

Date: January 22, 1998

SUBJECT: 1998 SPECIAL EVENTS

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Board approve the 1998 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 1998 Calendar of the Major Special events (Appendix B).

BACKGROUND

Each year event organizers apply to the Board to hold their event on parkland. In 1997, 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 a 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

Staff have reviewed the 1997 major special events. Specific event issues are addressed and recommendations for 1998 are followed up with the event organizers.

The following requests are from existing event organizers to expand their 1997 event. These events, as detailed below, are included in the 1998 calendar for approval.

Vancouver International Marathon

The Vancouver International Marathon will be held on Sunday May 3rd, 1998. The organizers have designed a new course route that is entirely in Vancouver as well as portions of Stanley Park Drive. In the past this event has been given permission for a full west side road closure and a partial closure of one lane on the east side. For this year's event a full closure of the east side will be required from approximately 7:30am - 9:30am as well as Lagoon Drive North up to Beach Avenue until approximately 10:00am. The southbound lane on Pipeline Road will also be closed from 7:30-9:30am. Stakeholder access will be required prior to 7:30am or after 9:30am. There will be no public access along Stanley Park Drive to either side of the park between 7:30am - 9:30am. The organizers will ensure that signage is put up at the entrance to Stanley Park one week in advance of the event to advise the public of the road closure. Access off of the causeway to the west side of the park will be limited to Prospect Point Cafe and Ferguson Point Teahouse staff and patrons during the event.

Board policy does allow for one full road closure per month in Stanley Park except in July and August. Currently, there is only one other full road closure in Stanley Park during the Vancouver Sun Run which is held in April each year.

Vancouver Pride Parade

The Vancouver Pride Parade is held annually on the Sunday of the August long weekend. The parade route starts on Denman Street and ends with a

concert and celebration at Sunset Beach Park. The event organizers are requesting permission from the Board to set up a beer garden in an enclosed tent adjacent to the Jervis U-Park parking lot during the event on Sunday, August 2nd, 1998. The tent will have a capacity of 250 people and will operate from 1:00pm - 5:00pm serving only beer and cider with a maximum of three drinks per person. This event is considered to be a major city wide event and a determination would need to be made of the impact of the liquor operation on the adjacent neighbours as per Park Board liquor guidelines (Appendix D). Should the Board wish to consider this request, it is the Board' s practise to notify the residents within a three block radius in regards to the request for a beer garden. Flyers will need to be distributed door to door in the Sunset Beach vicinity. Staff will report the results of the survey to the Board so that a final decision can be made. The FEST committee has discussed this request and does not recommend that a beer garden be permitted due to the number of participants attending the event (10,000-15,000) and the proximity to the residents.

Molson Indy

In the last three years the Molson Indy has fenced off and enclosed the north portion of Creekside Park to park sponsor and driver vehicles. The Molson Indy' s new race route proceeds directly alongside Creekside Park and the park site will become a festival area for the weekend of September 5-7, 1998. The site will likely include a general seating area along the grass berm, concessions, a beer garden and general admission area. A separate report will be presented to the Board for approval to use the entire park site as a festival site for the next four years.

NEW REQUESTS

A new request as described below is included in the Calendar for Board approval subject to further consultation and arrangements agreeable to the General Manager and where appropriate the FEST committee.

Jewish WorldBeat Festival

The Vancouver Jewish WorldBeat Society is requesting permission to hold an outdoor music festival at Spanish Banks West Extension grassed area. This is a cultural event for the entire community to celebrate Israel' s 50th anniversary through music and song. The event will run from Saturday, August 28th, 8:30pm - 10:00pm and Sunday August 29th from 10:00am until 10:00pm. There will be one main stage, one small stage and one workshop stage. Concessions will sell ethnic foods. The festival area will be fenced off and security will patrol the site. There will be no charge for admission to the Saturday evening opening performance but an admission fee of \$15 - \$20 will be charged for the entire day on Sunday.

The organizers are investigating the use of the Jericho Hill parking lot for festival parking. The organizers will provide a shuttle from the Jericho Hill lot to the Spanish Banks West Extension parking lot.

The FEST committee has met with event organizers in mid-January to discuss

the event and is in support of this event request. Two Reserve Police Officers will be situated at the entrance to the West Extension parking lots to monitor and manage vehicular traffic along Marine Drive. Parking Enforcement will also patrol the area for illegal parking.

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, (e.g. 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 1998 Calendar has been compiled based on the requests and information available at this time from major event organizers (Appendix B).

The 1998 Special Events Calendar also lists many regular events 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 and/or 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 1998 Calendar and notice of the Board meeting has been sent to all related community groups as per Appendix C.

CONCLUSION

Advance approval of the 1998 Calendar gives staff and organizers the time required to ensure that all arrangements for the major special events held on Vancouver' s parks and beaches are conducted in a timely manner.

Prepared by:
Recreation Division
Board of Parks and Recreation
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