

Date: November 29, 2005



TO: Board Members – Vancouver Park Board
FROM: General Manager – Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: 2006 Special Events

RECOMMENDATION

- A. That the Board approve the following major events: Alcan Dragon Boat Festival June 16-18, 2006; Weekend to End Breast Cancer August 18-20, 2006. All arrangements will be to the satisfaction of the General Manager.*
- B. That the Board receive the 2006 Calendar of Major Events as information (see Appendix B).*

POLICY

The Special Event Policies as outlined in Appendix A were approved by the Board in December, 2003.

BACKGROUND

Major special events are defined as events which significantly restrict the public's access to park space or significantly impact the surrounding neighbourhood. The Board's Special Event Policies outline the application process for event organizers and define the process for evaluation criteria and allocation priorities such as consultation requirements, fees and charges, and revenue generating activities (i.e. gated events, sponsorship, sale of goods and consumption of alcohol).

Board approval is required for major special events for the first three years of an event's operation. In addition, any significant changes or unresolved problems with existing events are also forwarded to the Board for consideration. Board approval is required for events over 1,000 people, events which significantly impact regular park users and neighbours, have extensive set-up and take down procedures, or events which are in variance with one or more Park Board policies such as charging of an admission fee, selling goods other than event related items, requesting a liquor license which does not meet the Board's Policies for Special Events, etc.

Large scale events which impact more than just parkland are also forwarded to the City's FEST Committee for consideration. The FEST Committee consists of representatives from various civic departments including Engineering, Police, Fire, Health, Permits and Licenses, Transit and Parks. The FEST Committee also reports to City Council with an annual calendar of major events.

Applications for major events which do not meet the deadline for the Calendar of Special Events are forwarded to the Board for consideration as they are received. Applications for new major special events must be submitted in writing to the Board four to six months prior to the requested date. This ensures adequate time for community consultation as well as the overall consideration of the event request.

In 2005, the Park Board issued 265 permits for special events, runs and walks. Fees collected from these events include approximately \$34,000 plus the recovery of \$12,000 in supervisory costs.

DISCUSSION

The 2006 Calendar of Special Events has been included for the Board's information (see Appendix B). The Calendar is compiled based on the requests from event organizers received by staff at this time. Also included in the Calendar is a listing of events which are approved by staff to provide an overview of the nature and scope of the activities permitted on City parks. Staff are working with a number of organizations with new special event requests for 2006. Once applications have been received, staff will forward them individually to the Board for consideration.

The following two requests for changes have the support of staff for inclusion in the 2006 Calendar of Special Events. If approved by the Board, the events are subject to further consultation and arrangements agreeable to the General Manager.

Request	Park	Dates	Sponsor and Description of the Event
Location change	Creekside Park	June 16-18 Set-up: June 12-15	<p><u>Alcan Dragon Boat Festival</u> Alcan Dragon Boat Society Attendance: 10,000+</p> <p>This is the 3rd year organizers are requesting the use of Creekside Park for this event. Due to the increasing costs of utilizing the Plaza of Nations venue, organizers requested permission to relocate the Festival site from Cooper's Park and the Plaza of Nations to Creekside Park and Science World.</p> <p>During this year's Festival, staff did not receive any negative feedback regarding the event site and/or the alternate pedestrian and bike routes designated over the weekend. Better signage was implemented along the seawall and alternate paths to assist the public during the event. However, as was the case for the past 2 years, staff still has concerns regarding the closure of a significant portion of this Park; especially the seawall and two playground areas for a three day period. Staff will continue to work on a long-term solution with organizers to address this concern.</p> <p>The Alcan Dragon Boat Festival will be celebrating its 18th year and has developed into one of Vancouver's most popular annual family summer events which showcases an array of family activities, entertainment and food. The Festival is an extremely well-organized and well-conducted event. The organizers have had an excellent history of hosting festivals and operating public special occasion licenses in a responsible and professional manner.</p>
Renewal of previous request	Killarney Park	Aug 18-20 Set-up: Aug 16-18	<p><u>Weekend to End Breast Cancer</u> - Cause Force Attendance: 2,500-3,000</p> <p>This is the 3rd year organizers are requesting the use of Killarney Park. This 2 day event involving a 60 km walk was well received and supported by the community with approximately 1,800 participants registered for 2005. The event requirements had no significant impact on any of the field areas. However, staff assessed that the event did have some impact on parking in the neighbourhood and will continue to work with organizers to minimize these concerns for next year. This past year's event raised over 5 million dollars for BC Cancer Foundation which supports research at the BC Cancer Agency. In addition to the funds raised, this event is important in generating awareness for breast cancer.</p>

2006 CALENDAR OF MAJOR EVENTS

Appendix B provides a list of the anticipated events for next year. However, the following future event is being included for the Board's information.

RED BULL FLUGTAG

Presently, the Fest Committee is discussing plans for "Flugtag", a human powered flying contest sponsored by Red Bull energy drink. Participants build and customize their own human flying machines and launch them over a 30ft ramp. Organizers are requesting the use of False Creek and Creekside Park for mid-July or August 2006. Creekside Park would primarily be used as a location for spectators to view the event. As further details are confirmed, staff will forward them to the Board for consideration.

STANLEY PARK ROAD CLOSURES

The following existing annual events result in a morning road closure for Stanley Park. Generally, Stanley Park has been closed to vehicle traffic once a month between 6am - 10am during the months of April, May, June and September. Vehicle restrictions have a significant impact on various Park Stakeholder operations, for example Vancouver Aquarium, AAA Carriage, restaurants, club and sporting associations and tour buses. A majority of stakeholder staff and patrons depend on vehicle access to arrive at facilities and services within the Park. Thus there are potential revenue losses for both the Park Board and stakeholder operations.

Early morning road closures prior to 10 a.m. tend to have minimal impact upon various operations in the Park. However, public use and access does increase significantly by mid-morning. Organizers are expected to ensure that their events have concluded by 10 a.m. Staff will work closely with event organizers to inform all Park stakeholders in advance of these dates.

Date	Event	Sponsor and Description of road closure
April 23, 2006 6:30 am - 10 am	Sun Run Attendance - 40,000	Vancouver Sun & Landmark Sports Group City street road closures will delay access to Stanley Park. Race route starts on Georgia St., turns left onto Denman, right onto Lagoon Drive, into Stanley Park along the road beside the Park Administration Building, and exits via the English Bay entrance.
May 7, 2006 6:30 am - 10 am	International Marathon Attendance - 12,000	Vancouver International Marathon Society Full road closure.

June 17, 2006 6:30 am - 12 pm	Stanley Park Bike Festival Attendance - 500 -1000	Stanley Park Bike Festival Society Event organizers require a road closure for the eastern side of Stanley Park between 6:30 am -12 pm. Park Drive east of Avison Way will be closed to vehicle traffic. Totem Pole area and parking lot will be closed until 2pm for Bike Festival.
September 4, 2006 6:00 am -10 am	Triathlon Attendance – 500	Multisports Canada Full road closure.

SUMMARY

Special events enrich and enhance life in the City. These events are well attended and very popular with Vancouver residents. The Board works in partnership with over 150 event organizers and charitable associations to facilitate a diverse level of programming in parks and beaches. These celebrations and festivals contribute in making Vancouver a vibrant City.

Prepared by:
Daisy Chin
Stanley District
Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
Vancouver, BC
dc