

Date: May 04, 2006



TO: Board Members – Vancouver Park Board
FROM: General Manager – Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Prince of Whales Tour Boat Proposal

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT the Board approve a one season pilot project permitting a once per day departure and arrival of a tour boat at the Harbour Green Park floating walkway;*
- B. THAT the proponent satisfy the City's requirements for permits, licenses and insurance;*
- C. THAT all operating details be subject to the approval of the General Manager.*

BACKGROUND

In Harbour Green Park the floating walkway was developed as part of the overall design and was installed as part of the phase two construction.

The purpose of the floating walkway is as follows.

- a) Different pedestrian experience
- b) Limited seating / tables
- c) Future landing for Stanley Park ferry
- d) Time limited day moorage for private boats
- e) Reception dock (customs & immigration) for visiting private boats
- f) Limited commercial activity (charters) beyond the ferry function

Limitations on the use of the floats include;

- a) No overnight moorage
- b) No uncrewed boats left at dock which are greater than 40' in length
- c) No all day moorage

The Official Development Plan for the area stated that;

“A limited amount of transient moorage, perhaps associated with the floating walkway will be provided.”

“The proposed development should allow for the continuance of existing active marine uses that are compatible with other public objectives and access to the waterfront...”

“Land uses (particularly non residential uses), built form and circulation patterns should encourage non residents to visit the area...”

“Multiple functions should be accommodated, especially with regard to compatible land and water activities.”

“The shoreline treatment and design should allow for opportunities for recreational water activities.”

“A diversity of water uses in Coal Harbour should be maintained and is encouraged...”

“Furthermore, the retention of some of the small scale marine uses that exist in the Coal Harbour area that give special character to the waterfront is encouraged.”

DISCUSSION

Staff have been approached by a tour boat operator wishing to offer scenic day trips to Victoria and back. No permanent or overnight moorage is sought. There would be a half hour arrival and loading at the dock at 7:30 am and a return unloading in early evening. No reserved space would be created. The boat would carry approximately 70 passengers and is itself about 20 metres long. No advertising signage would be permitted in association with the operation. The operator would pay the Park Board \$3,000 per month for the above noted arrangement. The season would run from June through September.

The proponent met with the Planning Committee on April 4, 2006 to outline his proposal. Staff have subsequently surveyed the neighbourhood by mailing an outline of the proposal to 20 condominium associations in the area. The responses were seven against the proposal and two in favour of it. (Appendix 1)

If approved by the Board, the proponent will satisfy the City that the company has all appropriate licenses and insurance. All operating details will be subject to the approval of the General Manager. Staff would monitor the operation to assess any possible negative impacts of the operation.

CONCLUSION

The proposed pilot project fits with the intent of the Official Development Plan. It will expand the range of tourist based recreation in the downtown. It will provide the Board with an additional (although small) revenue source.

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JL:yf