



Date: April 28, 2005

TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation
FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Old Hastings Mill Store Museum – License Agreement Extension

RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. *THAT the Board approve the extension of the license agreement with the Native Daughters of BC Post #1 for the use of a portion of Hastings Mill Park for the Old Hastings Mill Store Museum for an additional 20 years from July 9, 2004 to July 8, 2024 under the terms and conditions identified in the report.***
- B. *THAT once the form of the agreement has been approved by the General Manager and the Director of Legal Services, the General Manager be authorized to execute the document on behalf of the Board.***

BACKGROUND

Built in 1865, the Old Hastings Mill Store Museum building was originally part of the Hastings Sawmill Complex at the foot of Dunlevy St. It is the only Vancouver building in existence today that survived the Great Fire of June 1886. Donated by the Hon. Eric Hamber to the Native Daughters of BC Post #1 in 1929, it was barged to its present location at the foot of Alma Street and designated as a Museum in 1932. The Native Daughters continue to own the building and the collection, opening the facility to the public during winter weekends and six days per week between June 15th and September 15th. Admission is by donation and visitors see artifacts from pioneer days including many Indian pieces. The Native Daughters of BC Post #1, when they decide to dispose of the building and contents, will assign them to the City of Vancouver.

The Museum was designated as a Heritage Building in 1974.

The Native Daughters of BC continue to be responsible for all operation, maintenance and repair costs for the building. The building also includes the group's meeting space and a caretaker's suite. Park Board staff maintain the park area and planting beds and pathways outside the small fenced area to the west of the building.

A lease for the land with the Province, the City and subsequently the Park Board has been in existence for various terms since 1940, the most recent expiring on July 8, 2004. Staff have been meeting with a committee of the Native Daughters since last year with a view to simplifying the language and including relevant terms in the new agreement.

DISCUSSION

It has been agreed that the following terms will be included in the extension of the agreement for the use of a portion of Hastings Mill Park:

1. The portion of the park to be used for the Old Hastings Mill Store Museum will be the area identified in Attachment A.
2. This area will be licensed to the Native Daughters of BC Post #1 for an additional 20 years from July 9, 2004 to July 8, 2024.
3. The rental rate will be \$1 per year.
4. The Native Daughters of BC Post #1 will operate the facility as a Museum, opening the building and displaying the artifacts to the public for a minimum of 60 days each year.
5. The Native Daughters of BC Post #1 will cover all of the costs to operate, maintain and repair the facility, including all appropriate insurance coverage.

Standard terms such as, but not limited to those related to termination of the agreement upon dissolution of the group, cleanup of the site in the event of substantial or complete destruction of the building and overholding will also be included.

SUMMARY

The Native Daughters of BC, Post #1 have provided a unique opportunity to Vancouver residents and other visitors to visit an historic building and see collections of early BC pioneer artifacts for more than 70 years. They continue to maintain and protect their building and provide volunteers to tell the story of this important part of Vancouver's history. An additional 20 year term at \$1/year is being recommended and will continue this longstanding agreement for use of a portion of Hastings Mill Park.

Prepared by:

Liane McKenna
Queen Elizabeth District
Board of Parks & Recreation
Vancouver, B.C.