

DATE: January 17, 2005



**TO: Board Members – Parks and Recreation**  
**FROM: General Manager – Parks and Recreation**  
**SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS (IFLA) WORLD CONGRESS, EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND**

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

*THAT the Board approve Kate Davis-Johnson attend the 42<sup>nd</sup> World Congress of International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA) in Edinburgh, Scotland.*

**POLICY**

Travel outside North America requires Board approval.

**BACKGROUND**

IFLA arranges a world wide congress annually. This year's congress will take place at the Edinburgh Conference Centre at the Riccarton Campus of Heriot-Watt University. The overall theme of this year's congress is "Landscape Leading the Way". There are 4 other sub-themes: urban growth and decline; safer cities and towns; rural growth, decline and quality; aesthetics; and economics. This Congress will explore how landscape design through past examples and future forecasts takes a lead toward solutions and development throughout the world.

**DISCUSSION**

The Congress is an educational and business venue for practitioners in landscape architecture, architecture and planning, in all types of practices. The congress is attended by approximately 300 – 400 people from all over the world in a 4 day educational structure featuring presentation of papers from educators and professionals from some of the largest cities in the world. It is an opportunity to expand one's knowledge about what is taking place internationally in university programmes and in other city, town and rural development planning. It is also an opportunity to confer with colleagues, exchange professional information and develop a level of experience on an individual basis. Understanding commonalities and differences across the world is beneficial in the areas planned to be discussed at this year's congress, for example:

- Short term population expansion and its relationship to urban open space design
- Environmental problems posed by short term profits and industrial dereliction
- Safer cities and towns related to the challenges of increased traffic, pedestrians and cyclists in juxtaposition to the automobile, disabled rights and recognition
- Loss of city vitality due to fear of crime – tools to address security, promote safety in public places, and provision for a renewal resource consciousness.

The Park Development Manager, Kate Davis-Johnson is requesting approval to attend and \$1,500 funding to meet a portion of the cost of travel, admission fee and accommodation/meals. The congress opens on June 26 and closes June 29, 2005. The entire cost for attending the event is \$3,300 and the Park Board contribution is similar to the cost of attending a major conference in North America. Funds are available in the Planning and Operations Training Budget.

## **CONCLUSION**

Attendance at the 42<sup>nd</sup> International Federation of Landscape Architects World Congress by the Park Development Manager is beneficial to the Board because it offers an exchange of experiences, ideas and information with some of the most renowned professionals in the world in the field of core areas of service, such as parks and city environs in relation to pedestrian traffic, environmental challenges, and population expansions.

Prepared by:

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