



Date: January 10, 2014

TO: Board Members - Vancouver Park Board
FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden and Park Heritage Registry

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board direct the General Manager of the Park Board to provide a letter to the Heritage Group, Planning & Development Services indicating an approval in principle for the addition of the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden and Park to the Vancouver Heritage Register.

POLICY

The Park Board approves all use of lands under its jurisdiction.

BACKGROUND

The Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden and the adjoining Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Park occupy the southern part of the block bounded by Pender, Carrall, Keefer and Columbia Streets in Vancouver's Chinatown. The Garden is the first authentic Ming Dynasty-style scholar's garden to be constructed outside of China. The Garden was built in the traditional way by craftsmen from China using imported materials. The historic place occupies an area of 12,000 sq. m. Enclosed by tall white walls, it was completed in 1986, and expanded in 2004. The Park is the "strolling" landscape, which complements the Scholar's Garden. The Garden, complemented by the Park, is a rare example of a Chinese cultural landscape in Canada. The historic place is included in both the provincial designation of Chinatown in 1971 (municipally designated in 2003) and in the National Historic Site of Vancouver's Chinatown which was designated in 2011.

The Garden and Park were designed as one entity by the Suzhou Garden Administration in collaboration with Joe Y. Wai, architect, and Don Vaughan, landscape architect.

DISCUSSION

The Garden is constantly seeking opportunities to raise its profile. Being included on the Vancouver Heritage Register, and eventually the Canadian Register of Historic Places, will identify the Garden and Park as an important destination for both local residents and visitors from afar. Such recognition will complement and support the 2011 National Geographic recognition of the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden as the World's Top City Garden and the 2012 Canadian Garden of the Year. As an authentic Ming Dynasty style Garden, the

meaning of the site requires explanation to be appreciated. The Statement of Significance describes the complex values of the site, allowing ready access to understanding. The Statement of Significance will also help direct appropriate maintenance.

The Garden has submitted a Statement of Significance to the Heritage Group, Planning and Development Services and after evaluation by the Heritage Subcommittee of the Vancouver Heritage Commission, has determined that the Garden and Park has heritage value and is worthy of addition to the Vancouver Heritage Register as a Landscape Resource under the category of Parks and Landscapes.

The City Council approves additions to the Vancouver Heritage Register and as a part of their consideration an approval in principle is required by the "owner" of the site. In this case the Park Board is deemed to be the "owner".

Should the Garden be successful in being added to the Heritage Registry this will not limit the Park Boards use of the area or increase the regulatory requirements in the approval of any changes to the buildings or park area.

SUMMARY

In order to complete the final submission requirements by the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden to seek approval as an addition to the Vancouver Heritage Register and written approval in principle is required from the Park Board. It is recommended that this approval be granted.

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