

Date: June 25, 2007



TO: Board Members – Vancouver Park Board
FROM: General Manager – Parks and Recreation
**SUBJECT: Stanley Park Restoration:
Contract Awards for Forest Prescriptions,
Fire Preparedness and Ecological Monitoring**

RECOMMENDATION

- (A) *THAT the Board award the contract to B.A. Blackwell and Associates Ltd. for the Stanley Park Restoration – Forest Prescriptions and Fire Preparedness, at a price not to exceed \$80,000;*
- (B) *THAT the Board award the contract to Ecologic Consulting for the Stanley Park Restoration – Ecological Monitoring, at a price not to exceed \$70,000;*
- (C) *THAT no legal rights shall arise hereby, and none shall arise until the execution of the contemplated contracts. The Board may rescind this resolution at any time up to the execution of the contemplated contracts.*

POLICY

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

BACKGROUND

During the winter of 2006-2007, three major windstorms struck Stanley Park, causing significant destruction, including the blowing down of more than 10,000 trees and substantial damage to the seawall between Prospect Point and Third Beach.

On April 16, 2007, the Park Board approved the Stanley Park Restoration Plan, which was prepared by a multi-disciplinary team and included broad community consultation. The Restoration Plan identified a vision for the whole of Stanley Park's forest, goals for the restoration of the park, and a series of restoration activities including:

- Preparing detailed restoration prescriptions that are specific to each blowdown area;
- Reducing the risk of forest fires;
- Protecting environmentally sensitive areas and species at risk within and near the blowdowns.

DISCUSSION

In February 2007, Park Board hired B.A. Blackwell and Associates Ltd. as a consultant to assist with the following activities: initial project planning and coordination, preparation of restoration plan, conceptual forest clean-up and regeneration prescriptions, and a fire risk assessment. The contract fee was set at \$30,000.

After the Restoration Plan was approved in April 2007, Park Board staff requested that B.A. Blackwell and Associates Ltd. assist with the preparation of detailed forest clean-up and regeneration prescriptions, and a fire preparedness plan for the 2007 fire season. The consultant has now reached the initial fee of \$30,000, and expects that completion of anticipated work will cost \$80,000.

In April 2007, Park Board hired Ecologic Consulting as a consultant to assist with a range of ecological assessment and monitoring services, including the collection of data for species at risk, habitat assessments and mapping, carrying out field surveys, and making recommendations to the restoration team. The contract fee was set at \$29,500.

In June 2007, Park Board staff requested that Ecologic Consulting assist with ongoing monitoring while the recovery operation is underway in the blowdown areas. This involves having biologists on site when work crews are removing or modifying danger trees and removing fallen trees and fine woody debris, to ensure appropriate wildlife mitigation. The consultant would also complete breeding bird surveys until the end of July. The consultant has now reached the initial fee of \$29,500, and expects that completion of anticipated work will cost \$70,000.

Both consultants have performed their required duties and assignments in a highly professional and efficient manner. Given their accrued knowledge of the project, the sites and the participants, staff believe that the two consultants are best suited to perform the work on forest prescriptions, fire preparedness and ecological monitoring. Because the total amount for each contract would exceed \$30,000, the Board is being asked to award the consultant contracts as described in Recommendations A and B.

SUMMARY

Two consultants, B.A. Blackwell and Associates Ltd. and Ecologic Consulting, have been performing work that is integral to the restoration of Stanley Park. Staff recommend that their contracts be extended to perform the following tasks: forest prescriptions, fire preparedness, and ecological monitoring during recovery operations.

Prepared by:

Stanley District
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