



May 26, 2017

TO: Park Board Chair and Commissioners
FROM: General Manager - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Vancouver Pride Sunset Beach Festival - Special Event

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve a request from the Vancouver Pride Society, organizers of the Vancouver Pride Sunset Beach Festival, to increase the maximum capacity of the event's licensed area at Sunset Beach Park from 1,200 guests to 1,500 guests on Sunday, August 6, 2017, with all arrangements to the satisfaction of the General Manager of the Park Board.

POLICY

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

BACKGROUND

The Vancouver Pride Society brings together members of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Two-Spirit community, their friends, allies and supporters in celebration of the unique spirit and culture of the LGBTQ2+ community. In 2017, the Society will be hosting its 39th annual Vancouver Pride Parade and Sunset Beach Festival. The Parade will feature over 100 floats and 4,000 participants. The Festival at Sunset Beach has traditionally included a performance stage, numerous vendors, and since 2007, a licensed area that has operated without any major incidents. The Festival attracts in excess of 150,000 people throughout the day.

DISCUSSION

In order to better meet existing and future demand at the Sunset Beach Festival site, the Vancouver Pride Society is seeking approval for an increase in the capacity of its licensed area at Sunset Beach Park, which would operate between 11:00am and 7:00pm, from 1,200 guests to 1,500 guests. In recent years, Festival guests have had to endure line-ups of up to one hour at peak times to access the licensed area. The increased capacity would help alleviate these line-ups and enhance overall guest experience. If approved, the footprint of the existing licensed area, which is located in the Sunset Beach Park sport court, would be extended into the parking lot and the adjacent grass area in order to support the increased capacity (Appendix A). Other than providing additional security and Vancouver Police Department officers to assist in guest management, no further changes would be required to support the Society's Special Event Permit application with the BC Liquor Control and Licensing Branch.

This proposal has been reviewed and endorsed by the FEST Committee (which includes representatives from the Park Board's Special Events Office, Vancouver Police Department,

Vancouver Fire & Rescue Services, BC Liquor Control & Licensing Branch, and the City of Vancouver Special Events, Traffic Management and Transportation Planning Branches) subject to Park Board approval and preparation of updated security, health and safety, emergency response, communications and waste management plans.

SUMMARY

The Vancouver Pride Sunset Beach Festival is an extremely popular summer activation which both supports and complements the Vancouver Pride Parade. The proposal submitted by the event organizer represents an incremental addition to the Festival's successful activations. Park Board staff have thoughtfully considered the many aspects of this application with the organizers, and are confident that this initiative can be executed successfully. Accordingly, staff recommend that the Board approve the request as outlined above.

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

Prepared by:
Octavio Silva, Manager of Business Development

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Vancouver Pride Sunset Beach Festival - Preliminary Site Plan

