distribution of this report, other Stanley Park stakeholders have been notified regarding the scheduling of this event. The most significant impact the event will have on other stakeholders will be increased traffic congestion in the Park.

CULTURE AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

This proposal was presented to the Board's Culture and Recreation Committee on June 8, 2005. The Committee supports this event.

SUMMARY

Staff recommend that the Board approve the use of Lumberman's Arch as the site for a free concert by Vancouver Symphony Orchestra. The 2001 concert was successful both in terms of location and attendance.

Prepared by:

Stanley District
Board of Parks & Recreation
Vancouver, B.C.