



Date: March 26, 2013

TO: Board Members – Vancouver Park Board
FROM: General Manager – Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Special Event Approvals – Vancouver International Children’s Festival, Le Dîner En Blanc

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT the Board approve a request from the Vancouver International Children’s Festival Society, for a gated festival area at Sutcliffe Park from May 27 to June 2, 2013**
- B. THAT the Board approve a request from The Social Concierge for Le Dîner En Blanc, a gated event including public special occasion license with maximum capacity of 2,500, to take place on Thursday, August 22, 2013 from 7:00pm – 11:00pm, at a park location to be confirmed**

POLICY

Park Board approval is required for major events not included on the annual Special Event Calendar and/or is in variance with one or more Park Board bylaws.

RECOMMENDATION A

BACKGROUND

Established in 1978, the Vancouver International Children’s Festival (VICF) is the longest running festival of performing arts for young audiences in the world. The Festival’s primary audience includes families with children ages one to twelve and educators. The Festival presents international, national and regional artists and provides opportunities for youth performers and interactive arts activities. In 2011, the venue was moved from Vanier Park to Granville Island.

DISCUSSION

In 2012, VICF created a small festival and celebration area on Sutcliffe Park, which was partially fenced and provided controlled access areas for participants with pre-purchased wrist bands. This layout required a large number of volunteers and was not considered a successful exercise by the organizers.

For 2013, the organizers of VICF have requested that the perimeter of Sutcliffe Park be fenced for the duration of the seven-day event. This arrangement would be similar to the

previous festival set up in Vanier Park, and would require fewer resources to manage. Staff support this request as pedestrian access to Granville Island would be unaffected and public access through Sutcliffe Park would be available at times when the Festival is closed.

Festival hours of operation:

May 27 – 30	Monday – Thursday	9:30am to 2:30pm
May 31	Friday	9:30am to 6:00pm
June 1	Saturday	10:30am to 6:00pm
June 2	Sunday	11:00am to 5:00pm

The organizers will be required to produce detailed plans regarding site management and waste management, and to pay the necessary Park Board permit and other related fees estimated to be \$1,137.

Staff recommend that the Board approve the controlled access to Sutcliffe Park for the Vancouver International Children’s Festival as outlined in this report. Staff and organizers will work together to mitigate any potential negative impacts to the neighbourhood and visitors to the area.

RECOMMENDATION B

BACKGROUND

Le Dîner En Blanc is a surprise dining event where guests arrive simultaneously at a “secret” location to share an evening of food, wine and socializing. Started in Paris 24 years ago, the “elegant pop-up phenomenon” has incorporated some of the world’s most iconic backdrops to host these dining experiences. Guests are required to dress completely in white and bring picnic baskets, white folding tables, chairs and dinner ware. The purpose is to share a quality meal with friends in one of the city’s most beautiful locations.

DISCUSSION

In 2012, the first year of the event in Vancouver, Le Dîner en Blanc saw over 1,200 diners grace Jack Poole Plaza at the Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre, under the Olympic Cauldron. In August 2013, The Social Concierge has proposed to host this event on park land; however, due to the confidential nature of the event, the park name will not be disclosed publicly until the day of the event. This gated, licensed function will host a maximum of 2,500 registered guests. Food and beverages are to be pre-sold on-line and distributed on-site. No alcohol will be sold at the event. Live musical entertainment, primarily background, will be provided throughout the evening. The event is scheduled to run from 7:00pm – 11:00pm.

The City FEST committee, which includes representatives of Fire and Rescue Services, Liquor Control and Licencing and City Special Events, have endorsed this permit application subject to final plan approval. VPD will also be reviewing the final plans and expressed no initial concerns given the success of the 2012 event. The organizers will be

required to produce detailed plans regarding site management, security, communications and waste management, and to pay the necessary Park Board permit and other related fees estimated to be \$3,000.

Staff recommend that the Board approve the request for this event including the licenced area for a maximum of 2,500 people. Staff and organizers will continue to collaborate in the remaining months to ensure the event is planned and implemented in accordance with all permit conditions. Sound levels will be monitored and staff will work with organizers to minimize potential negative impacts within the area.

SUMMARY

The Vancouver International Children's Festival and Le Dîner En Blanc are two unique events that will add to the diverse calendar of cultural activities planned for the coming summer. Staff recommend the Board approve the requests from each organizer as outlined above.

Prepared by:

Special Events and Filming
Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
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