

Date: November 15, 2007



TO: Board Members – Vancouver Park Board
FROM: General Manager – Parks and Recreation
**SUBJECT: Stanley Park Restoration Project:
Contract Extensions**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board extend the consulting and forestry contracts as outlined in this report for work related to the Stanley Park restoration project.

POLICY

The Board approves all major consulting and construction contracts.

BACKGROUND

The recovery and restoration of Stanley Park following the December 2006 windstorm presented staff with budget forecasting challenges in that the type of work required was not typical of the Board's previous activities. Also, there was a need to keep tight control of the work as many interests and legislated requirements had to be accommodated. Hence, it was decided to operate on a time and materials/ equipment basis for a number of aspects of the project.

DISCUSSION

1. Bryan Peterson Contracting Ltd. was retained by the Board on May 28, 2007 to commence windfirming on the newly exposed forest edge. This was billed on a per hour basis with an expenditure cap to be reviewed as work progressed. This funding has been nearly completely expended. Windfirming was seen as an undertaking whose extent would be determined by the residual after other forestry expenses. As the latter have not radically exceeded expectations, staff wish to complete windfirming on all the blowdown edges, whether adjacent to trail or not. \$131,000 of the \$139,000 has been expended and an additional \$120,000 will be required to complete the work. Staff recommend extending the windfirming contract to Bryan Peterson Contracting Ltd. by \$120,000.

2. Bryan Peterson Contracting Ltd. was retained by the Board on June 20, 2007 subsequent to a request for proposals for the supply of equipment and labour to carry out the forestry operations. As the complexity and related time required to respond to environmental concerns could only be roughly estimated, a cap of \$500,000 was put on the initial forestry authorization.

The contractor has proven to be very competent and cooperative in meeting the environmental agenda. Through experience of the last six months the contractor and staff now have a good appreciation of the costs and time required to do the work. The initial authorization is now exhausted and staff recommend that it be extended by an additional \$750,000 to complete the forestry aspects of the restoration.

3. Vern Gait of Gait Enterprises Ltd. was retained by the Board on May 7, 2007 as the full time forestry manager for the project. His contract has expired and his services will be required until the end of March. Staff recommend that Mr. Gait's contract as forestry manager be extended to March 31, 2008 with the same terms and conditions. The value of the extension is \$78,000.
4. B.A. Blackwell and Associates Ltd. were retained on June 25, 2007 by the Board to create a Fire Preparedness Plan and detailed prescriptions for forestry activity in each of the 15 blowdown areas. His estimated hours of work has now reached the original upset value of \$80,000. The amount of time required to deal with Provincial and Federal biologists in the development of the prescriptions proved to be too low and the restoration team have requested the addition of planting plans to the prescriptions. Staff therefore recommend a \$40,000 extension to the contract to complete this work.
5. Ecologic Consulting has also reached the upset price of \$70,000 for biological monitoring awarded by the Board on June 25, 2007. An additional \$45,000 will be required as senior government biologists requested far more on site work than was anticipated in June. Staff recommend an extension of \$45,000 to the Ecologic Consulting contract for additional field monitoring hours.
6. Diamond Head Consulting Ltd. was retained on February 10, 2007 to conduct dangerous tree surveys in all of the blowdown areas. This initial work was completed within the \$40,000 contract. However, during the summer, resurveying of the species at risk habitat was requested by the biologists in the Lost Lagoon blowdowns and arborist services were required to review and field mark the Prospect Point escarpment trees. These additional services are valued at \$25,000. Therefore, staff recommend the extension of Diamond Head Consulting contract by \$25,000.

CONCLUSION

The purchase of services from consultants and contractors with upset pricing has allowed the Board to control the project while allowing the contractor and the consultants to respond to environmental and safety challenges that this forestry operation has created. While moving more slowly than initially hoped, the project has not faced significant environmental or safety criticism and remains well within the project forestry budget estimate of \$3,250,000.

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