

Date: September 5, 2007



TO: Board Members – Vancouver Park Board
FROM: General Manager – Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: 2010 Olympic Games Live Site use of David Lam Park

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT the Board receive the attached City Council report “2010 Winter Games Live Site Concept Plan” for information; AND*
- B. THAT the Board endorse the use of David Lam Park as a Live Site during the 2010 Winter Games and direct staff to work with City and VANOC staff to ensure that the design, operation and restoration meet Park Board requirements.*

POLICY

The Board approves the use of permanent parks.

BACKGROUND

As part of the 2010 Winter Games, the City with support of the Federal Government wishes to develop two “live sites” on the Downtown Peninsula. The live sites offer the public free access to watch sporting events and ceremonies on large TV screens and enjoy a variety of quality entertainment, cultural and recreational experiences. Various Olympic and Paralympic sponsors could also be represented on the sites. Activities will take place from 11:00am to 11:00pm.

DISCUSSION

The attached Council report outlines the general concept of, and the rationale for developing two live sites on the Downtown Peninsula: Beatty Street Parking Lot and David Lam Park. These two sites will be linked by way of the historical trail in Hamilton / Mainland Streets through Yaletown.

David Lam Park is an important neighbourhood park serving both active and passive needs. The sports field and playground are both used by the adjacent Elsie Roy School. The field is presently booked during the winter period for soccer on the weekends. In addition David Lam Park functions as a site for a number of cultural events including the Vancouver International Jazz Festival.

The proximity of the live site to the Roundhouse Community Centre offers further potential synergies for high profile arts and cultural events in that part of the Downtown Peninsula. This proposal offers a significant opportunity for the use of Park Board facilities in realizing the cultural aspect of the Olympic and Paralympic Games in a high profile location.

The conceptual layout for the David Lam Live Site is shown in Appendix B of the Council Report. While the principal stage will be situated on a structure in False Creek, spectators and services will be in the park. A number of the Olympic sponsors will be potentially accommodated in temporary structures on the perimeter of the park. Concessions and public conveniences will also be situated within the park. The entire site will be fenced for crowd control and security purposes.

The Live Site infrastructure would be installed over a 2 to 3 month period prior to the event and dismantled after the Olympic Games.

Olympic and Paralympic office staff have met with representatives of the Roundhouse Community Centre Association and they were receptive of the concept and expressed an interest in further consultations on the details of project.

The impacts on the park affect both programs and infrastructure. The casual use will have to be relocated to adjacent parks most probably George Wainborn and Coopers parks. The booked soccer use would have to be relocated elsewhere in the city. The use by Elsie Roy school students would have to be more carefully reviewed and suggestions for managing this use will be addressed in the next phase of the work.

The event will impact adjacent and nearby residents, and these impacts need to be viewed in the context of an anticipated high ambient activity level on the Downtown Peninsula during the Olympic games period.

The park's landscaping and infrastructure may have to be altered somewhat to accommodate the facilities and post event restoration will have to take place. Staff would work with the organizers in order to return the park in a state equal to or better than before it is turned over to the event organizers.

Should the Board approve the recommendations in this report, staff will work with City staff and venue organisers to work out the details of this project, seek further public input on the design and operation of the David Lam Live site and develop a mitigation plan to deal with impacts.

Prepared by:

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