



Date: January 6, 2012

TO: Board Members – Vancouver Park Board
FROM: General Manager – Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: 2012 National Youth Beach Volleyball Championships

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board approve the special event permit application from Volleyball BC for the 2012 National Youth Beach Volleyball Championships, August 17 to 19 at Spanish Bank Beach, with all arrangements to the satisfaction of the General Manager.

POLICY

The Park Board reviews and approves new large special events as well as changes to existing major events, as outlined in the Special Event Guidelines, which were approved by the Board in 2003.

BACKGROUND

Major special events are defined as events which are anticipated to significantly impact public access to a park space or surrounding neighbourhood. The Special Event Guidelines describe the application process for event organizers, the process for evaluation as well as consultation requirements, fees and charges, insurance requirements, and other permitted activities.

DISCUSSION

Volleyball BC has been awarded the opportunity to host the National Youth Beach Volleyball Championships in Vancouver for the first time in more than a decade. This provincial sport organization has a long record of hosting major volleyball tournaments. The 2012 event will utilize 46 courts at Spanish Bank Beach. Organizers expect 180 teams, which will highlight the best young players in Canada.

The event set-up will begin on August 13 with the site returning to full public use by August 22. In addition to the courts, structures erected in the park will include bleachers around the two feature courts, a stage and numerous small tents. Access to Spanish Bank Beach will be impacted, however, the feature courts will be concentrated in one area of this beach, leaving a significant amount of waterfront still available for public use.

To mitigate potential issues, organizers will be required to produce communication plans, including a resident notification, as well as traffic management and safety plans as conditions of permit approval.

Staff have reviewed the request from Volleyball BC and recommend that the Board approve the permit application for this event. Staff and event organizers have a history of working together and will ensure the tournament has a controlled impact on the neighbourhood and offers a positive experience for park visitors.

SUMMARY

Staff recommend the Board approve this permit application as outlined in this report. The 2012 National Youth Beach Volleyball Championship aligns well with the objectives of the Vancouver Sport Strategy and is expected to provide economic, entertainment and many other benefits to the community.

Prepared by:

Recreation Services
Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
Vancouver, BC
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Spanish Bank Beach

