

Date: June 9, 2008



TO: Board Members – Vancouver Park Board
FROM: General Manager – Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Stanley Park Commemorative Plaque

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board approve the installation of a plaque in Stanley Park commemorating Stanley Park as a Canadian National Historic Site, to be funded by Parks Canada and installed and maintained by Parks Canada under terms satisfactory to the General Manager.

POLICY

The Board has established “Review Guidelines for the Donation of Public Art and Memorials”.

BACKGROUND

The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation has received a proposal from Parks Canada to install a plaque in Stanley Park to commemorate Stanley Park as a Canadian National Historic Site.

All National Historic Sites in Canada are designated by the federal Minister of the Environment.

DISCUSSION

The proposed location for the plaque is on the large rock located just west of the Park Board Administration office.



The plaque is approximately 27” by 32” and bears the following inscription:

“Opened in 1888 and named in honour of the Governor General, Lord Stanley, this park epitomizes the large urban parks of the era. Remarkable for its magnificent setting, the park displays a harmonious relationship between its natural environment and its cultural features. The dense and lofty treed landscape, essentially unaltered by human hand, typifies the British Columbian coastal forest.

Recreation facilities and gardens introduced over the years have helped make it enormously popular. Set among sea, city and mountains, this splendid 400 hectares park is one of the most famous in Canada.”

Both a public consultation and a technical review have been completed. The public consultation process occurred in April 2008 with the posting of a sign on site describing the proposal and asking for comments. No comments were received, either in support of or opposition to the proposal.

The technical review was conducted by staff who reviewed the proposed work for safety, durability, design and maintenance concerns. The proposed site was inspected to determine if any view obstruction, conflict with park use or conflict with underground utilities existed. All technical requirements are satisfied.

SUMMARY

The proposed commemorative plaque is recommended to be installed on the large rock at the Beach Avenue entrance to Stanley Park. It is consistent with Park Board guidelines for donations of public art and memorials and it provides an important interpretive element for the park.

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BM:dvm