

Date: April 14, 2009



TO: Board Members – Vancouver Park Board
FROM: General Manager – Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Special Occasion License Requests

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT the Board grant permission for a maximum capacity 200-person Public Special Occasion License in conjunction with the 2009 Coastal Jazz & Blues Festival on July 4 & July 5 at David Lam Park.***
- B. THAT the Board grant permission for a maximum capacity 750-person Public Special Occasion License and a maximum capacity 250-person Private Special Occasion License in conjunction with the 2009 Vancouver Folk Festival on July 17, July 18 & July 19 at Jericho Beach Park.***

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 by-laws or guidelines (see Appendix A).

RECOMMENDATION A

BACKGROUND

The Coastal Jazz & Blues Society is a non-profit organization founded in 1986. The Society has been committed to stimulating and expanding Vancouver's innovative music scene. The Vancouver International Jazz Festival features over 1700 musicians from Canada and around the world performing at 40 venues located in and around Vancouver from June 26 - July 5, 2009. The Festival presents an extensive program of traditional and contemporary jazz, blues, world and improvised music. The Roundhouse Community Centre and David Lam Park have been major Jazz Festival venues for free public programming since 1997. Jazz at the Roundhouse successfully provides an integrated site with both indoor and outdoor stages in close proximity to one another.

DISCUSSION

The organizers are requesting permission to have an additional beer garden and bistro in the northwest corner of David Lam Park. The Festival currently hosts a 175-person beer

garden area on top of the False Creek Pump Station as well as a beer garden on Drake Street behind the main stage. Organizers wish to re-locate the street bistro to the park, thus allowing patrons to fully enjoy the sights and sounds of the music on stage. This beer garden will have a maximum capacity of 200 people and will operate from 12:00pm-10:00pm (Saturday & Sunday), serving only beer and wine. Security and food services will be provided as well as the development of an emergency evacuation plan. All net proceeds from the sale of alcohol will support the Coastal Jazz & Blues Society's education and outreach programs.

Staff recommend approval of the special occasion licence request. The Festival is a well-organized and well-conducted event. The organizers have an excellent history of operating public special occasion licenses in a responsible and professional manner at David Lam Park and other city locations (ie. Vancouver Art Gallery). For this same reason, staff do not anticipate any issues with an additional special occasion licence on the site.

RECOMMENDATION B

BACKGROUND

The Vancouver Folk Festival Society will be hosting their 32nd Annual Weekend Music Festival on July 18-20, 2009. The Festival is held at Jericho Beach Park and highlights musicians in contemporary and traditional folk, roots and world music. The event welcomes more than 300 artists from around the world, where they will perform on seven outdoor stages throughout the park. The Festival also includes a free outdoor concert at Grandview Park as part of their community outreach programs.

DISCUSSION

The organizers are requesting permission to have a beer garden in the northwest side of their festival site on Jericho Beach Park. The beer garden will have a maximum capacity of 750 people and will operate on Friday from 5:00pm-10:00pm and on Saturday & Sunday from 11:00am-10:00pm, serving only beer and wine. As well, organizers would like to request an additional 250 person beer garden for performers and V.I.P. guests only operating at the same times. This private special occasion license facility would be located "backstage", behind the main evening concert stage in an area isolated from the general public. Security and food services would be provided and an emergency evacuation plan will be in place. Net proceeds from the sale of alcohol will help offset the costs of the Vancouver Folk Festival.

Staff recommend the Board approve the special occasion license requests. The Festival is a well-organized and well-conducted event. The location of the proposed beer gardens are within the gated area of the Festival and will not infringe on additional park space or further displace the general public.

SUMMARY

The Vancouver Pride Festival and the Vancouver Folk Music Festival are well-known cultural events in the City of Vancouver.

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