
CITY OF KELOWNA

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 28, 2003
File No.: 6140-20
To: City Manager
From: Recreation Manager
Parks Manager
Subject: 2005 Kelowna Centennial Legacy Project

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT City Council approve the development of Phase 1 of Stuart Park as the official 2005 Kelowna Centennial Legacy Project.

Discussion:

On May 5, 2005, the City of Kelowna will celebrate 100 years as an incorporated municipality. There are a number of significant opportunities and potential benefits to the City in commemoration of this important anniversary.

City Council has recently approved a comprehensive plan for festivals and celebrations on March 10, 2003. Council has also directed staff to determine a significant legacy project, as a major component of the recognition of this historic year in Kelowna's evolution.

The 2005 Kelowna Centennial Legacy Project must meet the following criteria;

1. Appeal to a very broad base of the community,
2. Reflect on the past, present and future of life in Kelowna,
3. Be esthetically appealing,
4. Contribute to quality of life in Kelowna,
5. Enhance Kelowna's tourism marketing position,
6. Establish a higher national and international profile for Kelowna,
7. Recognize historical achievements in Kelowna,
8. Enhance Kelowna's community identity,
9. Include the potential for the development of a partnership(s), and
10. Be accounted for within the City's financial plan.

The development of Stuart Park does comply with these defined criteria. The following description is included in the "Vision for James Stuart Park" document prepared for the design project brief;

Stuart Park is the focal point of Kelowna's core area. As such the park acts as the physical and psychological hub of the various districts and activities throughout the core and is the showcase or jewel in the necklace of parks along the Kelowna waterfront.

The Park's reputation as an ideal venue for a variety of interesting events, performances and ceremonies attracts the interest of all local residents and our regional and provincial neighbours throughout the year. Although the Park is a strong initial destination, it is also a point of orientation that generates interest in exploring an endless variety of other opportunities throughout the City.

The location of Stuart Park has historical significance, since it is in the heart of the early growth of Kelowna, as well as modern significance, at the core of the City's waterfront, recreational event, and cultural districts. The Park will play an increasing role in tourism, through the Cultural District initiatives, as well as the ever growing recreational outdoor events. The development of the Park has been on the financial horizon for several years since Council approved the acquisition of the park site in 1996. As the detail designs on this park site progress and the related issues surrounding the park site become resolved, there is ample opportunity to ensure conformity with the criteria for the 2005 Kelowna Centennial Legacy Project.

Also, the Public Art Committee have expressed strong interest in participating in the Stuart Park development, and are considering a significant monumental public art project as a component of the park design and features.

Staff had considered a number of other possibilities for an official Centennial legacy project. However, each alternative either did not qualify under the criteria as described above, or there were major concerns whether such alternatives could be completed within a suitable time frame for the Centennial year.

JWR Oddleifson
Recreation Manager

Joe Creron
Parks Manager

p/c Director of Parks and Leisure Services