

DATE: October 16, 1997

SUBJECT: OPPENHEIMER PARK MEMORIAL TOTEM POLE

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Board approve the installation of a memorial totem pole in Oppenheimer Park sponsored by the Oppenheimer Park Committee with all arrangements to the satisfaction of the General Manager.

BACKGROUND:

The Oppenheimer Park Committee, operating under the direction of the Carnegie Association, is proposing the installation of a 30 foot totem pole in the park commemorating all those who have died in the Downtown Eastside. The intent of this memorial is to serve as a symbol of courage and strength for those who have lost family members and friends.

The Neighborhood Matching Fund received an application for \$9,000 in support of this project. The advisory committee recommended approval and the project has been funded in that amount. The matching contribution is in the form of participation in the process of carving and in donations of goods and other funds. A pole from Smith Inlet has been donated and a First Nations carver will guide the work. Park users and Downtown Eastside residents will be asked to participate in the carving which will take place in the field house at Oppenheimer.

The organizers have followed the recommended public art process for artist selection. They have met with staff from Park Board Operations Division on specific site concerns. Planning staff have been consulted and have expressed support. Project organizers will meet all the technical requirements.(eg. An engineers seal is required for anchoring plans). A maintenance deposit in the amount of 10% of the cost of the work will be made to the City's public art maintenance reserve.

DISCUSSION

The proposal has received a number of letters of support from organizations in the area (attached). Leaflets have been distributed in the area. An article in 'The Front Yard News' describes the project and invites participation. This newsletter has been distributed door-to-door and to all the service organizations in the area. The site was posted for a week with a sign describing the proposal and no comments were received.

An inscription will be developed and placed at the base of the pole. Project sponsors (currently Vancity, The Carnegie Community Association and the Vancouver Park Board Neighborhood Matching Fund) will be listed. The

wording of the inscription will be brought to the Board as information when it is developed.

CONCLUSION

This pole will be a positive addition to Oppenheimer Park.

Prepared by:
Recreation Division
Board of Parks & Recreation
City of Vancouver