



Date: May 6, 2004

TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation
FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Special Event - Weekend to End Breast Cancer

RECOMMENDATION

THAT subject to the outcome of the community consultation process, the Board approve the use of Killarney Park for the Weekend to End Breast Cancer 60 km walk on August 21 - August 22, 2004.

POLICY

Board approval is required for major events not included on the annual Special Event Calendar and/or are in variance with one or more Park Board policies (see Appendix A):

BACKGROUND

The Weekend to End Breast Cancer is a two day event that involves participants completing a 60 km walk in support of the BC Cancer Foundation. Participants will follow a 30 km route each day through the streets of Vancouver. Upon the completion of day 1, participants overnight at a designated outdoor site. Organizers will set up tenting areas for sleeping, food services, entertainment, and medical attention. The next day, participants complete the remaining 30 km. Net proceeds from the event will benefit the BC Cancer Foundation, an independent charitable organization which raises funds to support research and care at the BC Cancer Agency.

2004 REQUEST

Event organizers are requesting permission to host the overnight component of the event at Killarney Park. The event would require a full day for the set-up of 1500 participant tents (8' x 8'), dining & medical tents, food services and a 12' x 12' stage for music and announcements. The event will primarily be set-up on the playing fields north and east of the Community Centre. All support vehicles will be placed in the Killarney Community Centre parking lots along with the mobile shower facilities, trailers and portable toilets. The evening activities and entertainment will conclude at 9 pm and on site security would be provided during the event. The anticipated attendance for this event will be approximately 3,000 participants. The event requires Board permission to be in the Park between 10:00 pm - 6:00 am.

DISCUSSION

Staff are recommending the Board approve the use of Killarney Park. At the request of the Culture and Recreation Committee, staff have initiated a community consultation process for this event. Event notices have been distributed to the immediate neighbourhood, and staff will forward any community responses/issues for the Board's consideration at the Board meeting.

Staff do not foresee a significant impact on the immediate neighbourhood. The event will involve one full day for setup on Friday, August 20. Participants will arrive on site in the late afternoon on Saturday, August 21 and stay until Sunday morning when the walk resumes at 7 am. The event is fully self contained within the Park. Organizers have an emergency and security plan in place and have hosted a similar and successful event in Toronto. The Board has previously approved overnight events in parks (Brockton Oval - Relay for a Friend) and similar overnight events are held in Burnaby and Coquitlam.

CONCLUSION

The BC Cancer Foundation is an independent charitable organization that raises and stewards resources to support research and compassionate care through the BC Cancer Agency. In 2003, the event was held in Toronto and raised 12 million for breast cancer research at the Princess Margaret Hospital, the largest institution in Canada devoted to cancer treatment, innovation research and informative education programs.

Prepared by:

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