

Date: June 14, 2006



**TO:** Board Members – Vancouver Park Board  
**FROM:** General Manager – Parks and Recreation  
**SUBJECT:** Stanley Park – Commemorative Donation

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## RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT the Board accept a donation of \$800,000 from the Government of Canada for the creation of a children's playground and other improvements in Stanley Park dedicated to the memory of the victims of the bombing of Air India flight 182;*
- B. THAT the Board appoint Lees and Associates Consulting Ltd. as the landscape architecture consultants to conceptualise, design and manage the project including a public consultation process;*
- C. THAT no legal rights shall arise hereby, and none shall arise until the execution of the contemplated contract. The Board may rescind this resolution at any time up to the execution of the contemplated contract.*

## POLICY

Consultant projects over \$30,000 are awarded by the Board.

## BACKGROUND

On June 23, 1985, a terrorist attack on Air India flight 182 from Toronto to Bombay caused the death of 329 people including 280 Canadians. An annual ceremony commemorates the event on a beach in southwest Ireland close to the crash site. Members of the victims' families often attend, but have expressed a desire to hold a similar ceremony in the Lower Mainland where many of the relatives live.

In summer 2005, the Federal Government approached the Park Board with the idea to create a site for the commemoration of this event in Stanley Park. Park Board staff developed a number of criteria for an appropriate planning process, including the need to:

- involve the general public;
- create a positive impact on the park environment;
- not displace any existing uses or users of the park; and
- create a benefit for the general public coming to the park for enjoyment and recreation.

In subsequent discussions, the concept has evolved into the refurbishment of an existing park area that is in need of repair, focusing on park uses favouring children and young people. The Federal Government is offering to donate funding for such a project, dedicating it to the memory of the victims. Once a year, the site would be intended to host a ceremony commemorating the Air India tragedy.

## DISCUSSION

**Choice of site:** The Ceperley Playground in Stanley Park, built in 1922 with a donation from the estate of Grace Ceperley, has languished in recent years. The wading pool is no longer used, the play equipment is limited to swing sets, and the area is dotted with expanses of cracked pavement that are no longer useful. Nonetheless, the area is popular and well used in summer with the children's traffic school, summer evening dances, and picnics. Intentions to refurbish the area and make it more suitable for these and possibly additional uses have so far not met with adequate funding.



**Program:** Developing a program in consultation with the public will be part of the proposed consultant contract. The intention is to accommodate three types of activities: the existing uses consisting of children's play and traffic school, 'dance at dusk' program and picnicking; possibly additional recreational uses involving hardcourt surfaces; and commemorative uses including a yearly event, a physical commemorative expression of the site dedication and a quieter space for contemplation. In addition, general landscape improvements including rationalisation of paved areas, retention of slopes, new pathways, seating, lighting and additional planting are possible. Currently in restoration, the red fire truck as the landmark of the children's playground is intended to return to this location.

**Project Management:** The Park Board will manage the project. The Federal Government will provide the funding of \$800,000 in installments. The details of the funding schedule and other process issues will be specified in a memorandum of understanding between the Park Board and the Federal Government.

**Consultant Services:** Professional landscape architecture services are required to develop and conceptualise a detailed program, and to produce the necessary design and construction documents. A consultation process with the general public, stakeholders and the victims' families will be conducted by the consultant.

All stages of the project are subject to review by the Park Board, with adequate time allocated for review and approval of each stage. The consultant's work includes obtaining all necessary technical, geotechnical, electrical, utilities and water information from Engineering Services and from other sources including sub-consultants, as well as site plans, irrigation plans, etc. from the Park Board.

The Park Board has issued a terms of reference for design services. On June 13, 2006, the Park Board received two submissions from landscape architecture firms. After a careful review of the proposals, staff recommend that the contract be awarded to Lees and Associates Consulting Ltd for the sum of \$69,270 plus GST and disbursements. Proposing to work in a team with Phillips Farevaag Smallemberg, their proposal demonstrates an in-depth understanding of the nature of this project.

**Schedule:** The project is intended to be completed by June 1, 2007. Public consultation will occur in August and September 2006 to capture input from the summer visitors to the park as well as the year-round visitors. A report back to the Park Board on the design concept is expected for early fall 2006.

## **SUMMARY**

Staff recommend that the Park Board accept a donation of \$800,000 from the Federal Government for the redevelopment of the Ceperley playground and surrounding area, dedicated to the memory of the victims of the bombing of the Air India flight 182.

Staff recommend that the landscape architecture consultant contract be awarded to Lees and Associates Consulting Ltd.

Prepared by:

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