

Date: November 21, 1996

SUBJECT: 1997 SPECIAL EVENTS

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Board approve the 1997 Calendar of Major Events as described in this report, with all arrangements to the satisfaction of the General Manager.

BOARD POLICY

Special Event Guidelines were approved in 1991 to cover issues of sound and the requirement for Board approval of an Annual Calendar of Major Special Events in the Fall of each year (Appendix A)

SUMMARY

This report presents for the consideration and approval of the Board:

The 1997 Calendar of the Major Special events (Appendix B).

BACKGROUND

Each year event organizers apply to the Board to hold their event on parkland. To date in 1996, there have been approximately 325 permits issued for events, runs and walks. The Board processes these applications, takes a fee, if required, according to the fee schedule, and establishes the conditions to govern set up and event activities. Where appropriate, a deposit is retained to cover extra services, additional staff time or potential damage. The site is assessed with Operations and Horticulture staff before the deposit is released. Where appropriate, there is debriefing of major events with the organizers and in most instances the City's FEST Committee. (FEST is a committee established by the City and chaired by the Engineering Department with regular representation from the Police Department, Fire Department, Transit and Parks. Health, Permits & Licenses, Risk Management and other departments attend as required. All major event organizers, whose event will impact on streets or traffic or require Engineering and/or Police services, bring their event proposal and plans to this committee. FEST reports to Council with an annual calendar of major events). The management of permitting and supervising special activities and events has become very demanding City and Park Board activity, particularly between May and September.

Prior to 1991, it was the practice of the Park Board to individually approve recurring major events each year when:

- the organizers request a reserved use of park space;
- the event restricts the access of other park users;
- the activity is in variance with one or more of the Park By-laws such as: an admission fee, sale of goods other than souvenirs, sale of food, use of liquor outside the Board Policy, an elaborate set up, an extended period of use, or a significant impact on the surrounding neighbourhood.

Since November 1991, the Board has approved the upcoming year's Calendar of Special Events instead of individually approving major events. This procedure has worked well and streamlined the process. Any unusual new requests or events still come to the Board for special approval.

DISCUSSION

The Recreation Services Committee and staff together have reviewed the 1996 Special Events. Specific event issues are addressed and recommendations for 1997 are followed up with the event organizers.

The following request is from an existing event organizer to expand their 1996 event. This event, as detailed below, is included in the 1997 calendar for approval.

Pacific Cinematheque Film Festival

Pacific Cinematheque held a weekend street level film festival in Grandview Park on August 16, 17 and 18, 1996. This was a successful free event with 1300 people in attendance over the weekend. Each night films featuring Canadian content were shown from 9:00 pm until midnight. There were a few complaints from local residents about the amplification and in particular the Sunday evening showing. Appropriate adjustments will be made in 1997. Pacific Cinematheque in co-production with Cineworks Independent Filmmakers Society is again planning to run the street-level film festival on Grandview Park in August. Pacific Cinematheque is having its 25th Anniversary in 1997 and plans to tie the festival in with other celebrations. They want to increase the number of film festival evenings from three to seven and take the screenings to various other parks. The parks being requested are Grandview, Trout Lake, MacLean, Strathcona or McSpadden. Consultation with the local Community Centre Association and residents surrounding these parks will be required prior to the permitting of any new locations.

NEW REQUESTS

New Requests as described below are included in the Calendar for Board approval subject to further consultation and arrangements agreeable to the General Manager and where appropriate the FEST committee.

Canadian International Dragon Boat Festival

June 20 - 22, 1997.

The Dragon Boat Festival will be held on June 20-22nd, 1997. Organizer's are hoping to move from the present festival site at the Plaza of Nations and are requesting the use of the site around and including Science World. This area includes property under the jurisdiction of the City, Science World, Concord Pacific and the Park Board. The organizers are requesting the set up of two outdoor stages, one on Creekside park and the other on Concord land (asphalt area) north of the park. The stage and speakers will be directed toward the water. The organizers are requesting permission to fence the entire area including the parking lots that surround Science World. The Festival organizers will be meeting with the City FEST committee, Science World, Concord Pacific and the City Gate Tower representatives to discuss this request. The organizers will also be requesting permission to set up a beer garden in a location on this site yet to be determined. If this request involves a park site it will be permitted providing the arrangements fall within the City and Park Board Liquor policies (Appendix D).

Vancouver Outdoor Cinema

4 Friday evenings (mid-August to mid-September)

The Something Old - Something New Vancouver Outdoor Cinema is requesting permission to hold an outdoor film festival in Stanley Park. This will involve showing classic motion pictures with amplified sound on a big screen in Malkin Bowl. Participants will sit on the grass in front of the Malkin Bowl stage. The event will run from approximately 9:00pm until midnight on up to four Friday evenings from mid-August until mid-September. Organizers will work in conjunction with Theatre Under the Stars who lease the facility from May 1st until September 1, 1997. There will be no charge to attend these shows. The organizers will secure sponsors. The Stanley Park Pavilion Restaurant will be consulted about the specific dates requested for this event. A meeting with the City FEST committee will be required.

Pacific Beach Soccer Blast

August

A special event organizer who will be working in conjunction with Soccer B.C. or UBC is requesting permission to hold the Pacific Beach Soccer Blast at Locarno Beach on one weekend (two days) in August. The original location requested was Kitsilano Beach but due to the number of major events permitted in this area, the Locarno Beach location was offered as an alternative. This is a five on five game played on soft sand on a 30 X 50 yard field. This will be the first beach soccer tournament to be held in Canada or the Pacific Northwest. Organizers will work with staff to determine the number of courts that can be accommodated on the beach and to identify a weekend in August that will not conflict with the annual Volleyball B.C. tournament schedule.

Corporate Events:

There are no requests at this time for major convention/receptions on parkland. Should staff receive such a request the process is to consider each request on its own merits, the nature of the event, location requested and bring the request to the Board. A substantial fee will be negotiated depending on the scale of the set-up, requirements of the event, site requested and time required for staff consultation and site supervision.

The proposed 1997 Calendar has been compiled based on the requests and information available at this time from major event organizers (Appendix B). It has also been reviewed with the Recreation Services Committee.

The 1997 Special Events Calendar also lists many regular events the nature of which do not normally require Board approval. They are included to provide an overview of the nature and scope of activities held on City parks. Any new, unusual requests will come to the Board for consideration as they are received. Applications for New Major Special Events must be submitted in writing to the Park Board, Recreation Division, four months in advance of the requested event date in order to receive consideration. This allows adequate time for community consultation and overall consideration of the event request.

The proposed 1997 Calendar and notice of this Board meeting has been sent to all related community groups as per Appendix C.

CONCLUSION

Advance approval of the 1997 Calendar gives staff and organizers the time required to ensure that all arrangements are conducted in a timely manner. It also allows for advance computer booking of all special events prior to the over 450 annual picnic requests which begin in January of the new year.

Prepared by:
Recreation Division
Board of Parks and Recreation
City of Vancouver
DM

FOR A COPY OF APPENDIX A & B CALL 257-8494
