



Date: January 22, 2015

TO: Park Board Chair and Commissioners
FROM: General Manager - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Special Event Approvals - KitsFest 2015

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT the Board approve a request from the Canada One Foundation, organizers of the KitsFest event, for three Public Special Occasion Licensed areas, with a total combined capacity of 800 guests, at Kitsilano Beach Park from Friday, August 7th to Sunday, August 9th, 2015, from 11:00am to 9:00pm.
- B. THAT the Board approve a request for exclusive use of the 10 tennis courts at Kitsilano Beach Park on Friday, August 7th from 5:00pm to 8:00pm and on Saturday, August 8th and Sunday, August 9th from 9:00am to 7:00pm.

POLICY

Park Board approval is required for special events not included on the annual Calendar of Major Special Events and/or that are in variance with one or more Park Board by-laws.

BACKGROUND

In 2009, the Board approved the inaugural KitsFest event, a beach-sport focused two-day activation featuring basketball, volleyball and tennis. The event was subsequently expanded to three days in 2010. Over the past 5 years, event participation, spectators and activities have grown consistently. New activities include kid and family zones, an outdoor rink, sunset yoga and Zumba on the beach. The goal of the organizers, the Canada One Foundation, is to generate funds to support community initiatives, including upgrades to the basketball and tennis courts at Kitsilano Beach Park. The event captures positive aspects of community building and engages both men and women of all ages in competitive outdoor sports.

DISCUSSION

For 2015, the organizers are requesting permission to:

- 1) Activate three public licensed areas - A private licensed area with a capacity of 300 guests was approved in 2009; the capacity of the event's licensed areas was subsequently increased to 500 guests in recent years as a result of increased participation. However, the event continues to grow in popularity, both in terms of participants as well as spectators, and as a result, the organizers have applied to increase the capacity of the event's licensed areas to 800 guests in three separate licensed locations as outlined in

Appendix A (500 in the volleyball area, 200 in the basketball area and 100 in the tennis area). The licensed areas will be open to the public and all net proceeds will be used to support the operating expenses of the event and reinvestment in community initiatives. Approvals from the VPD, VF&RS, and BC Liquor Control & Licensing Branch will be required.

- 2) Exclusive use of tennis courts - The organizers are also seeking exclusive use of the 10 tennis courts at Kitsilano Beach Park in 2015. Last year, KitsFest hosted men's and women's doubles events with 32 teams participating over two days. The tournament was supported by the Kitsilano Community Centre Association, Kits Beach Tennis Club and the Kitsilano Residents Association. The event was held on eight of the 10 available courts. The remaining two courts were left open for public use. The inaugural tournament was a success and organizers are looking to expand this component of the festival.

In order to achieve this objective, the organizer is seeking approval to utilize all 10 tennis courts available at Kitsilano Beach Park. Doing so will enable organizers to accommodate more matches and better manage the courts. The mixed use approach in 2014 resulted in some awkward situations between tournament players and the general public, particularly regarding court etiquette, and also created some safety issues. To advise potential users of the closure and inform them of alternate nearby courts, signage will be posted well in advance of the event.

SUMMARY

The KitsFest event is a very popular and recurring initiative that continues to grow. It engages one of Vancouver's most vibrant communities and promotes participation in activities that contribute to overall health and wellness. It has proved to be a very well-organized event and staff recommend that the Board approve the requests from the organizer as outlined above.

General Manager's Office
Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
Vancouver, BC

Prepared by: Octavio Silva, Manager of Business Development
/os

Preliminary Site Map - KitsFest 2015 - Kitsilano Beach Park

