



Date: July 12, 2004

TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation
FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Implementation of a Sustainable and Ethical Procurement Policy for the Vancouver Park Board

RECOMMENDATION

- A. That the Board approve the process to work with City Council in developing and implementing a sustainable and ethical procurement policy as approved by Vancouver City Council on June 22, 2004 (copy attached).*
- B. That a request be made to City Council to add a Park Board Commissioner to the Sustainable and Ethical Procurement Policy Task Force to prepare and present the draft policy to the Board.*

POLICY

There is no applicable Board policy.

The Finance Committee at its meeting of July 12, 2004 discussed the motion approved by City Council on June 22, 2004 regarding the process in developing and implementing a sustainable and ethical procurement policy and recommended that the Motion A, B and C be approved by the Board. The Committee also recommended that a request be made to City Council to add a Park Board Commissioner to the Sustainable and Ethical Procurement Policy Task Force to prepare and present the draft policy to the Board.

BACKGROUND

On March 15, 2004, Park Board staff reported to the Finance Committee on current research toward the implementation of an ethical and environmental purchasing policy. A survey was sent to approximately 225 Park Board contractors to gather information regarding their ethical and environmental purchasing practices. Other municipalities across Canada were contacted to obtain information about their current practices.

On April 6, 2004, City Council declared its intention to implement a sustainable and ethical procurement policy for the City of Vancouver. City staff were asked to report back within a two month period, and to directly answer a series of questions posed by council.

On May 31, 2004, Park Board staff reported to the Finance Committee in regards to the implementation of an ethical and environmental purchasing policy. As part of this report, staff also provided answers to the same questions posed by City Council. - report attached.

On June 22, 2004, City staff reported back to City Council. At this meeting, Council approved the implementation of Phase 1, which is the creation of a task force, co-chaired by Councillors Louie and Louis, and comprised of City and Park Board staff, various businesses, and any additional organizations that are deemed necessary. This task force shall prepare and present a draft policy to Council on the purchase of apparel and fair trade agricultural products. Council also directed staff on a Phase 11 work plan to report back by December 2004 including resource requirements for developing and implementing a comprehensive Sustainable and Ethical Procurement Policy that incorporates environmental and social objectives. Council also directed staff, in the interim, to purchase fair trade certified coffee, at the expiration of current contracts, and where there are no contracts, as soon as is practicable.

DISCUSSION

Both the Vancouver Park Board and City of Vancouver have been approached by various organizations in regards to implementing an ethical purchasing policy. Park Board staff responded to this request by gathering information from current suppliers, as well as obtaining current practices from various municipalities and large organizations across Canada. Consistent with our mandate, the Park Board staff also have incorporated the environmental guidelines and impacts in our current procurement practices.

To have an ethical and environmental procurement policy implemented effectively, it is prudent to involve both staff as well as suppliers in this process. As there are currently areas of overlap between the City of Vancouver and the Park Board in procuring supplies and services for operational needs, it would not be effective to have multiple task forces working toward the same goal. It is prudent that the Park Board staff to work together with City staff on implementation of such a policy.

SUMMARY

Park Board have moved positively towards the implementation of an ethical and environmental procurement policy. The working together with City of Vancouver purchasing staff and expertise from across the organization will result in a far more comprehensive policy.

Prepared by:
Corporate Services
Board of Parks & Recreation
Vancouver, B.C.
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