

Date: June 17, 2008



TO: Board Members – Vancouver Park Board
FROM: General Manager – Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Special Occasion License Requests

RECOMMENDATION

- A. *THAT the Board grant permission for 750 capacity Special Occasion License in conjunction with the 2008 Vancouver Pride Society Festival on Sunday, August 3 from 1:00 pm to 7:00 pm.***
- B. *THAT the Board grant permission for a Special Occasion License in conjunction with the 2008 Vancouver Folk Festival on July 18 (5:00 pm to 9:30 pm), July 19 (12 pm to 9:30 pm) and July 20 (12 pm to 9:30 pm)***

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 By-laws or Guidelines.

RECOMMENDATION A

BACKGROUND

The Vancouver Pride Society will be hosting their 30th Annual Parade and Festival on Sunday, August 3, 2008. The Parade which has well over 100 floats and 4,000 participants takes place along Denman Street and Beach Avenue. The Pride Festival occurs at Sunset Beach field. The Parade originally began 29 years ago as a small march. It has presently grown into a nationally and internationally recognized event, attracting thousands of people each year.

The Vancouver Pride Society brings together members of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) community, their friends, and supporters in celebration of the unique spirit and culture of the GLBT community.

DISCUSSION

Organizers have requested a 1,000 capacity beer garden operating from 1:00 pm - 7:00 pm for this year's Pride Festival (see Appendix A). This request would require the use of the existing Sunset Beach sport court facility plus the adjacent grass area. The sport court area is 9,400 sq ft. The additional requested park space would be approximately 18,000 sq ft. It would be enclosed by 6 ft high Modu-Loc fence. This added space would be used for seating as well as for an additional bar service, VIP area and a larger amplified DJ dance floor.

In 2007, the Vancouver Pride Society obtained approval for a 200 capacity beer garden operating from 1:00 pm - 5:30 pm. Organizers made arrangements for a management company to oversee this fundraising aspect of the Festival. Weeks prior to the event, the management company increased the seating capacity to 1,000 within the sport court facility. Unfortunately due to the municipal strike, staff were not consulted with regard to this change and were not available to monitor the event. During peak times, 650 people were estimated within the beer garden area.

At this time, staff recommend that the Board approve a 750 capacity Special Occasion License request within the sport court. Any additional increase in capacity would need to be accommodated on the adjacent grass area. Although there will still be a displacement of sport users in the sport court facility for the day, further impacts to the public will be minimized by keeping the event within the enclosed area. Staff will have an opportunity to review the event for this year with the Vancouver Police Department and organizers in anticipation of future requests for increased seating capacity and added park space.

RECOMMENDATION B

BACKGROUND

The Vancouver Folk Festival Society will be hosting their 31st Annual Weekend Music Festival on July 18-20, 2008. The Festival is held at Jericho Beach Park and highlights the finest musicians in contemporary and traditional folk, roots and world music. The event welcomes more than 300 artists from around the globe to the Festival, where they will perform on 7 outdoor stages throughout the park. The Festival also includes a free outdoor concert at Grandview Park as part of their community outreach programs.

DISCUSSION

The organizers are requesting permission to have a beer garden in the northwest side of their festival site on Jericho Beach Park (see Appendix B). The beer garden will have a capacity of 500 people and will operate on Friday from 5:00pm-9:30pm and on Saturday & Sunday from 12:00pm-9:30pm, serving only beer and wine. Security and food services will be provided along with an emergency evacuation plan. All net proceeds from the sale of alcohol will help offset the costs of the Vancouver Folk Festival.

Staff are recommending the Board approve the Special Occasion License request. The Festival is a well-organized and well-conducted event. The location of the proposed beer garden is within the gated area of the Festival and will not infringe on additional park space or further displace the general public.

SUMMARY

The Vancouver Pride Festival and the Vancouver Folk Music Festival are highly anticipated summer events. Both Festivals provide economic benefits and are important cultural events for the City of Vancouver.

Prepared by:

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