



Date: May 15, 2015

TO: Park Board Chair and Commissioners  
FROM: General Manager - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation  
SUBJECT: Tom Cone Memorial - Public Art - Jericho Beach Park

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## RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Vancouver Park Board accept the donation of an integrated sculpture/bench commemorating the work of Vancouver's renowned playwright Tom Cone, the first recipient of the Mayor's Arts Award for Lifetime Achievement in Arts and Culture; to be located in Jericho Beach Park with all arrangements to the satisfaction of the General Manager.

## POLICY

In 1998, the Park Board adopted the Acceptance Guidelines for Long Term Gifts of Public Art. These guidelines are designed to ensure that high quality work is added to Vancouver's public spaces.

## BACKGROUND

The Park Board has received a public art donation proposal from Music on Main Society to install a public artwork which is also a functional bench.

The sculpture/bench is a subtle and poetic commemoration of the life and work of Vancouver's renowned playwright Tom Cone, the first recipient of the Mayor's Arts Award for Lifetime Achievement in Arts and Culture.

The work was designed by internationally recognized Vancouver artist Alan Storey; one well-known example of his work is the kinetic sculpture *Pendulum* in the downtown HSBC Bank building.

The berm at Jericho Beach Park for which the work was specifically created, is the site of Tom Cone's annual summer solstice picnic and other community gatherings.

The standard Park Board artwork donation review process has been followed for this proposal.

## DISCUSSION

In keeping with our established process the following steps have been taken:

The letter from the donor proposing the donation of memorial bench and acceptance of responsibility for all costs associated with the proposal was accepted as the formal donation proposal.

- 1.) Technical and Risk Management Review:
  - a. Staff meetings were convened and site approvals obtained sponsor agreement to implement the Park Board's archaeological standards.
- 2.) Aesthetic review:
  - a. February 18, 2013 the Public Art Committee (PAC) unanimously approved the work and the siting.
- 3.) Community consultation:
  - a. A three week consultation completed in November 2013 included:
    - Signage on site
    - Notice at the Jericho Sailing Centre, Jericho Arts Centre, West Point Grey Community Centre, Jericho Tennis Club, Royal Vancouver Yacht Club and Brock House
    - Notice to residents within a two block radius of the site
    - An advertisement in Vancouver Courier "Vancouver Matters"
    - A social media campaign and online survey
    - Stakeholder review with the Jericho Beach Park Stakeholders Group;
  - b. A total of 604 responses were received:
    - 77% responded positively and 19% responded neutrally
    - 4% responded negatively;
  - c. Respondents in support of the artwork indicated the following:
    - The seating element of the sculpture will allow more people to rest and enjoy the park
    - The artwork will commemorate an important Vancouver artist/cultural worker
    - The memorial bench will become one of the focal points of the park and invite residents and tourists to visit the park to enjoy the new artwork;
  - d. Key concerns and mitigations included:
    - Potential interference with park events -
      - Key event organizers were contacted and they confirmed they had no issues with the sculpture/bench or siting;
    - Lack of information about Coast Salish history, and the impact on archaeology -
      - Sponsor agreed to hire an archaeologist and follow appropriate protocols;
      - Staff to pursue a 'Story-telling on the Land' project with the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh.

Given the results of the processes outlined above, staff support the installation of the artwork in Jericho Beach Park including a plaque which includes a brief description of the piece and Tom Cone's legacy.

## SUMMARY

This proposal meets the Board's criteria for "Long Term Gifts of Public Art and Memorials". The artwork is a unique, subtle and poetic commemoration of Tom Cone's significant contribution to the city's cultural life; and is integrated into a piece of functional park furniture. Staff recommends the Board accept the donation with all arrangements to the satisfaction of the General Manager.

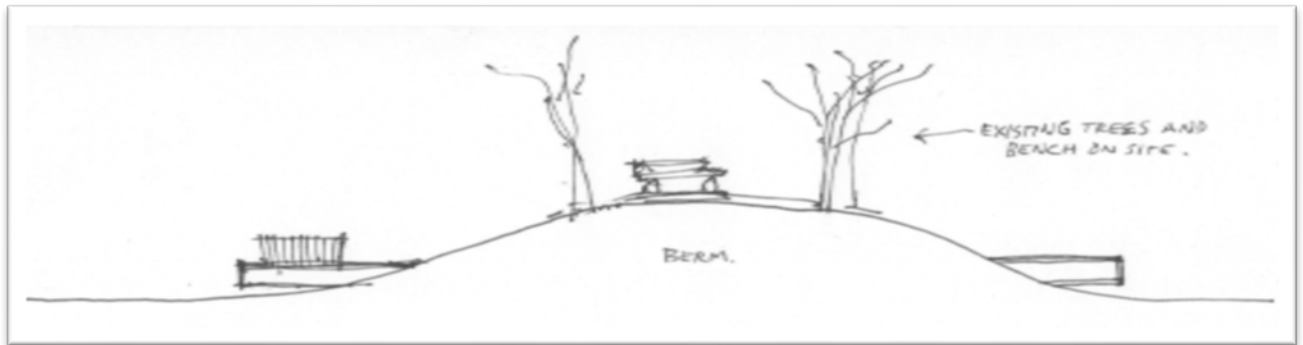
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Appendices 1 and 2: Site Maps

## APPENDIX 1: Proposed Sculpture Installation at Jericho Beach Park

The proposed sculpture/bench will be made out of two separate pieces of curved galvanized I-beam steel sandwiching the small mound in the field, and giving the impression that it continues under the berm. Wood slats will be used for the seating element.



The eastern side of the bench is 12 feet long, 18 inches high and 15 inches wide, while the western side of the piece will be 6 feet long, 18 inches high and 15 inches wide.

Tom Cone's poem, *Somewhere Along the Line*, will be carved onto the front edge of the bench.

The grass underneath the bench will be reinforced to prevent ground wear.



## APPENDIX 2: Proposed Sculpture Site at Jericho Beach Park



### Site Detail

