



Date: Jan. 17, 2013

TO: Board Members - Vancouver Park Board
FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Proposed Public Art for Guelph Park - *Dude Chilling Park*

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board accept the donation of the Dude Chilling Park sign, a site-specific artwork created for Guelph 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

In November 2012, an unauthorized sign was erected in Guelph Park that read "Dude Chilling Park". The *Dude Chilling Park* sign mimics the standard park sign found in city parks. After the sign was removed by staff, the Park Board received expressions of support from local residents for the unofficial sign including a petition signed by 1,500 residents who suggested the piece be installed permanently in the park.

In March 2013, the Park Board approved a motion directing staff to present a recommendation for the future of the "Dude Chilling Park" sign including a permanent location for installation.

The sign is proposed as a donation to the Park Board from the artist, Victor Briestensky. The standard Park Board artwork donation process has been followed for this proposal.

DISCUSSION

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

- The letter with accompanying signatures requesting the installation and an email confirming the artist would donate the work were accepted as the formal donation proposal.
- Technical approval meetings were convened and site approvals obtained.
- The aesthetic review was completed on October 15, 2013 by the Public Art Committee (PAC) who recommended the Park Board accept the work and that it be installed at the original location.

- Community consultation regarding the proposed siting was completed including:
 - Signage on site
 - Notice to residents within a two block radius from the installation site
 - An advertisement in Vancouver Courier "Vancouver Matters" column
 - A social media campaign
 - An online survey
- Stakeholder review with the Brewery Creek Community Garden Society was completed, and they enthusiastically support the artwork.

The consultation process provided residents with a 21 day window in which to respond. A total of 372 responses were received.

- 77% (287) responded positively
- 2% (8) responded negatively
- 21% (77) responded neutrally

The survey results show that 66% (246) preferred the artwork to be installed at the corner of 8th and Brunswick St, where the piece was originally erected. In addition 9% (33) of respondents indicated a preference for the installation to be near the community art exchange box, while 25% (93) responded with no preference for the location.

Respondents in support of the artwork indicated the following;

- *The artwork celebrates a sense of community and belonging and represents the contemporary history of the park;*
- *The artwork will be a focal point in the park, which will bring out more residents to enjoy the park; and*
- *The artwork will add to the aesthetics of the park's visual culture.*

Given the results of the process outlined above, staff support the installation of the artwork in Guelph Park and also recommend installing a plaque next to the artwork, which includes a brief description of the piece and a reference to the Coast Salish connection to the land. Staff proposed the artwork be sited in its original location, which is adjacent to the sidewalk which will minimize the impact on other uses of the park.

SUMMARY

This proposal meets the Board's criteria for *Long Term Gifts of Public Art and Memorials*. The artwork celebrates the unique characteristics of Guelph Park and its neighbouring community. Staff recommend the Board approve the donation of this artwork as outlined above.

Prepared by: jpw
Arts, Culture and Environment
Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
Vancouver, BC

Appendix

Photograph of the Dude Chilling Park sign by Victor Briestensky



Photograph of the Reclining Figure by Michael Dennis



Guelph Park



Site Options:

- #1: Corner of Brunswick St. and East 8th Ave. - Preferred
- #2: Adjacent to the Brewery Creek Community Garden - Optional