



Date: June 11, 2015

TO: Park Board Chair and Commissioners
FROM: General Manager - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Caravan Festival 2015 - Special Event

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve a request from the brand.LIVE Group, organizers of the Caravan Festival, for a 150 person licensed area at Olympic Village Square, from September 18 to 20, 2015, between 12:00noon and 8:00pm daily.

POLICY

Park Board approval is required for special events not included on the annual Calendar of Major Special Events and/or that are in variance with one or more Park Board by-laws.

BACKGROUND

The Caravan Festival is a 3-day community event featuring food, wine, talent and crafts from the Thompson Okanagan region. The event would be sponsored by the Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association and produced by the brand.LIVE Group, which would work closely with local residents and retailers to collaborate on the event. The initiative would create a high quality and memorable festival.

DISCUSSION

The Caravan Festival is designed to enable the public to get together as a community in the heart of Vancouver and enjoy the dynamic and diverse offerings that the Thompson Okanagan is famous for. The event will feature:

- The Harvest Bistro in Olympic Village Square, where regional food and wine will be served daily by Gold Seal Chefs and world class winemakers;
- A Mainstage, with performances by artists such as We Are The City and Shane Koyczan, as well as cooking demos and aboriginal storytelling;
- An Experience Pavilion on the Plaza, that will showcase unique regional activities such as winter sports, golf, spa, water sports, biking and rock climbing; and
- A Weekend Market, which will feature artisans, crafts and local products for sale.

The Caravan Festival and its organizers are committed to running a safe, successful and elevated experiential event for the citizens of Vancouver that is respectful of the surrounding community. The Festival would be free to the public and would operate daily from 10:00am to 8:00pm. The Bistro, a key feature of the event, would operate between 12:00noon and 8:00pm, with alcohol service ending at 7:30pm. As part of their event application, the organizers are seeking approval for a 150 person licensed area (Appendix A).

This event application has been reviewed and conditionally approved by the City's FEST Committee (which includes representatives from the VPD, VF&RS, BC Ambulance Service, BC LC&LB, City Special Events, Traffic Management and the Park Board), subject to Board approval and the submission of final event plans (site security, health and safety, emergency response, communications, egress plan and green events).

SUMMARY

The Caravan Festival 2015 is designed to enable Vancouver residents and visitors to experience the key offerings of one of British Columbia's most popular regions, while showcasing one of city's most attractive neighborhoods. This initiative will activate an important public space, enhance the vibrancy of our city and stimulate economic activity in the area. Staff have thoughtfully reviewed the various aspects of this special event application with the organizers and are confident that the initiative can be executed successfully. Accordingly, staff recommend that the Board approve the request as outlined above.

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Caravan Festival 2015 - Preliminary Site Plan - Olympic Village Square & Plaza

