

Date: March 2, 2006



TO: Board Members – Vancouver Park Board
FROM: General Manager – Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Red Bull Flugtag

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board approve the use of Creekside Park as a spectator area for the Red Bull Flugtag event on August 19, 2006 with all arrangements to the satisfaction of the General Manager.

POLICY

Board approval is required for major events not included on the annual Special Event Calendar and/or are in variance with one or more Park Board policies (see Appendix A).

BACKGROUND

Red Bull Flugtag is a national “flying contest” that has been held in over 35 countries around the world. It is a one day event produced by Red Bull energy drink and is free to the general public. Participants build and customize their own homemade flying machines which are showcased in front of a live crowd and launched off a stage into the water.

Concord Pacific Property is the main event site with grandstand seating, food vendors and a work zone area for the participating teams. The Concord Pacific site will require seven days of set up. Creekside Park will be used primarily as a secondary spectator viewing location. There will be a minimal set up (2-3 days) on the Park which will include the placement of sound towers, portable toilets, and refreshment stands. A stage area will be created on a barge 27 feet above the water surface in False Creek. The barge will be attached to a ramp from the north side of the Concord Pacific Property. After each team’s flight, an active water safety plan would remove the team as well as the craft from the water.

EVENT REQUEST

Event organizers are requesting the use of the north side of Creekside Park for Saturday August 19, 2006. The event will be scheduled in the afternoon from 12 pm–6 pm. Creekside Park would primarily be used for spectators to view the event. A closure of the seawall path from the south side of Science World to the north end of the park would be required to manage the anticipated crowds. A perimeter fence with security would be set up on the day of the event and would be taken down upon conclusion of the event. Pedestrian and bike seawall traffic will be diverted onto a designated lane through the parking lots. A residential notification letter will be sent to the residents of Citygate towers prior to the event.

Organizers are also requesting permission to sample and promote Red Bull energy drinks on Creekside Park during the event. Staff will work with the event organizer to ensure that this follows the special event signage and on site promotion policy.

DISCUSSION

Staff recognize that there will be amplified noise issues, congestion and traffic concerns related to the event. The event will be required to follow the City's noise bylaw. Parking is limited in the area but spectators will have the convenience of using the nearby skytrain station and local transit services. The main event will be on Concord Pacific property and Creekside Park will be used primarily as a secondary viewing area with minimal set-up on the Park. The perimeter fence will be used for safety and park preservation purposes.

Given the limited duration and the minimized impact the event will have on park users and residents, staff are recommending approving the use of Creekside Park for the Red Bull Flugtag event. The City's FEST committee has endorsed this recommendation. The organizers have consulted Science World and notified Citygate Stata Councils regarding their event. The Strata Councils have not expressed any concerns at this time.

SUMMARY

Red Bull Flugtag is a fun and popular event. The first Red Bull Flugtag took place in Vienna, Austria, in 1991. Since then, more than 35 Flugtags have been held around the world, from Ireland to San Francisco, attracting up to 300,000 spectators.

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