



Date: February 15, 2012

TO: Board Members – Vancouver Park Board
FROM: General Manager – Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Power To Be Proposal for Stanley Park at Second Beach

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board approve the Power To Be proposal to provide inclusive outdoor education programs in Stanley Park for the Summer 2012 as a pilot project, including the location of a temporary storage unit at Second Beach to support their programming, and direct Staff to report back in the Fall 2012.

POLICY

The 2005 – 2010 Strategic Plan supports increased access for people with disabilities with directions to develop strategies for broader participation through barrier removal in parks and park facilities.

BACKGROUND

The Park Board has invested considerable resources to the elimination or reduction of barriers to participation in parks and recreation services, based on the principle that everyone has an equal right of access to the leisure and recreation services in their community. Access improvements in parks have focused on paths and way finding systems. Many park features, including playgrounds, interpretive areas, nature trails, picnic tables etc., have been designed specifically to include people with disabilities.

Many Park Board programs have been adapted to enable people with disabilities to participate and to develop their full potential through leisure and recreation activities. A complete list is included on the Park Board website. In addition, adapted equipment is available at many Park Board facilities to assist people with disabilities. There are also provisions for residents who have limited income to a reduction in fees for basic Park Board programs and services.

The Park Board, in partnership with Community Associations, currently operates adapted aquatics, sport, recreation and social programs for children, youth, adults and seniors and integrated summer programs for children and youth. We operate a variety of one-day sports activities, integrated day camps and a Summer Unlimited Program which offers

youth with disabilities (13 to 19) the opportunity to participate in an integrated supported environment.

In 2012, a program of one-day events will provide an opportunity for people with disabilities to come out and experience something new. Events in partnership with multiple organizations include: Adapted Golf Clinic at McCleery Golf Course, Adapted Kayaking on Trout Lake, Trail Rider Hike at Spanish Bank, Sailing off Jericho Beach with the Disabled Sailing Association, Adapted Waterskiing at Albert Dyck Park, Dragon Boating on False Creek and Canoeing on Deer Lake.

The Adapted Kayak Camp happens twice per year, once in May and again in September. They take place at the Easter Seals Camp in Squamish with kayaking on Alice Lake. This program is in partnership with multiple organizations (including Power To Be) and provides the opportunity for individuals with disabilities to get out of the city for a social and recreational weekend.

DISCUSSION

Power To Be (Adventure Therapy) is a charity whose mission is to provide inclusive outdoor education programs to enrich the health and quality of life for youth, families and adults living with significant life challenges. It has been most active on Vancouver Island but has been expanding their programs to the Lower Mainland and recently opened an office in Vancouver. Power To Be provides an integrated approach to the long term support needs of three key user groups: at-risk youth, youth living with a life threatening illness and families who support a child or live with a disability. In 2011, Power To Be served over 400 families in both Victoria and the Lower Mainland, partnered with 81 community organizations, had 314 volunteers giving over 6100 hours of service, received two community awards and raised over \$1.2 million in private sector funding. Please refer to the recent Globe and Mail profile on Tim Cormode, Founder and Executive Director at Power To Be at: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/giving/giving-profiles/using-nature-to-nuture-people-with-disabilities/article2320038/>

Power To Be has submitted a proposal to partner with the Park Board to extend their programming to Vancouver. They are specifically requesting permission to have a storage space in Stanley Park to house adaptive recreational equipment such as bikes, hiking gear and sea kayaks and to have access to Stanley Park to provide programming to their participants.

In addition their programming, Power To Be will provide outdoor programming, such as trail riding, cycling and kayaking, specifically for our registered participants. They will also collaborate with the Vancouver Park Board's Access Services staff to share knowledge to provide more accessible programs for people of all ages and abilities. This will be a welcome complement to Access Services' current programming, the majority of which is for indoor activities. We have partnered with Power To Be in one of our programs, the adapted kayaking program for adults, where we have developed an established and positive working partnership. During this six month pilot project in Stanley Park, Power To Be is committed to providing Vancouver Park Board's Access

Services and community centre associations with outdoor recreation programming and training for staff and volunteers. The partnership between Vancouver Park Board's Access Services area and Power To Be will increase access to outdoor recreation for people living with a disability in Vancouver and visitors with disabilities to Stanley Park.

Staff identified a site at Second Beach for a temporary storage unit and to be the centre for their programming in the park. The recommended site is on the asphalt pad along the east side of the women's washroom at the concession stand (refer to the aerial photo in Appendix A). Second Beach was considered an ideal site for Power To Be due to its easy vehicular access, good visibility and readily available amenities to support their programming: beach (swimming, sand play, kayaking), forest trails, accessible swimming pool, washrooms and change rooms, concession, bike trails and racks, open field area, picnic site and two playgrounds, one of which is relatively accessible.

Power To Be has also applied for and been granted a special event permit to hold a major corporate fundraising event in Stanley Park in September, 2012. Board approval for this event is not required.

SUMMARY

Power To Be will provide new much needed recreational programming as well as supporting and enhancing current Park Board programming for youth, families and adults living with significant life challenges. Staff recommend that the Board approve the Power To Be proposal to provide inclusive outdoor education programs in Stanley Park for the Summer 2012 as a pilot project, including the location of a temporary storage unit at Second Beach to support their programming, and direct Staff to report back in the Fall 2012.

Prepared by:
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AD/ad

Proposed Site for Temporary Storage for Power To Be at Second Beach in Stanley Park

