

Date: September 24, 2009



TO: Board Members – Vancouver Park Board
FROM: General Manager – Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Operating Plan - 2010 Olympics

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board receives this report for information.

BACKGROUND

Periodically staff have brought updates to the Commissioners on the various venues, events, agreements and contributions that staff and others will be providing before, during and after the Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games. As we get closer and the excitement begins to build, more detailed plans are being developed.

DISCUSSION

In general most of our facilities and programs will continue but with the added themes and focus that the Olympic and Paralympic Games bring to both active and cultural pursuits.

More specifically, in each of the Districts and in Operations the following activities are in place;

Operations:

Preparations for snow clearing, garbage collection, drainage clearing etc. are in place and will put priority for work on the event venue at the Vancouver Olympic/Paralympic Centre in Hillcrest Park and Trout Lake and Killarney Ice Rinks as practice venues. Priority effort will also be given to Coal Harbour, Roundhouse and SEFC, the Live Sites and the downtown areas that the Park Board maintains. Principal tourist sites and our restaurants will also be given attention. Additional equipment for snow clearing operations, funded by others will be available during Games time. Coordination will also occur with the Engineering Department including Streets and Sanitation operations groups.

Park Board staff will undertake preventative maintenance activities in December and January to ensure that parks, boulevards, entrances to the City and priority locations are looking their best.

Stanley District:

Coal Harbour Community Centre will become the Joint Protocol Operations Centre between January 2010 and the end of March. This will be operated by the City of Vancouver in partnership with the Province of BC, the Government of Canada, the four Host First Nations and other government agencies and will provide hospitality for visiting dignitaries.

Roundhouse Community Centre, in addition to being used as a performance venue for the Cultural Olympiad, is being considered for other related Olympic purposes that are presently being discussed with third parties.

As well, the Centre is located in close proximity to the Live site at David Lam Park which will host between 10,000 – 12,000 people daily with live entertainment on stage and large TV screens that will provide replays of Olympic sporting events.

False Creek Community Centre, as another location for Olympic related activities, will also be included in a larger scale program of activities on Granville Island. The recreation programming at the Centre will be curtailed, but the Centre will be one of the facilities used by the public during this festival on the island. Agreements for this use are presently being negotiated.

Stanley Park will be a popular attraction for tourists visiting Vancouver and we expect high use of both the attractions and the businesses in the park. Agreements are being negotiated with various media to showcase the Park to the world. Staff are also developing upgraded way finding signage and will be looking at the overall signage in the Park to ensure access for all operations and businesses.

A Canadian Olympic Committee program called “Paint-the-Town-Red” is inviting Canadians across the country to wear red, fly the flag and otherwise support our Olympic athletes. All of our community centres, our network of partners and the residents of Vancouver will be encouraged to participate. This is just one example of how local interests are bringing excitement and awareness of the Olympics to the city.

The Board will be familiar with the business opportunity to use Jericho Beach parking lots for RV parking. This contract has now been signed with the operator and increased promotion of these opportunities will appear in a range of targeted media.

Vancouver East District:

Killarney and Trout Lake

The Olympic practice venues for speed skating at Killarney Ice Rink and figure skating at Trout Lake Rink will close these rinks for public programming from mid January to early March. However, the programming at the Community Centres and Killarney Pool will

continue through the Olympic period. Access to parking and entrances will be reduced but these Centres will remain open during regular hours. Details of programming at each location will be finalized this fall.

Park Board staff will be providing ice maintenance services to VANOC during the Olympic period at the two practice venues. Training and support is being provided.

Hastings Community Centre:

Because of the Centre's proximity to the PNE and the Olympic venues for Short Track Speed Skating and Figure Skating and, its location on a major Olympic transportation route, access for local community use will be more difficult. However solutions for parking access to the centre have been developed. Some program changes may occur putting an emphasis on drop-in activities but the Centre's hours of operation will likely remain the same. The parking lot at the corner of Renfrew and Hastings will be used in advance of the Olympics for parking for volunteers and will not be available to the public during the Olympic/Paralympic period.

Queen Elizabeth District:

Vancouver Olympic/Paralympic Centre:

VANOC has assumed the responsibility for this facility during this period before the Games and during the exclusive use period. Two test events occurred in February and March 2009 which included the World Junior and World Wheelchair Curling championship. Our key operations staff are on site to ensure the responsibility for the facility's key operating systems remains with the Park Board. They will also assist during the Olympic period. Legacy conversion will begin post Games for the new Community Centre, Rink, Library and Curling Club. The Aquatic facility and fitness centre will be open to the public in the Spring of 2010.

Hillcrest Park Fields

The Hillcrest field area will not be available between December 2009 and April 2010. Staff have been working with the field users to ensure that they have access to alternate facilities during the time. After the Games a period of rehabilitation of the fields will be required. Alternate locations will again be used until the fields are ready for play in June/July 2010. Soccer will begin their regular season in September 2010.

Riley Community Centre/Percy Norman Pool /Riley Rink

There will continue to be use of these facilities during the Olympic period but final decisions on extent of programming, likely drop-in, and operating hours of the facilities have not been made.

Special attention will be given to parking management at these locations to ensure that Community Centre, Rink and Pool users have access during the Olympic period.

Queen Elizabeth Park

Public use of the park, Seasons Restaurant and the Celebration Pavilion will continue during the Olympic period. Management of parking in the Queen Elizabeth lots and on the adjacent roadways will be required to ensure availability for park users. The parking lot adjacent to the Pitch and Putt golf course will be used by VANOC during the Games.

Parking Management:

Parking management plans in the destination parks and in conjunction with the Park Board facilities close to the venues for the Olympics are being developed to ensure that opportunities for use by park visitors will continue.

Host City Happening Events

In conjunction with the City of Vancouver Olympic Operations Office, several events and activities will be happening at the Community Centres:

- Each Community Centre (and Neighbourhood Houses) will be provided with 50” Plasma flat screen TVs and \$1000 to support the concept of the Centre as the community’s living room for the Opening Ceremonies as well as sporting event watching during the Games.
- Three major events will also be organized at three community centres at the beginning, middle and end of the Games period. Kitsilano will host a celebration in early February, Sunset will host an event in early March and Killarney will be the site of a celebration in late March.

Torch Relay:

Although the route has not been revealed, it is expected that the Torch will pass by some of our Community Centres. Celebrations will be organized around the event and will be done in conjunction with a number of groups in the neighbourhood.

Staff Resources to the Games:

Between 90 – 100 Park Board staff have volunteered to help support all of the activities that the City will be undertaking from being a part of the Protocol Office hosting Olympic dignitaries; planning, developing and participating in programming at the Live Sites; supporting the Olympic Line –Streetcar 2010, Vancouver House and the activities at City Hall.

Conclusions

Plans for all of the activities, programs and sites are progressing. Staff will ensure the ability of the community to continue to use the facilities that are in their neighbourhoods, adjusting where it is essential for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Extra events and celebrations will be occurring throughout the City. Our newest facilities for Olympic/Paralympic events and practice venues will be supported by Park Board staff assisting the VANOC team in their operation during the exclusive use period. Plans are in place for snow clearing, garbage collection and drainage management. Additional planning for parking management will be completed shortly. The expertise of staff will be used to ensure the success of a number of City events and activities.

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