

October 15, 1997

SUBJECT: SECURITY ISSUES IN STANLEY PARK - UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION

That this report be received as information.

REPORT

Following an earlier meeting between the Board and the police on security issues in Stanley Park, staff held a meeting with a group of Stanley Park stakeholders on August 14, 1997. Its purpose was to discuss real and perceived personal and property security issues in Stanley Park, and to develop a strategy to start to deal with these concerns and promote the image of Stanley Park as a safe place for visitors.

Those attending included representatives of the Vancouver Police, Vancouver Aquarium, Downtown Vancouver Association, U-Park Enterprises Ltd. and several businesses located in Stanley Park.

The following two plans were discussed in detail.

Establishing a mobile police office in Stanley Park.

Vancouver Police are in the process of arranging for a community police office for Stanley Park, operating out of a fully equipped, 26ft mobile trailer.

Funding for acquisition of this trailer is being provided to the police by the Kiwanis, from its Crime Prevention Fund. Police indicate that the trailer design is now complete and they are currently obtaining quotes for its construction. They estimate that it will be operational by May, 1998.

Police plan for it to be staffed by volunteers, under the guidance of a designated police officer. They see its primary location as being in the Aquarium parking lot, but it could be moved to different locations in Stanley Park, as required.

It will serve as a centre for providing visitors with crime prevention information and assisting individuals with reporting crimes or situations of concern.

Developing a combined volunteer force and using it, along with staff and other parties who are on-site in the park, to assist in public education, monitoring security issues and providing information to the police.

There are currently several volunteer groups operating in Stanley Park. These include the Aquarium's "Meet and Greet" team, the Skate Patrol, Nature House guides and the Ecology Society. At present, they operate independently of each other.

These existing volunteer groups will be used as a starting point and their use will be co-ordinated, and developed further.

Staff are investigating appointing a volunteer co-ordinator who would work with this individual and the volunteer groups to develop a consistent approach and an easily recognisable appearance. The intention is to make the best use of the skills and knowledge of these groups, but to leave each one the independence necessary to carry out its existing functions.

In addition to these volunteers, individuals such as U-Park patrollers, and front line Board staff working in the park (including lifeguards, parks supervision site attendants and Bike Patrol), would become more involved in security issues.

All these individuals and groups would be an integral part of any system developed to work with the police, and would effectively be their "eyes and ears". Where appropriate, they could be equipped with radios, cell phones or pagers to enable them to contact the police quickly when problems are observed.

The Board's main direct involvement in these projects will be to provide locations for the trailer to be parked when in use (in Stanley Park parking lots) and stored when not in use (in the redeveloped Service Yard), to locate and appoint a volunteer co-ordinator and work closely with that individual and the police to develop and train the volunteer force and, once the trailer is in operation, staff will work with all parties involved to make best use of it.

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