



Date: October 8, 2002

TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation
FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT: SEASONAL LIGHTS IN VICTORY SQUARE

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board approve the allocation of \$ 5,000 from the Corporate Sponsorship Account for a seasonal lighting project for Victory Square.

POLICY

The Board's policy on the use of Corporate Sponsorship Funds contains the following criteria:

- To fund one-time expenditures to a limit of \$50,000 that will support revenue-generating activities and the money repaid into the Corporate Sponsorship account from the increased revenues within a period of three years.
- To fund initiatives with 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.

BACKGROUND

For the past two years, the Park Board has been working with the Friends of Victory Square on improvements to the park. A lighting and concept plan has been established and Phase 1 of the lighting improvements has been installed. The lighting around the Cenotaph will be installed by November 11th. Through a summer program, staff organized games, activities, a concert series and a community art project in the park.

DISCUSSION

The response to the summer programming was very positive and many in the community were pleased to see the park restored for traditional park uses. The program was successful in bringing together some of the disparate interests in the area and participants included the resident, student and working community as well as tourists.

The Friends of Victory Square are interested in continuing this momentum by creating a seasonal display in the park and have committed \$5,000 for the project. The intent is to connect the community through a project of common interest. An artist will design a large lit feature to be installed in the two cypress trees in the centre of the park as well as lead workshops to make decorations which will be hung in the trees. A tentative theme for the installation will be that of guardian angels. Through outreach to groups in the area, the artist will encourage community members to create an angel for the tree and one to take home or to work. A lighting celebration will be planned in early December. This installation would be removed following a celebration of the lunar New Year.

The Victory Square Program Committee will guide the process as it did with the summer program. Supporting groups include the BC Regimental Association, Downtown Eastside Residents Association, The Architectural Institute of BC and Vancouver Community College.

When the perimeter tree lighting was installed in the spring, electrical receptacles were included at the top of the standards to allow for this type of lighting. Arboriculture staff will advise on an installation method which will not affect the trees.

The one time \$5,000 request from the Corporate Sponsorship Account would be used to cover the cost of the materials, lights, and fabrication. The Vancouver Fire Department has agreed to assist with the display's set-up in the park. It is anticipated that the display will be stored and re-used in the future.

SUMMARY

A seasonal lighting project which engages the people in the area will contribute to community cohesion and a celebration of Victory Square. The project also represents a partnership between the Park Board, the Fire Department and the Friends of Victory Square.

Prepared by:
Stanley District
Board of Parks and Recreation
SJG