

Date: March 31, 2008



TO: Board Members – Vancouver Park Board
FROM: General Manager – Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Stanley Park Restoration Project – Extension of Forestry Operations Contracts

RECOMMENDATION

A. THAT the Board extend the forestry operations contracts as outlined in this report for work related to the Stanley Park Restoration Project by \$750,000.

POLICY

The Board approves major construction contracts in excess of \$300,000.

BACKGROUND

The Stanley Park Restoration Project has been a new approach to forestry operations with the overlaying of parks and environmental values on conventional forestry procedures. This fairly unique approach to wood extraction and forest regeneration did not fit with budget planning typical of the industry. Special conditions included operating in a park without excluding its 7-million visitors; retaining and protecting the maximum amount of remaining forest structure; acknowledging and working within a high level of environmental controls; and making workers and public safety a high priority.

DISCUSSION

Conventional project bidding would have produced excessively high pricing to compensate for unknowns as well as strong tension between economic efficiency and environmental standards and public safety. Hence, the work has been bid on an hourly rate for workers and machinery to compensate for the unpredictability of working conditions.

On April 16, 2007 the Board has approved the funding of the Stanley Park Restoration Project in response to the severe damage caused to the park infrastructure by the major windstorm of December 15, 2006. The original estimate for the forest recovery operations included in the report was \$3,250,000. On June 25, 2007 the Board awarded the forest operations contract to Bryan Peterson Contracting Ltd. in the amount of \$500,000. This contract was extended by the Board on November 26, 2007 by \$750,000.

Bryan Peterson Contracting Ltd. was also retained by the Board on May 28, 2007 to conduct the windfirming operation in all the blowdown areas to ensure public safety. The original contract was capped at \$139,000 and increased by \$120,000 on November 26, 2007.

This raised the value of the two forestry hourly contracts to approximately \$1,509,000 for windfirming as well as general forestry, remediation and trail building as well as machine work along the top of the Prospect Point escarpment.

At this point, the forestry component of the Restoration Project requires an additional \$610,000 to bring it to 90% completion, which will be reached by April 2008. The final 10% of the contractor's work will involve a final cleanup of park areas used for spoil and storage areas. Also a small amount of machine work may be required to complete the remedial drainage in the escarpment zone. Therefore, the two forestry operation contracts should be increased by \$750,000. This will place the estimated expenditure of forest operations to total of \$2,259,000 well within the range of originally approved allocation of \$3,250,000.

CONCLUSION

The hourly rate contract structure has proven successful in dealing with the complexity of forestry work in the Restoration Project. It has allowed staff to monitor value for money with the work as well as maintain conditions under which environmental and safety values have been paramount. The required allocation should complete the forestry aspect of the project.

Prepared by:

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