

Date: March 18, 2008



TO: Board Members – Vancouver Park Board
FROM: General Manager – Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: 2008 Vancouver Triathlon World Championships

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT the Board approve the use of English Bay and Ceperley Park June 2 through June 8, 2008, the partial road closure of the western portion of Stanley Park on June 5th (6:00am-10:30am) and on June 6th (6:00am-10:30am), a full road closure of Stanley Park on June 7th (6:00am-12:00pm) and a partial road closure of Park Drive from Second Beach Pool to the Beach Avenue entrance on June 8th (6:30am to 6:30pm) for the 2008 Vancouver Triathlon World Championships.*
- B. THAT all arrangements will be 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).

To accommodate major special events, the Board will allow Stanley Park to be closed to vehicle traffic one day per month prior to 10:00am, with no closures during July and August.

BACKGROUND

The Board's current special event guidelines for vehicle restriction in Stanley Park are primarily designed to accommodate sporting events such as 10 km runs, marathons, and triathlons. For the most part, these early morning closures do not significantly disrupt the public's access to the Park or its various attractions. The impact to Park Stakeholders is also minimized as much as possible.

Most events which require road closure in Stanley Park follow the Board's guidelines. In past years, the Board has permitted a few events which have extended road closures past 10:00am. In 2005, Ceperley Park hosted the Park Board's "Rain or Shine" Festival which required a partial road closure of Park Drive from the Beach Avenue entrance to Second Beach Pool from 7:00am to 6:00pm. Last year, the Board approved the

International Triathlon Union World Cup test event for the use of Ceperley Park and English Bay with a partial road closure on the western side of Stanley Park from 6:00am to 6:00pm.

EVENT HISTORY

The Vancouver World Triathlon Championships is the final qualifying event for the 2008 Beijing Olympics. In order to qualify, athletes compete during a 24 month period at various International Triathlon Union (ITU) World Cup series, ITU World Championships, ITU Continental Championships and Continental Cups. In that timeframe, athletes earn ITU Olympic qualifying points based on their best results. The triathlon encompasses three distinct sports; a 1500m swimming event, 40km cycling road race and a 10km run.

EVENT REQUEST

The Vancouver World Triathlon Championships organizers are requesting the use of English Bay, Ceperley Park and Stanley Park to host this four 4 day event. The event anticipates over 3,000 participants and requires 4 days of set-up and 1 ½ days of take-down. English Bay and Morton Park will be used to accommodate the transition zone which includes the finish area/gantry, spectator grandstands, athlete's village, medical tents, VIP tents, media and broadcast centre. Ceperley Park will also require a smaller transition zone for medical tents, bike racks and an athlete's lounge. A portion of the Ceperley parking lot will be used as a storage compound and for the events operation centre.

The World Triathlon Championships will encompass 4 race categories: Junior (Thursday June 5th, 7:00am to 10:30am); Age Group Sprint Distance (Friday, June 6th, 6:30am to 10:30am); Age Group Corporate Challenge and Olympic Distance (Saturday, June 7th, 6:30am to 1:00pm) and Elite and Under 23 World Championships (Sunday, June 8th, 7:00am to 6:30pm).

The swim portion of each race will take place at English Bay. The cycling routes for each race will require various road closures of Stanley Park and West End streets. The races on Thursday, June 5th and Friday, June 6th require only the use of Park Drive on the western side of Stanley Park from 6:00am to 10:30am. During this time, traffic and access will be maintained along Pipeline Road and to the eastern side of Stanley Park. As well, the run portion of these races will also require the closure of Beach Avenue and will prevent access to the Beach Avenue entrance until 10:30am on Thursday and Friday. Saturday's race will require full road closures in Stanley Park from 6:30am to 12:00pm. The Beach Avenue entrance will need to be closed until 1:00pm for the run. The Elite division on Sunday, June 8th will take place primarily along English Bay, Beach Avenue and West End streets. The Elite race will require the partial closure of Park Drive from Second Beach Pool to the Beach Avenue entrance from 7:00am to 6:30pm. The Sunday

closure would restrict access primarily to the Beach Avenue entrance. The remainder of Stanley Park will be accessible from the Georgia Street entrance.

DISCUSSION

Staff recommend approving the 2008 Vancouver Triathlon World Championships at English Bay, Ceperley Park and Stanley Park from June 2nd to 8th, 2008. Organizers have contacted Park Stakeholders to mitigate the impacts to the facilities which would be affected by the various road closures. Road closures and vehicle restrictions can have a significant impact on Park Stakeholder operations e.g. restaurants, Vancouver Aquarium and sporting groups. Most Stakeholder patrons rely on the automobile to access these facilities and services. There is a potential loss of revenue for both Park Board and Stakeholder operations. However, organizers have confirmed the use of these facilities to hold numerous event functions to help offset some of these losses. Park Board operated facilities will have minimal losses but the construction of the new Prospect Point road will be delayed as a result of the brief closures on the mornings of Thursday and Friday. There may be costs associated with these delays which will be determined once a contractor has been finalized.

Based on last year's test event, there will be major impacts to the West End neighbourhood, park visitors and Park Stakeholders. Traffic closures in the park and in residential streets will disrupt the area and limit vehicle access. The City's Engineering Department is responsible for the traffic management plan including residential access and parking restrictions. Organizers will be working with Engineering and the FEST committee to lessen these disruptions.

A comprehensive communication plan will be in place to ensure that the public, residents and businesses will be fully informed of the event and its requirements. Organizers recently held an information meeting with the local community for feedback. There were no concerns raised at this time.

Although, there will be a considerable amount of set-up for 4 days prior to the event, public access to English Bay, the seawall and Ceperley Park will remain open during this time. On race days, access along the English Bay and Ceperley Park seawall areas will be limited. Staff will work with organizers to provide alternate routes, signage and marshalling to assist the general public.

The FEST committee will be recommending to City Council to approve the road closures required for this event, subject to the Park Board's approval, of the use of English Bay, Ceperley Park and Stanley Park.

SUMMARY

The Vancouver World Triathlon Championships is a prestigious event that will portray Vancouver through media coverage as an International City capable of hosting a world class sporting event. The event is expected to generate major financial gains to the local economy.

Prepared by:

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