



May 1, 2019

TO: Park Board Chair and Commissioners
FROM: General Manager – Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Bike the Night - Special Event

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve an application from HUB Cycling, organizers of the Bike the Night cycling event, to host the start/finish area of the ride at Sunset Beach Park on Saturday, September 7, 2019, from 6:00pm to 10:00pm, with all arrangements to the satisfaction of the General Manager of the Park Board.

REPORT SUMMARY

The family-friendly Bike the Night cycling event is a City of Vancouver supported on-street, car-free ride which takes place at night on the City's road network. HUB Cycling, the organizers of the initiative, are seeking to use Sunset Beach Park as the start/finish area for the ride. The purpose of this report is to present the Bike the Night cycling initiative to the Park Board, paying particular attention to the Sunset Beach Park activation, with the objective of obtaining Board approval for the organizer's request.

BOARD AUTHORITY / POLICY

Per the [Vancouver Charter](#), the Park Board has exclusive jurisdiction and control over park land use in the City of Vancouver, including any structures, programs, activities, fees, and improvements that occur within designated parks.

Per the [Special Event Guidelines](#), 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

HUB Cycling is a charitable non-profit organization, established in 1998, that works to improve cycling conditions in Metro Vancouver. Since their inception, they've made cycling better through education, action and events, and the organization continues to lead the way in making cycling an attractive choice for thousands of Vancouverites. Increased cycling creates healthier, happier, and more connected communities.

Over the years, the Vancouver Park Board has collaborated with HUB Cycling to support other cycling-related events on park spaces, including Bike to Work Week, Bike to Shop Days, and Bike to Work Week launch and close events.

DISCUSSION

The inaugural Bike the Night event in 2016 started at Granville Park and ended at Connaught Park, and attracted approximately 650 riders. Subsequent initiatives were hosted in other Vancouver locations, such as the West Park parking lot near BC Place, and the adjacent

Concord Lands. Roughly 3,500 cyclists participated in the 2017 event, and over 3,300 cyclists took part in the 2018 initiative, including 495 children. Since its inception, thousands of people in costumes and colourfully lit bikes have experienced the beauty and energy of the luminous parade created by the event.

In 2019, the Bike the Night event will feature an on-street, car-free Downtown Vancouver cycling route. To support the initiative, HUB Cycling is proposing to host the ride's pre and post start/finish area at Sunset Beach Park on September 7, 2019, from 6:00pm to 10:00pm. The activation will include musical entertainment, games, bike decorating, tune-ups and repairs, prize giveaways, cycling information booths, and food trucks. Event structures will include a 10' x 20' stage, and up to fifteen 10' x 10' tents (see Appendix A). The organizers of the initiative are hoping to attract approximately 3,500 participants to experience the positivity of this bike culture event.

In order to mobilize and demobilize this activation, set-up will begin at 9:00am on September 7, 2019, with tear-down completed by 11:00pm. Portions of Sunset Beach Park will be closed during setup for safety reasons. Organizers will keep the Sunset Beach parking lot open as long as possible during the day, and also plan to extend an invitation to the Park Board concession at Sunset Beach Park to participate in the event.

CONSIDERATIONS

Bike the Night is a City of Vancouver supported event. If approved, this proposal will be subject to a more detailed review by key FEST Committee members, including the Vancouver Police Department and the City's Special Events Office and Traffic and Data Management Department.

NEXT STEPS

Subject to Board approval of this application, Park Board staff will work with both the organizer and the FEST Committee to develop the requisite detailed event plans (e.g. traffic management, safety, sanitation, etc.) which will be reviewed and approved by staff. Neighbourhood notification will also be completed.

CONCLUSION

The Bike the Night initiative represents a unique family-friendly addition to the Park Board and City event calendar. Inclusive and festive, this cross-jurisdictional event will activate public spaces, add colour/vibrancy to the city, and promote participation in activities that contribute to overall health and wellness. Park Board staff have thoughtfully considered the many aspects of this application, and are confident that the initiative can be executed successfully and as intended. Accordingly, staff recommend that the Board approve the application from the organizer as outlined above.

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Bike the Night – Preliminary Site Plan



-  Registration
-  TransLink Bus
-  Stage
-  10x10FT Tents
-  Food Trucks
-  Lafarge Safety Truck
-  Odessey Medical