



Date: April 22, 2013

TO: Board Members – Vancouver Park Board
FROM: General Manager – Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: British Columbia Fire Fighters Burn Fund Contract Renewal

RECOMMENDATION

- A. *THAT the Agreement with the BC Professional Fire Fighters’ Burn Fund and CUPE Local 1004 for Bright Nights in Stanley Park be renewed for a five year period effective July 1st, 2013 with an option to extend the agreement for a further five years.***
- B. *THAT the Board remits a 13% share of the Bright Nights net admission revenue annually to the BC Fire Fighters’ Burn Fund.***
- C. *THAT no legal rights shall arise and no consents, permissions or licenses are granted herby and none shall arise or be granted hereafter unless and until all contemplated legal documentation has been executed and delivered by all parties.***
- D. *THAT once the form of all legal documentation has been approved by the General manager and Director of Legal Services for the City of Vancouver, that the General Manager be authorized to execute and deliver such documentation on behalf of the Board.***

POLICY

The Board has jurisdiction of Vancouver parks and approves special events.

In 2012 the Board approved the strategic framework which includes initiatives in; 5.1 Effective Partnerships and 8.4 Maximize Resources.

BACKGROUND

Bright Nights is an annual event that is hosted at the Stanley Park miniature train in partnership with the BC Fire Fighters’ Burn Fund (BCFFBF). Every December since 1998 the site is transformed into a winter wonderland of light displays and multiple Christmas static displays. Children’s activities are scattered throughout the grounds

including a visit and photo with Santa at the North Pole, face painting and ornamental workshops which raise additional funds for the BCFFBF in the form of donations.

The event attracts over 200,000 spectators annually of which approximately 100,000 purchase tickets to ride the train. Since 1998 over \$1,500,000 has been raised for the BCFFBF through the revenue share with the Park Board as well as the additional donations collected.

DISCUSSION

Bright Nights currently runs for approximately 30 days from early December to New Year's Day. It has well over one million lights and is one of the largest seasonal lighting displays in Canada. Part of the site is transformed in the North Pole and children can visit Santa in his workshop. Entertainment is scattered throughout including the Fire Fighters band, volunteer choirs and other musical acts adding to the Christmas excitement that fills the site. Admission to the plaza as well as parking is free for the event. A ticket is required to ride the train with adults paying \$10.00 and seniors and children paying \$7.00 in 2012 making it one of the lower mainland's most affordable family Christmas events.

The Burn Fund is a registered charity established in 1978 by the British Columbia Fire Fighters' Burn Association. The revenue it raises through Bright Nights contributes to assisting burn survivors and their families and providing educational programming for children and families alike.

The operating terms in the renewal agreement will be similar to the last five years at Bright Nights. Park Board staff is responsible for all of the displays inside the miniature Railway. Fire fighters volunteer their time to put up and maintain the Burn Funds' lights and displays in the plaza area.

Fire fighters are on site every night greeting guests and collecting donations to the Burn Fund. They also receive a 13% share of all net admissions revenue. The Burn Fund has agreed to the proposed term of the new agreement and the Burn Funds' share will remain at 13%.

CUPE 1004 is a party to this agreement and has agreed to the proposed contract renewal. When the event was initially proposed, concerns were expressed as to whether allowing fire Fighter volunteers to put up and take down the lights in the plaza would impact the work by its members at the Christmas event. To deal with these concerns, the agreements have guaranteed staff members a minimum of 1300 hours for installing, maintaining and dismantling and carrying out the work related to the event as in the past.

SUMMARY

Bright Nights is a very popular event and is a regular part of the Christmas season tradition for many families. The partnership with the Burn Fund Association as well as CUPE 1004 is vital and makes this annual event possible for the hundreds of thousands

of spectators who visit Bright Nights' every year. The event also supports the Strategic Framework initiatives of 5.1 Effective Partnerships and 8.4 Maximize Resources.

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