



April 19, 2018

TO: Park Board Chair and Commissioners
FROM: General Manager – Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Vancouver Folk Music Festival – Licensed Area Expansion

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve a request from the Vancouver Folk Music Festival Society, organizers of the Vancouver Folk Music Festival, to increase the capacity of the event's main licensed area at Jericho Beach Park from 1,000 guests to 1,250 guests on July 13, 14 & 15, 2018, with all arrangements to the satisfaction of the General Manager of the Park Board.

POLICY

As per the [Vancouver Charter](#), the Park Board has exclusive jurisdiction and control over park land use in the City of Vancouver, including any structures, programs and activities, fees, and improvements that occur within designated parks.

Park Board approval is required for special events that are in variance with one or more Park Board by-laws.

BACKGROUND

The Vancouver Folk Music Festival (the Festival) is a Canadian cultural institution – a unique community-based celebration with an internationally-renowned reputation for presenting the finest traditional and contemporary folk/roots music artists from around the world. Celebrating its 41st year in 2018, the Festival continues to be one of the city's most beloved and respected events, drawing over 38,000 attendees annually to beautiful Jericho Beach Park to enjoy the music and culture of more than 60 international, national, and local acts. This year's festival is scheduled to take place between July 13 and July 15, 2018.

DISCUSSION

The Festival has operated two licensed areas for several years without any major incidents. The main licensed area has a capacity of 1,000 guests and is located in close proximity to the main stage. It operates from 4:00pm to 10:00pm on Friday, and 11:00am to 10:00pm on Saturday and Sunday. A second licensed area for private special events accommodates 250 guests and is open from 3:00pm to 10:00pm on Friday, and 12:00noon to 10:00pm on Saturday and Sunday. Last call at both licensed areas occurs half an hour before closing time.

In order to help enhance guest experience, reduce line-ups, and generate additional revenues to offset event expenses, Festival organizers are seeking permission to increase the capacity of the event's main licensed area from 1,000 guests to 1,250 guests.

This proposal has been reviewed and conditionally approved by key FEST Committee members, including the Vancouver Police Department, Vancouver Fire & Rescue Services, the Park Board and City of Vancouver's special events departments, and the BC Liquor Control & Licensing Branch.

SUMMARY

The Vancouver Folk Music Festival has proven to be a very popular and very well-organized annual event. Staff have carefully reviewed this application and are confident that this request can be executed successfully and in accordance with all permit terms and conditions. Accordingly, staff recommend that the Board approve the application as outlined above.

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Vancouver Folk Music Festival – Preliminary Licensed Area Site Plan

