



Date: November 17, 2011

TO: Board Members – Vancouver Park Board
FROM: General Manager – Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Stone Sculpture in Seaforth Peace Park

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board accept the donation of a stone sculpture that includes an engraved fish soup recipe representing harmony amongst cultures to be installed alongside the pathway in Seaforth Peace 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. Included in the guidelines are procedures for accepting or rejecting proposed donations of art and memorials in a manner fair to the donor and fair to the public. The guidelines also outline a consultation process which includes independent assessments by artists and other members of the professional art community as well as feedback from both local representatives and the general public.

BACKGROUND

The Board has received a proposal from representatives of Proyecto Cultural Sur Vancouver to sponsor the donation of an engraved granite stone alongside the pathway through Seaforth Peace Park. The stone will be installed on the east side of the path near some trees so that the reader/viewer looks north and east.

DISCUSSION

Proyecto Cultural Sur Vancouver wishes to donate the stone as a symbol of peace and harmony as well as symbol of the Latin American community's contribution to Vancouver. Fish soup is a staple in Latin culture and the recipe engraved on the stone contains ingredients from many Latin American countries. This inclusion of ingredients from so many places reflects the contribution of those places to Vancouver and represents cultural harmony as each country has brought something to the symbolic table to share with the others and with the residents of Vancouver.

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

- A formal letter from the sponsor proposing the donation and accepting responsibility for all costs associated with the project was requested and received;
- A technical and district approval meeting was convened, the proponents agreed to work with a contracting process recommended by Park Board operations staff and the district representative approved the general siting;
- An on-site meeting was convened and operations and district staff approved the exact site;
- Community consultation involving signage on site, brochure distribution in a two block radius and information made available at the False Creek Community Centre was completed. Members of the public were given a three week window in which to respond. Six responses were received. Three, had concerns over the location of the stone and its impact on green space and playing area in the park. In response to these concerns, the location has been adjusted a few metres to the east, closer to existing trees, which will preserve a larger open space. The shift in location will also allay a concern regarding the size of the stone as it will now appear in relation to the much taller trees. A safety concern regarding people climbing the stone had been addressed through the technical review and the work was deemed to not present any unusual risk. Two responses were concerned with public expenditure, however as per Park Board standard practise, all costs associated with the project are being borne by the donor.
- The Public Art Committee was consulted for the aesthetic review on September 12, 2011 and went on record as endorsing the project.

Staff is recommending the Board approve this proposal.

SUMMARY

This marker meets the Board's criteria for "Long Term Gifts of Public Art and Memorials". The stone is a significant donation from a growing segment of Vancouver's population.

Prepared by:

jil p. weaving
Stanley District
Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
Vancouver, BC

:jpw