



Date: May 29, 2015

TO: Park Board Chair and Commissioners
FROM: General Manager - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: West Coast Railway Association Agreement Renewal

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the renewal of the agreement with the West Coast Railway Association at the Roundhouse Community Arts and Recreation Centre for a ten year period;
- B. FURTHER THAT once the form of agreement has been approved by the General Manager, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, and Director of Legal Services, City of Vancouver, that the General Manager be authorized to execute the document on behalf of the Board.

POLICY

The Board approves the use of all lands under its jurisdiction.

BACKGROUND

Steam Engine 374 pulled the first transcontinental passenger train into Vancouver on May 23, 1887 completing Canada's dream of a coast to coast railway system. The Vancouver Central Lions Club, in co-operation with the Vancouver Park Board, took on the fundraising to build the \$400,000 glass pavilion that now showcases Engine 374. The pavilion opened in 1997 and is located at 181 Roundhouse Mews.

DISCUSSION

The Board entered into an agreement with the West Coast Railway Association (WCRA) giving them the custodial responsibilities for Engine 374 including supervision of the pavilion, train and operation of the souvenir kiosk.

The WCRA is dedicated to the preservation of British Columbia Railway history. The WCRA was established as a non-profit organization in May of 1961. It now operates, in addition to Engine 374, the West Coast Rail Heritage Park in Squamish attracting 40,000 visitors every year. It currently has over 480 members and logged over 29,000 volunteer hours during 2014.

The Roundhouse Community Arts and Recreation Society are fully supportive of renewing the lease with the West Coast Railway Association and see many advantages in continuing the partnership. These include the ability to:

- Have the engine accessible to the public seven days per week.
- Continue hosting events centering on Engine 374 including the annual celebration that marks the completion of the historic arrival of Engine 374 in Vancouver in 1887.

The agreement outlines the responsibilities of the WCRA regarding the use of the pavilion for the showing of the engine to the public, the placement of historic artifacts and the operation of the souvenir kiosk.

SUMMARY

Approval of this agreement will enable the Park Board, the Roundhouse Community Arts and Recreation Society and the West Coast Rail Association to continue to provide public access to this important historical icon.

Staff is recommending that the Park Board approve the proposed renewal of the operating agreement with the West Coast Railway Association.

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