



Date: May 16, 2012

TO: Board Members – Vancouver Park Board
FROM: General Manager – Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Vancouver Racquet Club - Patio Endorsement

RECOMMENDATION

- A. That the Board approves the application of the Vancouver Racquet Club to the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch for a Liquor designation of their enclosed patio area.*
- B. That subject to the approval by the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch a modification be made to the Vancouver Racquet Club lease in a form which is satisfactory to the Director of Legal Services for the City of Vancouver and the General Manager.*
- C. That the General Manager be authorized to execute and deliver the modification on behalf of the Board.*

POLICY

Under the conditions of the lease between the Vancouver Racquet Club and the Park Board any changes to the uses of premises requires the approval of the Park Board.

BACKGROUND

The Vancouver Racquet Club (VCR) has operated since 1953 from their facility located at 4867 Ontario Street, adjacent to the Hillcrest Community Centre. During that time they have operated and expanded the facility at no cost to the Park Board or the City. They provide the community at large with valuable opportunities to participate in badminton, squash and fitness. The facility consists of 5 international singles and 1 full-size doubles squash courts, 7 badminton courts, a fitness area, banquet and meeting rooms and a lounge area for members and visitors

The banquet, meeting and lounge areas are currently licensed to serve liquor in two areas totaling 102 seats as Liquor Primary, which does not require the service of food and prohibits the entry of minors, an area seating of 50, designated as Food Primary which allows the entry of minors and a seating area of 150, with a Lounge designation that allows their banqueting capacity to be increased as needed.

The VCR operates under a lease with the Park Board with a term running from January 1, 2004 to December 31, 2023. Under the conditions of the lease any change in use of the premises requires the approval of the Park Board. On May 9, 2012 the VCR submitted a request to permit their application to the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch for a Liquor endorsement that would permit seating and liquor service to an enclosed patio area adjacent to the existing Lounge which has a capacity of 50 seats and is designated Liquor Primary. The Liquor endorsement would not increase the seating capacity but would allow some of the seating to be moved outside seasonally. The VCR estimates this could be in the 12-20 seat range.

DISCUSSION

The patio area is completely enclosed and access is only through the interior of the building. The patio is located on the west side of the building and the closest neighbor is Nat Bailey Stadium to the north. Queen Elizabeth Park is across the street and to the south and any residences are to the east on the opposite side of the building, so noise should not be an issue.

The Liquor endorsement would only alter the current liquor licensing to permit seating and the sale of liquor in the enclosed patio area and not increase the overall Lounge seating of 50. Any change in licensing would require the approval of the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch and would be subject to the City of Vancouver bylaws as they relate to the operation of a patio area.

The 2012-2017 Strategic Framework goals of “Relevant Programs and Services” under the “Parks and Recreation for All” Direction and “Partners” under the “Engaging People” Direction support this recommendation.

The VCR has operated with a liquor license since 1974 and there is no record of any complaint or regulatory issue

SUMMARY

The Vancouver Racquet Club would like to expand their food and beverage service to allow their members and guests to enjoy an outdoor area to consume an alcoholic beverage. The Vancouver Racquet Club has a long history of liquor service with no complaints or issues.

Prepared by: Gordon Barber
Corporate Services
Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

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