# Festival Of Lights at VanDusen Botanical Gardens & Make-A-Wish Foundation Partnership

Park Board Committee Meeting Monday, April 16, 2018





#### **Presentation Purpose/Objective**

VANCOUVER BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION

- Presentation provided for information purposes
- Update Board on the partnership between VanDusen Festival of Lights and the Make-A-Wish Foundation (MAW)
- Provide opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback



### Festival of Lights Overview



- Festival of Lights (FOL) is Vancouver's longest running and premier holiday event
- Welcomed a record 146,000 visitors in 2017
- Last year's event marked:
  - 33<sup>rd</sup> year of the festival; and
  - 17<sup>th</sup> year of the charitable partnership with MAW



#### Make-A-Wish Overview



- MAW was established in 1980 in Arizona
- MAW mission is to create lifechanging wishes for children with critical illnesses
- First international chapter was established in British Columbia in 1983
- Wishes granted for kids aged 3 to 17
- 2018 goal is to grant 150 wishes











#### **54** BC & YK Communities Reached

Including: Creston, Dawson Ck, Fernie, Fort St. John, Kitwanga, McLeese Lake, Nelson, Prince Rupert, Sidney, Sooke, Terrace, Tsay Keh Dene, Vernon, Whitehorse

#### Key Partnership Elements



- MAW child is selected annually to participate in the Festival's 'Flick the Switch' ceremony
  - Launches the show publicly
  - Celebrates FOL & MAW partnership
- MAW volunteers sell glow stars in the atrium at VanDusen
- Candle Grotto is set up for visitors to provide a donation, light a candle, and make a wish
- MAW volunteers invest roughly 1,300 hours during the event



#### **Partnership Contributions**



- MAW partnership raised \$9,500 in its first year (2001)
- Contributions grew to \$58,000 in 2017; granted the wishes to 5 kids living with critical illnesses
- Cumulatively, the FOL & MAW partnership has raised over \$475,000 since inception
- FOL is one of MAW's signature fundraising events during the year





"I wish to meet Bo Horvat of the Vancouver Canucks"

#### VanDusen Festival of Lights – Behind the Scenes

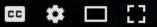




## Behind the Scenes



<u>Video Link</u>



0:00 / 3:01



# Make-A-Wish BRITISH COLUMBIA & YUKON CANADA



Video Link



# **Questions & Answers**

