

Date: April 23, 2010



TO: Board Members – Vancouver Park Board
FROM: General Manager – Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Historical Marker in New Brighton Park

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board accept the donation of a historical marker with information relating to the Battle at Ballantyne Pier, to be installed in New Brighton Park with all arrangements to the satisfaction of the General Manager

POLICY

In 1998, the Park Board adopted the Acceptance Guidelines for Long Term Gifts of Public Art. These guidelines are designed to ensure that high quality work is added to Vancouver's public spaces. Included in the guidelines are procedures for accepting or rejecting proposed donations of art and memorials in a manner fair to the donor and fair to the public. The guidelines also outline a consultation process which includes independent assessments by artists and other members of the professional art community as well as feedback from both local representatives and the general public.

BACKGROUND

The Board has received a proposal from representatives of the International Longshore & Warehouse Union (ILWU) Canada and the ILWU Pensioners Organization, to sponsor the donation of an engraved boulder alongside the waterfront pathway in New Brighton Park. The boulder will be nestled in a ring of smaller stones and positioned so that the reader looks north and west in the general direction of Ballantyne Pier

DISCUSSION

The Battle of Ballantyne Pier was a significant event in the history of worker/employer relations in Vancouver. Longshore workers had been locked out and planned a peaceful rally. They were met by several levels of law enforcement and significant injuries were sustained. This event occurred on June 18, 1935, and the proponents of this donation are attempting to have the marker in place for their 75th anniversary gathering and rally.

Usually an historic marker would be placed on the site of the actual event, however Ballantyne Pier is not accessible to the public. The site proposed for this installation is along the waterfront walkway at New Brighton Park. (see Figure 1) This site has been

selected because the donors identified the importance of an eastside, waterfront location which could accommodate large annual gatherings.

Figure 1



The accuracy of the information proposed for the marker was confirmed through consultation with an historian at the Museum of Vancouver and a UBC history professor. They directed Arts and Culture staff to historical sources and a text consistent with these sources will be agreed upon between the proponents and Park Board staff. The stone will also have the ILWU logos from 1935 and 2010.

In keeping with our standard donations process the following steps have been taken:

- A formal letter from the sponsor proposing the donation and accepting responsibility for all costs associated with the project was requested and received;
- A technical and district approval meeting was convened, at which the proponents agreed to work with a contractor recommended by the Park Board and the district representative approved the general siting;
- An on-site meeting was convened and operations and district staff approved the exact site;
- Community consultation involving signage on site, brochure distribution in a two block radius and information made available at the Hastings Community Centre was completed. Members of the public were given a three week period in which to respond. One response was received, it was negative and asked that the park be left untouched and suggested the Pier would be a more appropriate site. As noted earlier in this report, the lack of public access to the Pier makes it unsuitable for the planned annual gatherings. As no other responses were received general acceptance of the marker a reasonable assumption.
- The Public Art Committee was consulted on April 12 and has endorsed the project.

SUMMARY

This marker meets the Park Board's criteria for "Long Term Gifts of Public Art and Memorials". The event it commemorates is of significance to the people of Vancouver and its placement is appropriate and suitable for annual gatherings. Staff is recommending the Board approve this proposal.

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