

Date: February 15, 2007



TO: Board Members – Vancouver Park Board
FROM: General Manager – Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: 2007 ITU Triathlon World Cup

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board approve the use of Ceperley Park from June 6 - 10, 2007 and the partial road closure in Stanley Park on June 10, 2007, 6 am – 6 pm for the 2007 International Triathlon Union World Cup event. All arrangements will be to the satisfaction of the General Manager.

POLICY

Board approval is required for major events not included on the annual Special Event Calendar and/or are in variance with one or more Park Board policies (see Appendix A).

To accommodate major special events, the Board will allow Stanley Park to be closed to vehicle traffic one day per month prior to 10 am, with no closures during July and August.

BACKGROUND

The Board's current special event guidelines for vehicle restriction in Stanley Park are primarily designed to accommodate sporting events such as 10 km runs, marathons, and triathlons. For the most part, these early morning closures do not significantly disrupt the public's access to the Park or its various attractions.

Most events which require road closures in Stanley Park follow the Board's guidelines. In past years, the Board has permitted a few events which have extended road closures past 10 am. In 2005, Ceperley Park hosted the Park Board's "Rain or Shine" Festival which required a partial road closure of Park Drive from the Beach Avenue entrance to 2nd Beach Pool from 7 am-6 pm.

EVENT REQUEST

The International Triathlon Union (ITU) is the governing body for the Olympic sport of Triathlon. Each year, the ITU stages 16 World Cups throughout the World. The triathlon encompasses three distinct sports, a 1500m swimming event, 40km cycling road race and a 10km run.

The ITU is requesting the site of Ceperley Park to host the 2007 World Cup in Vancouver. This World Cup event would be a test event in preparation for the 2008 World Championships. The 2007 event anticipates 500-700 athletes. The event requires four days of set-up and 1 ½ days for take-down. The swim portion will take place at 2nd Beach. The transition zone will be located on Ceperley field along with the Tri Athlete Village, medical tents, athlete lounge, media tents, officials and VIP tents. Spectator grandstands will be placed in the Ceperley parking lot. The meadow area adjacent to the Fish House restaurant will be used as a storage compound as well as the site for the events operations centre (Appendix B).

The cycling routes will involve a 4-5 lap course that would commence at Ceperley parking lot and would extend towards Beach Avenue, Burrard Bridge and through various downtown and residential streets. The run route would begin at the transition zone along English Bay seawall and towards the Vancouver Aquatic Centre and back.

The partial closure of Park Drive from 2nd Beach Pool to the Beach Avenue entrance from 6 am-6 pm would be required on event day. This closure would restrict access primarily to the Beach Avenue entrance. The Fish House Restaurant, the Stanley Park Lawn Bowling facility, Stanley Park Pitch'n Putt, Second Beach Pool, Second Beach Concession and the public/pay tennis courts would be directly affected by the event. The event would also impact public access to 2nd Beach and pathways leading to Lost Lagoon and the eastern portion of Stanley Park.

DISCUSSION

Staff recommend approving the ITU 2007 World Cup event at Ceperley Park from June 6-10, and the partial road closure on Sunday, June 10, from 6 am-6 pm. Organizers have contacted the majority of stakeholders to mitigate the impacts to the various facilities which would be affected by the extended road closure. Road closures and vehicle restrictions can have a significant impact on Park stakeholder operations (e.g. restaurants, clubs and sporting associations). Most stakeholder patrons depend on the automobile to access these facilities and services. Thus, there is potential loss of revenue for both Park Board and stakeholder operations. It is anticipated that visitors to the locations affected by the road closures would be able to access the parking lots adjacent to Nelson Street, 2nd Beach pool parking lot, and North Lagoon parking stalls (entering from Georgia Street and/or Causeway entrances) and walk in to those destinations. The remainder of Stanley Park and its attractions, including the Vancouver Aquarium, will remain accessible.

Although there will be a considerable amount of set-up on the park for four days, public access to Ceperley Park and pathways will remain open during the event set-up period. Staff will also work with organizers to avoid any conflicts with the completion of the Air India Memorial site.

On event day, there will be significant impacts to the West End neighbourhood. Traffic closures in residential streets will disrupt the area and limit vehicle access throughout the day. Organizers have been requested to consult with the local Business Improvement Associations to minimize concerns during the event. Organizers will be working with the City of Vancouver Police and Engineering Departments to fine tune their cycling routes and lessen the disruption within the local area. The City's Engineering Department is responsible for the traffic management plan including residential access and parking restrictions. The FEST committee will be recommending to City Council to approve the road closures required for this International event.

SUMMARY

The ITU 2007 World Cup event will highlight the City of Vancouver on the International sporting stage. Each year since 2002, the event has attracted close to 200,000 spectators in Hamburg, Germany.

Prepared by:

Stanley District
Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
Vancouver, BC
dc