

Date: September 3, 1997

SUBJECT: PARK SELECTION FOR CULTURAL HARMONY AWARD TREES

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Board approve the Burrard Marina Park area for the planting of the Cultural Harmony Award trees at a cost to the Park Board of \$10,000.00.

BACKGROUND

The Special Advisory Committee on Cultural Communities resolved to present an annual award, to both an individual and an organization, which had made a significant contribution to cultural harmony in Vancouver. As part of the award ceremony, the Advisory Committee requested the Park Board to supply and plant two trees. In 1996, two street trees were planted near the corner of Main and E. 51. Two plaques, honoring the recipients, (one organization, one individual) were provided and installed in the curb, by the City Engineering Department.

In 1997, the Advisory Committee requested the Park Board consider a park site where future Cultural Harmony Award trees could be planted in a single location. Park Board staff met with members of the Advisory Tree Subcommittee and suggested two sites; an area of greenspace near the south end of the Burrard Bridge and a portion of Seaforth Park, currently being re-developed in the same area. The Advisory Committee preferred the waterfront site and Park Board staff developed a design.

On July 29, 1997, the Special Advisory Committee on Cultural Communities took the proposal to City Council. The recommendation to Council asked that either the \$10,000 to develop the waterfront site be funded from Contingency Reserve, or the cost be split evenly with the Park Board. Council resolved,

"That Vancouver City advise the Special Advisory Committee on Cultural Communities that a site be determined within the current park site system that can accommodate the planting of the trees that requires no special site preparation or cost."

DISCUSSION

Preferred Site

The waterfront site has the advantage of allowing the development of cultural harmony as the single theme. The proposed trees were selected to represent different parts of the world. The development of this passive turf area into a small arboretum will also provide an additional enhancement along the seawall walk. The Seaforth Park site has the advantage that the trees may be incorporated into the larger site design. The peace flame in this park is compatible with the cultural harmony concept. Both the Advisory Committee and staff prefer the waterfront site near the Burrard Marina.

Site Cost

Soil is very compacted and of poor quality in both the Burrard waterfront marina site and in Seaforth Park. Both sites will require soil amendment to improve drainage and enhance plant health. To develop the waterfront site will require a cost of \$6,500 for topsoil, grass seed and a limestone path. There will be similar costs for the re-development of Seaforth Park. Tree planting costs of \$2,500 will be the same at either site. The Engineering Department will fund the purchase and installation of the plaque.

CONCLUSION

The concept of the Cultural Harmony Award program is widely supported by the community, the Park Board and City Council. With the opportunity at the waterfront near Burrard Marina to create a small arboretum of trees dedicated to cultural harmony, a cost of \$10,000 would both support the concept and enhance the aesthetic quality of the site.

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