



Date: October 6, 2014

TO: Board Members - Vancouver Park Board
FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Proposed Memorial Plaque in Falaise Park

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board accept the donation of a plaque in Falaise Park commemorating the soldiers who served in World War II and their families, with all arrangements to the satisfaction of the General Manager.

POLICY

The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation adopted the *Arts Policy and Recommendations* in November 1993 and a renewed *Arts Policy* in December 2003. The *Arts Policy* states that the Park Board provides a vibrant public realm and supports the experience of public art and cultural events in parks.

BACKGROUND

Plaques are installed in Vancouver parks for a number of reasons including providing historical context for the public. Review processes related to plaque placement are scaled to the nature of the commemoration and park usage.

In June 2012, the Park Board received a request from residents to place a memorial plaque in Falaise Park which acknowledges the contributions of soldiers who served in World War II, for whom the surrounding residential community was built. The request was accompanied by an initial petition with 82 signatures, and subsequently supported by 116 e-mails from residents.

DISCUSSION

The memorial will consist of a single commemorative plaque attached to a plinth. The proposed text reads:

To Our Parents

In our hearts the greatest generation; men and women who survived a depression, fought a war and helped build this country; the men and women who lived and raised their families here.

Placed here by the sons and daughters who called Renfrew Heights "THE PROJECT" home.

A technical review by staff established an appropriate site in the south section of the park located by the water fountain, as shown in the attached site map

A local stakeholder review with the Renfrew Park Community Association and Happy Corner Pre-school was completed; both are supportive of the proposed memorial. A request for feedback from the wider community involving signage on site and flyers distributed in a two block radius was also undertaken. Of the nine individual respondents, eight approved the proposal with one approving the intent but not the placement near the playground.

If approved, the memorial plaque would be processed in accordance with our standard procedures, as a donation with no cost to the Park Board.

SUMMARY

This neighbourhood was built specifically for returning veterans and their families and is already distinguished by street names referencing people and events of World War I and II.

Staff recommend approval of this donation for Falaise Park, which is clearly supported by the community, commemorates the neighbourhood's unique history and will complement the existing park features.

General Manager's Office
Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
Vancouver, BC

Prepared by: jpw
Coordinator
Arts, Culture and Environment

Appendix 1: Site Map



Appendix 2: Examples of similar plaque installations

The type of memorial proposed is a natural stone with a traditional brass plaque. The stone has not yet been selected.

