

Date: June 23, 2010



TO: Board Members – Vancouver Park Board
FROM: General Manager – Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Special Event Permit – Market at Pigeon Park

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board grant permission for a vendor market at Pigeon Park, to be operated by the Downtown Eastside Neighbourhood Council, every Sunday from noon to 5:00pm, between June 13 and September 5, 2010.

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 bylaws or guidelines.

DISCUSSION

The 00 block of East Hastings has seen an increase in illegal street vending over the past several years. A “Downtown Eastside (DTES) Community and Bidders’ Market” project has been proposed in an effort to provide an alternate venue where street vendors, local artists and artisans can sell their goods to supplement their incomes. Extensive efforts were made to secure a privately owned site to locate this market without success. The DTES Neighbourhood Council, a newly established community coalition, embarked on a summer pilot project to host a weekly bidders market (every Sunday from noon to 5pm) at Pigeon Park. This group is in the process of applying for a Special Event Permit through the City to use Carral Street Greenway for the market and a Park Board permit for use of Pigeon Park. A portion of the park would be used as an overflow area, as the market will primarily take place on the street.

City staff are working with the community to find a permanent site for a market, after the summer.

SUMMARY

Staff recommend that the Board approve the permit application by the DTES Neighbourhood Council for the temporary market at Pigeon Park as outlined in this report.

Prepared by:
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