

Date: April 15, 1998

**SUBJECT: SITING OF AIDS MEMORIAL**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT the Board accept the recommendation of the site review panel, appointed through the review process, that a site on Sunset Beach Park be approved for the AIDS Memorial as proposed by the AMV AIDS Memorial Society with all arrangements to the satisfaction of the General Manager.**

**POLICY**

The Board has Guidelines to govern commemorative installations in parks. The Board adopted the Public Art Committee's Acceptance Guidelines for Long Term Gifts of Public Art in 1988. These outline sponsorship, artist selection processes and maintenance requirements. The Board adopted Guidelines for the Review of Proposed Donations of Public Art and/or Memorials to City-wide Parks in March 1997. These outline a review process that includes a technical review of the site by staff, a technical review of the work, a public consultation process and the appointment of a panel to consider all available information and make a recommendation to the Board.

**BACKGROUND**

In the fall of 1997, the AIDS Memorial Committee (since incorporated as a society called AMV AIDS Memorial Society) approached the Park Board with a proposal to install a names memorial in the wooded area above Ceperley Meadows in Stanley Park. A design for the memorial had at that point been selected through a public art call for proposals. There had been no site approval prior to the design selection. The City's Public Art Committee commented that, although the project did not follow the established process of obtaining site approval prior to the artists call, the artists call process did conform to the principles of the Public Art Policy.

On November 4, 1996, the Park Board approved the installation of an AIDS Memorial for the requested site. On Nov. 8, in response to concern expressed by the public, it reaffirmed its continued and unequivocal support for the project, set aside its approval of the site and requested staff to work with the project to locate all available and appropriate locations for the work and to develop a process for effective public review of the proposal.

**DISCUSSION**

Following the November 1996 meeting, staff worked with the AMV AIDS Memorial Society members to explore possible sites for the memorial. Many West End sites and the Mountainview Cemetery were considered. The society selected four sites which they felt met their criteria. These were the wooded area above Ceperley (the original site), a wooded area north of the Nelson Street entrance to Stanley Park, Sunset Beach Park at the foot of Broughton Street and Alexandra Park.

Staff then undertook a technical review of the sites considering scale, views, programmatic use of the park, heritage, impact on horticulture, accessibility, grounds maintenance impact, ground suitability etc.

Alexandra was eliminated as a site for the memorial on the basis of the scale of the chosen work to the park, the suitability of the park's formal, urban, heritage nature to the memorial design, the dominance of the bandstand, the presence of an existing memorial in the park and the lack of a suitable site away from the large trees that would allow a natural backdrop for the monument.

In early February, the three remaining sites were posted with signs indicating the proposal to situate the memorial in each location and advising of a public meeting to hear comments.

On Feb. 26, a public meeting was held at the Roundhouse. Approximately 70 people attended and 35 speakers were heard.

Following this meeting, all comments from phone-ins, letters and faxes and the meeting were analyzed. In brief, there was significant concern about siting the memorial in Stanley Park at either the Ceperley site or the Nelson Street entrance. One comment in opposition to the Sunset site was received. A wide range of opinion on the proposal was presented including many, both positive and negative, commenting on the acceptance of an AIDS memorial without reference to site. (Appendix 1).

A site review panel was formed. There were five panel members representing the arts, landscape architecture, and the broader community. (Appendix 2) This panel met on March 24 to assess the results of the technical review and the public consultation and to answer additional questions on design and social issues from the Review Guidelines.

The panel had the options of recommending any site or no site or of recommending one of the sites with some qualifiers. The committee decided to recommend the Sunset location with several qualifiers. These are:

1. Need to introduce drainage to area for pathway
2. Designers need to work closely with a landscape architect to prepare a site plan. This site plan should contain the following:
  - position of the memorial to the greater landscape
  - scale of the memorial to the greater landscape access
  - planting (to be integrated with the surrounding landscape of lawn and open trees)

- position of view with respect to daylight

In addition, the memorial may need to be modified in form and scale to make it more engaged with the landscape and the public.

Concern that cyclists need to be notified of the memorial from the sidewalk above so that they do not ride down the hill into it. (Possibly by planting shrubs.)

The panel made suggestions for the consideration of the sponsors and Park Board staff. These are that:

- the designer consider greater undulation in the work.
- the designer be asked to consider whether the intent of the work to draw close contact from visitors ( for example in the weaving of flowers into the names ) is compromised by the fact that corten steel rusts and comes off on hands and clothes and that the committee and the designer be asked to look at other possible materials. (and that this also be considered by Park Board staff)
- the designers discuss with Park Board planning staff issues of lighting for safety and for making the names more readable

Staff will work with the AMV Vancouver AIDS Memorial Society on these qualifying clauses.

Standard requirements, including an engineer's drawing for anchoring will need to be met by the society.

## CONCLUSION

The site review panel was unanimous in recommending the Sunset site as appropriate for this work.

Prepared by:  
Recreation Division  
Board of Parks and Recreation  
City of Vancouver  
SG  
Attachment

---

**FOR A COPY OF APPENDIX I  
CONTACT RECREATION DIVISION AT 257-8496.**

---