



Date: December 20, 2001

TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation
FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: AIDS Memorial

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board receive this report as information.

POLICY

The Board has guidelines for considering donations of public art and memorials.

BACKGROUND

The proposal to locate an AIDS memorial in Stanley Park first came to the Board in November 1996. The memorial was to include names of those who had died of AIDS in British Columbia and was to take the form of a standing ribbon of steel with the names laser-cut through and an inscription of a poem by philosopher, Carlos Santayana. An illustration of the work is available for viewing on the memorial web-site at www.aidsmemorial.ca After initial approval, the Board responded to public concerns related, in part, to the site being in Stanley Park. While reconfirming commitment to an AIDS Memorial, the Park Board withdrew site approval.

Staff were asked to develop a process for the consideration of memorial donations and to work with the AIDS Memorial Society to identify other appropriate sites outside Stanley Park. Consultants were hired and Guidelines for the Review of Proposed Donations of Public Art and/or Memorials were adopted by the Board in March 1997.

These guidelines were used to identify a site for the memorial and to conduct the public consultation. A site along the seawall at the foot of Broughton near Sunset Beach was selected and the Board gave approval in June 1998. The conditions placed at that time have been incorporated in current plans.

THE AMV AIDS Memorial Society has been fundraising since that time and is now ready to proceed.

DISCUSSION

The AMV AIDS Memorial Society has developed a policy on the acceptance of names for the memorial. All names to be included must be nominated and the nominations will be scrutinized. The responsibility for all matters relating to the selection of names rests entirely with the AIDS Memorial Society and not with the Park Board.

Ownership of the memorial has been under discussion . There is agreement that the AMV AIDS Memorial Society will retain ownership of the memorial for one year after installation of the final panel of names and completion of the landscaping plan. A lease agreement for the installation period is being prepared by the City's Law Department. They will also prepare the standard contract for public art which will replace the lease after the one year period.

A maintenance deposit from the Society will cover all costs of routine maintenance as well as potential damage to the memorial.

The AMV AIDS Memorial Society will hold a ground-breaking in January 2002. Park Board commissioners will be invited by the Society when a date has been determined.

“Unforgettable”, is an educational campaign about AIDS which also requests nominations of names for the Memorial. It is currently underway and many nominations have been received. There is a possibility that enough names will be received in the near future to complete the entire sixty feet of the memorial at one time.

Installation is scheduled to start in April or May and to be completed by June or July 2002. Public notification signage will be placed on site for three weeks prior to start of installation.

Staff will work with the project designer to create a plaque with the wording requested by the Board in June 1998. This reads:

“This memorial was approved for placement in this park as a place of healing and education within a tolerant and compassionate city.”

SUMMARY

The Board has approved this project and this update provides information about progress.

Prepared by:
Stanley District
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sjg

AIDS MEMORIAL.WPD