



March 20, 2017

TO: Park Board Chair and Commissioners
FROM: General Manager - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Stanley Park Lawn Bowling Club - Liquor Licence Application

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve an application by the Stanley Park Lawn Bowling Club to the Liquor Control Board to obtain a Liquor Primary Club Licence.

POLICY

The Board approves use of all lands under its jurisdiction.

BACKGROUND

Stanley Park Lawn Bowling Club (SPLBC) is a voluntary, not for profit organization incorporated under the Societies Act. The primary focus of the clubs is recreational lawn bowling. The club has operated since 1917 in its current location in Stanley Park. This year the club will be celebrating its 100th year anniversary. Currently there are 260 bowling members and 70 social members constituting the largest Lawn Bowling Club in Canada. In 2015 the SPLBC was recognized for its recruitment success by being named the Vancouver and District Lawn Bowling Association's Club of the Year. The club is most active during the lawn bowling season falling between mid-April to mid-October during which bowling takes place daily.

Stanley Park Lawn Bowling Club is currently in an Operating Agreement with the Board for the use of the lawn bowling facility until May 17, 2020.

DISCUSSION

The Stanley Park Lawn Bowling Club is seeking approval from the board to pursue an application for a Liquor Primary Club Licence through the BC Liquor Licensing and Control Branch.

Historically, under their licence agreement with the Park Board the Stanley Park Lawn Bowling Club has been authorized to serve alcohol provided the club does not breach any of the policies of the Park Board, the City of Vancouver or the Liquor Control and Licensing Act. Currently to host an event where liquor is served the club has to apply for a Special Event Permit (SEP) through the Liquor Control Board. Each time the club applies for a SEP there is a cost for licensing fees. In addition, under the current provincial regulations, an organization is only allowed to apply for two (2) SEPs per month. The current licensing format does not permit alcohol at a majority of the club's functions from April to October. In addition at the end of each event all alcohol must be removed from the premises.

In their history as a tenant at the Stanley Park Lawn Bowling Club there have been no noise complaints or incidents resulting in the attendance of the Vancouver Police Department or a Liquor Inspector representing the Liquor Control Board.

If approved by the Liquor Control Board the Liquor Primary Club Licence will allow the club to be licensed on an annual basis. It will also allow them to retain alcohol on the premise between events. The licence allows them to serve alcohol to their private members or their invitees and not members of the general public. Their hours of operation will be 11:00am - 11:00pm, 7 days a week. Any variance to these operating hours will require the prior written approval of the Park Board. The Vancouver Rowing Club and the Brockton Pavilion Society are other organizations who operate with a Liquor Primary Club Licence.

SUMMARY

An annual licence will allow the Stanley Park Lawn Bowling Club to operate with less cost, easier administration and provide more entertainment to their members without any impact to the public or Park Board. Staff recommend that the Board approve the Stanley Park Lawn Bowling Club's request for application of a Liquor Primary Club Licence.

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