



Date: July 8, 2013

**TO: Board Members – Vancouver Park Board**  
**FROM: General Manager – Parks and Recreation**  
**SUBJECT: Special Events Approval – Pride Society Events 2013**

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## RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT the Board approve a request from the Vancouver Pride Society, organizers of the Vancouver Pride Festival, to increase the maximum capacity of the event’s licensed area for the festival at Sunset Beach Park on August 4, 2013 from 750 to 1,000 persons**
- B. THAT the Board approve a request from the Vancouver Pride Society, organizers of Picnic in the Park , to increase the maximum capacity of the event’s licensed area at the Brockton rugby field in Stanley Park on July 27, 2013, from 150 to 400 persons**

## 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.

## BACKGROUND

The Vancouver Pride Society brings together members of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender community, their friends, and supporters in celebration of the unique spirit and culture of the LGTBQ community. The Society will be hosting their 35th Annual Parade and Festival in 2013. The Parade features well over 100 floats and 4,000 participants. The Pride Festival at Sunset Beach consists of numerous vendors, a performance stage as well as a licensed area. The Festival draws in excess of 150,000 people throughout the day.

Since 2004, the Vancouver Pride Society has also hosted a Picnic in the Park in Stanley Park. This family friendly event includes a performance stage, family activities, vendors, and a licensed area. This event draws approximately 1,000 people.

## DISCUSSION

Pride Festival is requesting an increase in the licensed area capacity at Sunset Beach Park of 250. If approved, the location of the existing licensed area at the Sunset Beach sport court area would be extended into the parking lot and the grass area to accommodate the

added capacity. (Appendix A) In previous years, during the peak times, participants waited up to an hour for access to this area. The increase capacity would help alleviate the line-ups and improve participant experience. The service will be from 11am – 7pm.

The Society is also expanding their activities for Picnic in the Park. The Pride Walk and Run, a separate event in Stanley Park hosted by Vancouver Front Runners, will finish this year at Brockton Field. Run participants and spectators will join the festivities adding at least 300 people to the event. The Pride Society has also reached out to other sports organizations to provide demonstrations for visitors at the site. (Appendix B)

With these additional activities, The Pride Society is requesting an increase to the licensed area capacity from 150 – 400. This added capacity will also alleviate line ups at peak times as well as service increased participation. Service is planned to be from 1:00am to 6:00pm.

Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services, Vancouver Police Department and the BC Liquor Control and Licensing Branch have reviewed the applications and security plans and has conditional approved the requests. Among the conditions are additional security and VPD officers to assist with crowd management. Staff will also require health and safety, emergency response, communications and waste management plans.

Park Board staff do not anticipate any significant issues as a result of the increased capacity of the licensed areas and recommend the Board approve these requests. Our team will continue to collaborate with the organizers to ensure the event is implemented in accordance with all permit conditions.

## **SUMMARY**

The Vancouver Pride Festival and Picnic in the Park are extremely popular annual summer events, which both residents and visitors enjoy. Staff recommend the Board approve the requests from each organizer as outlined above.

Prepared by:  
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**Pride Festival at Sunset Beach – Site Layout**



**Pride Picnic in the Park – Site Layout**

