



Date: December 22ND, 1998

TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation
FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: PARK NAMING REPORT

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board officially name the park site at Hornby and Howe Streets (also known as South East Granville Slopes), the May and Lorne Brown Park.

POLICY

The Park Board's *Guidelines for Naming Parks* is attached as Appendix I.

BACKGROUND

This 0.6 acre park, located on Beach Avenue between Hornby and Howe Streets, represents one of the most expensive pieces of park property in the Downtown area. The high density in this district prompted City Planners, in consultation with the Park Board Planning Division, to recommend that Council spend over \$7 million to purchase the property, demolish existing buildings, remediate the soil and develop the park. Sources of funding included two thirds of the total cost from the Community Amenity Contributions (CACS) from upland developments and other CACS on Burrard Street, density adjustments to nearby city sites, a private developer donation and a Capital Plan allocation.

The diminutive but elegant park has wonderful sight lines combined with a formal landscape with clipped yew hedging, graceful grasses and colorful perennials such as peonies in the late spring. The perimeter is complimented with architectural tree plantings of ash and London Plane. Key to the design of this small space is its excellent perspective as viewed from the surrounding, tall residential buildings. Also integral to the site is a functional art piece of a large concrete, harvest dining table with two chairs at either end. It is anticipated that this feature will be the impetus for many community celebrations and gatherings.

DISCUSSION

May and Lorne Brown were the only husband and wife to ever serve as Commissioners on the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation. Further to that, they were dedicated outdoor professional recreationalists, both with their Bachelors of Physical Education and for years operated a summer camp for boys in the interior of British Columbia. Their keen interest and enthusiasm for all things pertaining to recreation at a time when this discipline was burgeoning gave rise to numerous innovations at the neighbourhood level especially in the field of partnerships with community athletic organizations in the delivery of broad based services. Lorne Brown served as Park Commissioner in 1967 and 1968. He died in 1976. May Brown served from the beginning of 1973 through 1976 and was elected to Chair in 1975 and 1976. She went on to serve as City Councillor from 1976 through 1986 excluding a two year gap within that period following an unsuccessful mayoralty run. May Brown has received past accolades for her thorough knowledge of city issues, a talent for compromise and keen sense of ethics and fairness. In 1986 she was made a member of the Order of Canada. In short, May and Lorne Brown's combined service to the Vancouver Park Board and the City of Vancouver make them an excellent name choice for the new park between Hornby and Howe Streets. Bill Pechet, the artist who designed and built the table sculpture along with Stephanie Robb, were consulted about the potential name choice and were very positive as the table includes two imposing seats at either end, very appropriate with the double-bill naming conceived for the park. At the time of the park's completion, an information drop within the community asking for other name suggestions resulted in very few responses.

SUMMARY

Former Park Commissioners Lorne and May Brown hold a unique position in Park Board history and together gave their service generously to the City of Vancouver. It is a fitting tribute to name the park at Hornby and Howe Streets in honour of May and Lorne Brown

Prepared by:

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