

Date: January 5, 2009



TO: Board Members – Vancouver Park Board
FROM: General Manager – Parks and Recreation
(in Consultation with the General Manager of
Olympic and Paralympic Operations and the Director
of Legal Services)
SUBJECT: 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games
(“Games”): Vancouver Charter Amendment
Proposals

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board approve the proposed Vancouver Charter amendment generally in accordance with Appendix A.

POLICY

The Board must approve requests for Vancouver Charter amendments related to parks.

BACKGROUND

In 2007 and 2008, staff undertook a review of the City and Park Board regulatory frameworks to ascertain whether or not they would adequately support the operation of the Games as well as protect the public interest.

The purpose of this report is to seek Board approval for a park related Vancouver Charter amendment proposal that has been submitted to the Provincial Government (the “Province”) for consideration.

A parallel report is being submitted to Vancouver City Council that addresses both park and non-park related amendments.

DISCUSSION

At the conclusion of the review of the City and Park Board regulatory frameworks, staff determined that the proposed amendment to the Vancouver Charter set out in Appendix A would add to and clarify the Board’s powers of regulation under the Vancouver Charter and its by-laws, both generally and in connection with the Games and the City’s obligations regarding the Games.

With respect to parks, the proposed amendment deals with granting the Park Board additional powers to regulate advertising and signage in parks, and to relax the regulation of advertising and signage to allow such things as Olympic celebratory and wayfinding signage.

In 2008, the VANOC in partnership with the City and Park Board initiated a program called Game Plan. Game Plan included a series of public meetings held in venue neighbourhoods throughout the City. The purpose of the meetings was to talk about the Games, and indicate possible impacts on affected neighbourhoods. The City, the Park Board, and VANOC intend to repeat Game Plan in spring and fall 2009 as more detailed information is available. Game Plan would be used as a venue to communicate any impacts of by-law changes. The City and Park Board websites will also be used to communicate any by-law changes.

The proposed amendments are subject to approval by the Province.

Although the proposed amendment to the Park Board's ability to regulate signage has been developed in response to issues related to the Games, the amendment will also be useful for supporting future special events on City parks. Any by-law changes developed specifically for the Games, will serve as templates for future special event by-laws.

SUMMARY

The proposed Vancouver Charter amendment will help to ensure a successful Games, and ensure that the City meet its obligations as a Host City. The proposed amendment also supports future special event by-laws and by-law revisions and helps clarify the Park Board's general regulatory powers

Prepared by:

Corporate Services
Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
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**SUMMARY OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS
TO THE VANCOUVER CHARTER**

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO VANCOUVER CHARTER

Regulation of Advertising or Signs in Parks - section 491 (c)

Amend the Park Board's power to regulate advertising or signs to:

- (a) include regulating the number, size, type, form, appearance, and location of signs;
- (b) differentiate regulations according to matters such as different areas of the parks and different times or circumstances;
- (c) relax signs and advertising, similar to the powers of City Council to relax, if enforcement would result in unnecessary hardship, if the advertising or sign is on heritage property or in an historic area, if the advertising or sign uses technology not contemplated under the by-law, or if the advertising or sign is in relation to a special event; and
- (d) authorize the General Manager to relax for such purposes such to such constraints as the Park Board may impose.