



Date: November 9, 2000

TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation
FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Coexisting with Coyotes through Communication Project

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board allocate \$10,000 from the Corporate Sponsorship Account as a contribution towards the Stanley Park Ecology Society's "Coexisting with Coyotes Project".

POLICY

The Board's policy on the approved use of Corporate Sponsorship Funds is based on the following criteria:

To fund one-time expenditures to a limit of \$50,000 that will support revenue-generating activities with the money to be repaid to into the Corporate Sponsor Account from the increased revenues within a three year period.

To fund one-time expenditures to a limit of \$50,000 that will result in improved efficiencies.

To fund one-time expenditures over and above the existing funding level in the operating budget which are beneficial to the overall Parks and Recreation system.

All expenditures require Board Approval.

The current balance in the Corporate Sponsorship account is \$408,497.

BACKGROUND

The Vancouver Park Board partners with Stanley Park Ecology Society to encourage the stewardship of the natural world through environmental education and conservation. Based out of the Stanley Park Pavilion, the Ecology Society is responsible for operating the Nature House as well as providing a variety of environmental education programs in the Park. The Ecology Society has a contractual agreement with the Board for the operation and provision of these

services. The Society is able to provide an even higher level of service to the public by actively pursuing other sources of funding which enable the Society to offer expanded programming with schools (Urban Camping, Urban Stewards), volunteer opportunities (Discovery Walks, Eco-ranger Program) as well as conservation projects (barn owl recovery team, wood duck box program).

In April 2000, the Ecology Society and the Park Board sponsored a multi-agency “Coyotes in the City” meeting. A primary outcome of this meeting was the recommendation that the Society serve as a facilitator in developing an integrated communication plan for coyote education in Vancouver - the proposed **Coexisting with Coyotes Project**. Goals for the Project are two-fold: to encourage Vancouver residents to develop an environmental ethic that recognizes the importance of not feeding coyotes; and to make city residents more comfortable with the presence of coyotes. The specific objectives for the Project are: to reduce the number of coyotes killed due to habituation/aggression; to reduce/eliminate coyote attacks on children; and to provide the public with information on coexisting with coyotes in the city.

DISCUSSION

The Ecology Society’s proposed budget for the **Coexisting with Coyotes Project** is \$47,850. The Society is currently soliciting donations from the following sources: Vancouver Foundation, International Fund for Animal Welfare, City of Vancouver Environment Fund and others. The Corporate Sponsorship funds would serve to meet the “matching fund” requirements for these grants. Specifically, the Park Board’s funds would allow the Society to hire a dedicated staff person for 35 weeks from April to November - the coyote complaint season. This employee would be responsible handling public enquiries, assessing public concerns and coordinating the delivery public programs.

JUSTIFICATION

The Corporate Sponsorship Fund is an appropriate funding source for the “**Coexisting with Coyotes**” Project. The expenditure meets the funding criteria outlined for Corporate Sponsorship funds as the project is beyond the Board’s existing level of service. By funding this request, the Board will be supporting the Ecology Society’s leadership role in developing a coordinated communication plan for managing issues associated with coyotes in Vancouver.

Prepared by:

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