

2005 JANUARY 20

TO: CITY MANAGER
FROM: DIRECTOR PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES
SUBJECT: CENTRAL PARK - PROPOSAL FOR A KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL
PURPOSE: To request Council's approval in principle for use of a site within Central Park for development of a Korean War Memorial.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT approval in principle be granted for use of a site within Central Park, located between Boundary Road and the outdoor pool, for development of a Korean War Memorial by the Korea Veterans Association of Canada Inc. Pacific Region and the Korea Veterans Canada Western Chapter, subject to the conditions outlined in the attached report.

REPORT

At its meeting of 2005 January 19, the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission received the above noted report and adopted the three recommendations contained therein.



Kate Friars
DIRECTOR PARKS, RECREATION
AND CULTURAL SERVICES

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Attachment
P:\DATA\COUNCIL\PK-CENTRAL PARK - PROPOSAL FOR A KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL

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1. THAT approval in principle be granted for use of a site within Central Park, located between Boundary Road and the outdoor pool, for development of a Korean War Memorial by the Korea Veterans Association of Canada Inc. Pacific Region and the Korea Veterans Canada Western Chapter, subject to the conditions outlined in this report.
2. THAT a copy of this report be forwarded to Burnaby City Council and to Mr. Doug Germaine, #4 - 10238 155A Street, Surrey BC, V3R 0V8, for information.
3. THAT a copy of this report be forwarded to the Community Heritage Commission for information.

REPORT

INTRODUCTION

At its meeting of 2004 October 06, correspondence referred by the Mayor's Office (Attachment # 1), was received by the Commission from the memorial committee executive of the Korea Veterans Association of Canada Inc. Pacific Region and the Korea Veterans Canada Western Chapter requesting a site for development of a Korean War Memorial within Central Park. Staff were directed to explore the proposal and report back at a future meeting.

Parks Planning and Design staff have met twice with the memorial committee executives and have conducted on-site evaluation of several possible sites. The committee is anxious to start its fund raising campaign and is awaiting confirmation of approval to use a site in Burnaby to assist in securing funding from several sources in Korea. If the project proceeds on City parkland, the Veterans Associations would be donating the developed memorial and public plaza to the City for public use.

This report recommends approval in principle for development of the memorial in Central Park, subject to a number of conditions outlined in this report. The report also provides a brief synopsis of Canada's involvement in the Korean War, information on existing Korean War memorials, a summary of the memorial committee's proposal, a review of Commission policy regarding requests for war memorials, a list of existing war memorials located in Burnaby's parks, and evaluation of potential sites for the memorial with staff's recommendation of a suitable site within Central Park.

CANADA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE KOREAN WAR

The following excerpt from the Veterans Affairs Canada website provides a brief history and introduction to the Korean War and Canada's involvement in the conflict:

“On June 25, 1950 the forces of North Korea crossed the 38th Parallel into the Republic of Korea. This marked the beginning of hostilities which were to rage for three full years and more, throughout that country known to its people as the Land of the Morning Calm. The Magnitude of the assault made it clear that this was a full-scale invasion.

This was the first open act of aggression since the establishment of the United Nations Organization and its actions were of great significance for its prestige and credibility - in fact for its very future. The invasion was declared a breach of the peace, and 16 member nations joined forces to resist the aggression.

Canada's contribution, exceeded only by that of the United States and Great Britain, demonstrated her willingness to uphold the United Nations ideals and to take up arms in support of peace and freedom. All told 26,791 Canadians served in the Korean war and another 7,000 served in the theatre between the cease-fire and the end of 1955. The names of 516 Canadian dead are inscribed in the Korea Book of Remembrance.

Canadian participation in these hostilities marked a break with traditional policy. It was the beginning of a new era of involvement in world affairs which saw Canadian troops deployed around the world in truce teams, peace commission and emergency forces. A new page in Canada's proud military history was written.”

KOREAN WAR MEMORIALS

The United Nations Command consisted of 272,000 South Koreans and 266,000 from the 16 nations represented in the formation. Memorials have been erected in many of the participating countries with many located at military cemeteries. In the United Nations National Cemetery in Busan (formerly Pusan) Korea, stands a memorial to Commonwealth soldiers whose burial places are unknown. The memorial is of stone on a low base with bronze panels listing the names, 16 of whom are Canadian.

In Canada, the Korean War is now noted along with World Wars I and II on the National War Memorial in Ottawa and on many local cenotaphs throughout the country. On April 25, 2003 a commemorative statue honouring Canada's Veterans of the Korean War was unveiled at the Museum of the Regiments in Calgary Alberta, Canada's second largest military museum. The ceremony was held on the anniversary of the Battle of Kap'Yong (formerly Gap'Yong). On its website, Veterans Affairs Canada reports that;

“During the battle, which took place 54 years ago, Canadian soldiers held key positions in the Kap’Yong valley and prevented deep enemy infiltration into South Korea. The Canadian soldiers, who were completely surrounded for part of the battle, defended their position firmly during two days and one night of heavy fighting. This engagement became one of the most severe of the entire Korean campaign.”

On January 10, 1997 the governments of Canada and Korea jointly declared the twinning of Pacific Rim National Park Reserve and Hallyo Haesang Sea National Park in commemoration of the Canadians at Kap’Yong April 22-25, 1951. Hallyo Haesang is located on the southernmost tip of the Korean Peninsula and juts out into the Pacific Ocean just like Pacific Rim National Park Reserve. The two national parks were chosen for twinning because the same ocean that touches our shores also washes the shores of Korea. A low concrete aggregate monument with three large plaques was erected on Radar Hill within Pacific Rim National Park Reserve to commemorate the twinning of the two national parks. The phrase, “Preservation through Conservation for future generations” is inscribed on the plaque along with an account of the Canadian soldier’s actions at the battle of Kap’Yong, including the awarding of a Unit Citation to the Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) from the President of the United States, the only Canadian battalion to ever receive this distinction..

KOREA WAR MEMORIAL PROPOSAL

The memorial committee executive is comprised of members from both the Korea Veterans Association of Canada Inc. Pacific Region and the Korean Veterans Association Western Canada Chapter representing both Canadian Veterans who served in the Korean War and Korean Veterans who served for their country and have since immigrated to Canada.

2004 marked both the 40th anniversary of the diplomatic relationship between Canada and Korea and the 51st anniversary of the establishment of the Korean Veterans Association. The committee proposes that it is fitting and proper to show respect for those Canadian soldiers who courageously fought for Korea during the Korean War and to offer tribute to the many sacrifices they made by establishing a Korea War Memorial in the form of a monument or statue. Given that the Korea Veterans Association is embarking upon a new half century, the memorial is looked upon as a way to achieve its goal to increase public awareness of the Korean War and to honour the Canadians and other United Nations forces, who fought in the Korean War.

In the absence of any monuments or statues that represent specific activities of Canadian soldiers during the Korean War, Canadian and Korean Veterans in British Columbia are currently using a memorial located at Vancouver’s Mountain View Cemetery dedicated to all Canadian military members who have passed away for ceremonies honouring those soldiers who participated in the Korean War.

The memorial committees' proposal is for an overall area of approximately 20 feet by 40 feet with a central 8 foot by 10 foot memorial which would incorporate the names of the 21 soldiers from British Columbia who were killed in action in the Korean War along with several dedication plaques. The monument would take the form of a wall or statue, or a combination of both, set in lawn area or plaza. It is proposed that the memorial also serve as a gathering place for both veteran and cultural events furthering the amicable relations between Canada and Korea, and as a place of quiet contemplation for individuals including the general public. It is also anticipated that the memorial will be a destination for Korean tourists visiting the Lower Mainland.

The memorial committee requested a site in Central Park because of its central location in the Lower Mainland region and the popularity of Central Park among the Korean community (Attachment # 2). A site fronting Kingsway adjacent to the pedestrian overpass to the Telus building was chosen by the memorial committee because it has good exposure to passing vehicular and foot traffic, is an easily accessible prominent location, is a relatively flat site and has support facilities nearby such as parking, washrooms and picnic grounds. Event space for veteran and cultural events ranging from 20 to 250 people is desired. The Veteran Associations intend to hold small events approximately once a month throughout the year with larger events, such as the July 27th anniversary of the Korean War, to be held two to three times a year.

The budget for the committee's proposal is projected to be in the range of \$215,000 to \$240,000. The memorial committee is in the process of seeking financial support for the project from Canadian Veterans Affairs, Korean Veterans Affairs, Korea Veterans Association of Canada, Korea Seoul Veterans Association as well as business organizations from both countries. Before funding from many of these sources can be obtained confirmation of a site for the memorial is required.

EXISTING WAR MEMORIALS IN BURNABY PARKS

Following is a list of existing war memorials and cenotaphs located within the Burnaby parks system. In two instances the existing memorials were either relocated to a park location or erected prior to the site becoming a park. With the exception of the Bonsor Cenotaph, all the memorials are registered heritage resources within the City Heritage Resource Registry.

World War I Memorial Cenotaphs

- Burnaby Civic Employees Union Memorial Fountain
located at Burnaby Village Museum -1923 (City heritage resource)
- Burnaby South High School Cenotaph and Memorial Tennis Courts
located at Burnaby South Memorial Park - 1948/2004 (City heritage resource)

World War I - World War II - Korean War Memorial Cenotaphs

- Bonsor Cenotaph located at Bonsor Park - 1988
- North Burnaby Cenotaph located at Confederation Park - 1953 (City heritage resource)

South Burnaby is generally well served by the three existing memorial sites and North Burnaby is served by one cenotaph. The Bonsor and Confederation Park cenotaphs do include a reference to the Korean War, however neither cenotaph specifically memorialize Canadians killed in action in the Korean War. The Korea Veterans advise that they presently attend Remembrance Day ceremonies at the Bonsor Cenotaph and intend to continue to do so after establishment of the Korean War Memorial.

REVIEW OF POTENTIAL SITES FOR THE PROPOSED MEMORIAL

Staff support the establishment of a Korean War Memorial provided that it also serves the general public and does not conflict with future planned park amenities or interfere with public recreation opportunities or events. The site should be located along an existing pedestrian corridor and must incorporate seating for the public and an assembly area for events and ceremonies. The design and appearance of the monument is to be to the approval of the City and should not accentuate war imagery. To ensure that the memorial is fully and sensitively integrated into the park staff recommend that the memorial committee be required to hire the services of a Landscape Architect to design the memorial.

The site proposed by the memorial committee, illustrated in Attachment #2, is not considered suitable for a number of reasons. The site is presently used as a support area for events held at Swangard Stadium and will also be needed for any future expansion of that facility. In addition, future widening of Kingsway is planned which will require relocation of the Heritage gateway to Central Park which is in the vicinity of the proposed site.

Staff assessed a number of other park sites throughout the city which might be suitable for the memorial and discussed three potential site options with the memorial committee, including sites in Kensington Park, the Centennial Pavilion area of Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area and an alternate site within Central Park. All three sites provide existing parking and washroom facilities. The two North Burnaby locations have the potential for picnic grounds but these sites were considered by the memorial committee not to be easily accessible or to have high enough visibility in the region. The committee's preference is for the alternate Central Park site, which is located between the Central Park swimming pool and Boundary Road. This site is relatively flat, is in close proximity to existing support facilities such as parking, washrooms and picnic grounds, and is located on a primary pedestrian circulation route within the park.

The lawn area would benefit from redevelopment as is showing signs of disturbance as a result of overflow event parking and the 24 Hr Relay. Improvements to the area of the pedestrian path and landscape beds fronting the pool is also recommended in the park safety audit recently conducted for the City. Removal or relocation of ornamental trees within the landscape beds will likely be required to accommodate the memorial. Some additional planting or minor grading of the site to create a setting for the memorial and to separate the site somewhat from Boundary Road may also be desirable.

CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

Approval in Principle will be conditional on the memorial committee executive meeting the following requirements and conditions:

1. This is approval in principle of the memorial committee's request only, and is subject to final approval of all details by the City.
2. The memorial committee will hire an Landscape Architect to develop complete plans and specifications to City Approval.
3. The memorial committee will provide details of construction contracts and contract administration.
4. City is to have final approval of text on all plaques.
5. Commission is to have final approval of all plans.
6. All works become the property of the City with the City to assume maintenance. The Korea Veterans Associations are to consider a contribution towards long term maintenance.
7. No exclusive use will be granted as the memorial is intended for full public use and enjoyment. The Korea Veterans must book events at the memorial site through the established park allotment process.
8. Financial bonding via a letter of credit is required prior to construction to protect park property.
9. Approval is subject to all other City requirements, including but not limited to Preliminary Plan Approval (PPA).

ENDORSEMENT BY LOCAL BRANCHES OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

The memorial committee executives were requested to obtain letters of support from local branches of the Royal Canadian Legion to ensure that a new memorial would be welcomed and that it would not conflict with or take away from the other war memorial sites and events held in Burnaby. Staff have been advised that the executive spoke with representatives of Branches 83 and 148 of the Royal Canadian Legion, and neither have objections to the construction of a Korea War Memorial by the Korea Veterans. The British Columbia and Northern Command also have no objection with a Korea War Veterans Memorial as it will not be taking events away from existing war memorials in the Province of British Columbia. All three Legions felt it was not necessary to provide the City of Burnaby with a written endorsement and stated as their reason that the Korea Veterans are not taking anything away from them for any functions conducted at existing cenotaphs. Both the National Korea Veterans and the Pacific Region Korea Veterans are in total support of the construction of a Korean War memorial in Central Park within the City of Burnaby.

COMMISSION POLICY ON MEMORIALS IN PARKS

At present there is no commission policy in place to address requests for memorials or the provision of sites for war memorials within the Burnaby parks system. Past requests for such memorials have been infrequent and have been dealt with on a “case by case” basis. A survey of policies in other lower mainland municipalities was conducted and it was found that only the City of Vancouver had written guidelines in place for the review of proposed donations of public art or memorials to be sited in Vancouver parks. It is noted by Vancouver that many conditions govern the acceptance and installation of art and memorials and that Park Board approval is required in all cases.

Staff have noted that there has also been an increase in the erection of impromptu memorials at road sides for individuals killed in vehicular accidents as well as requests for memorials for popular public figures who have met un-timely ends. In some instances these impromptu memorials may be located on public land and have the potential to become more permanent in nature in the absence of a specific policy to deal with them in a sensitive and equitable manner. It is therefore suggested that development of a policy to guide Commission in its response to future requests and the handling of impromptu situations be undertaken by staff for future review and approval by the Commission.

CONCLUSION

The City is in receipt of a request from the memorial committee of the Korea Veterans Association of Canada Inc. Pacific Region and the Korea Veterans Canada Western Chapter that the City provide use of a site within Central Park for development of a Korean War Memorial. Parks Planning and Design staff have met twice with the memorial committee executives and have conducted on-site evaluation of several possible sites. An alternate site within Central Park has been agreed upon by staff and the memorial committee and staff have received verbal endorsement of the project from local Royal Canadian Legions.

The establishment of a Korean War Memorial is considered a benefit to the City in that it will foster good will and positive relations, increase tourism, show respect for Canadian and Korean Veterans and residents of Korean ancestry and will enhance Central Park for the public.

The memorial committee is anxious to start its fund raising campaign and is awaiting confirmation of approval of Commission to use the site to assist in securing funding from several sources in Korea. It is therefore, recommended that approval in principle be granted for use of a site within Central Park, located between Boundary Road and the outdoor pool, for development of a Korean War Memorial by the Korea Veterans Association of Canada Inc. Pacific Region and the Korea Veterans Canada Western Chapter, subject to the conditions outlined in this report. It is also recommended that a copy of this report be forwarded to the memorial committee representative Doug Germaine and to City Council for their information.

ATS:mc

Attachments (2)

p:/wp/as/reports/koreanwarmemorial.wpd

4 - 10238 155A Street
Surrey BC V3R 0V8
September 21, 2004

(SUPPLEMENTARY)

COMMISSION AGENDA

DATE: 04/10/06

CORRESPONDENCE: (g)

To the Mayor of the City of Burnaby
Derek Corrigan
4949 Canada Way
Burnaby BC V5G 1M2

Your Worship
Mayor Derek Corrigan:

NOTE:

Staff have contacted Mr. Germaine regarding the proposal and will work with the local Korean Veterans Association Chapter to explore the proposal and will report back at a future meeting.

**Proposal Site for Korean People and Korea Veterans of
Canada - Memorial**

The Memorial Committee Executive has had meetings with you twice in the past months requesting a park site. After the site was chosen we met again to gain your approval when you stated at that meeting you would arrange with your Park Board to meet with us and we would at that time decide on the best location for our Memorial.

We have not been in contact with you since June of 2004 as one of our Executive has been seriously ill which included one month of hospitalization; now we seem to be back together and attempting to put our Memorial project in a more complete stage.

Over the months the Western Chapter Korean Veterans Canada have been in contact with the Seoul Korean Veterans; they are waiting for our approval of a Memorial site and once they have our approved documents they and we, can begin our construction of the Memorial.

*Note: Referred to Parks
Commission.*

We appreciate that your office has had a very busy summer which was another reason we refrained from trying to get in touch with you. We are concerned that if we do not have a site approved in the very near future our partners in Seoul may put our project on hold.

We are seeking a meeting with you and your Parks Board where we would hopefully get approval for a Memorial Site at Central Park in the City of Burnaby.

Once we have your approval we would appreciate a written agreement drawn up and signed by you the Mayor of Burnaby in order that we proceed with forwarding it to the Seoul Korean Veterans Chapter. After approval in Seoul we will be in good position to start the construction of this project which is important for the memory of our Korea Veterans and the Korean Population of Vancouver Lower Mainland.

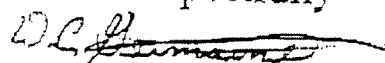
We will be seeking financial support from Canadian Veterans Affairs, Korean Veterans Affairs and Korea Veterans Association of Canada as well as business organizations from both countries.

Mr. Shin - President of Western Canada Chapter is currently in Seoul Korea to meet with Korean Veterans Caapter of Korea and Korean Veterans Affairs in preparation of this project.

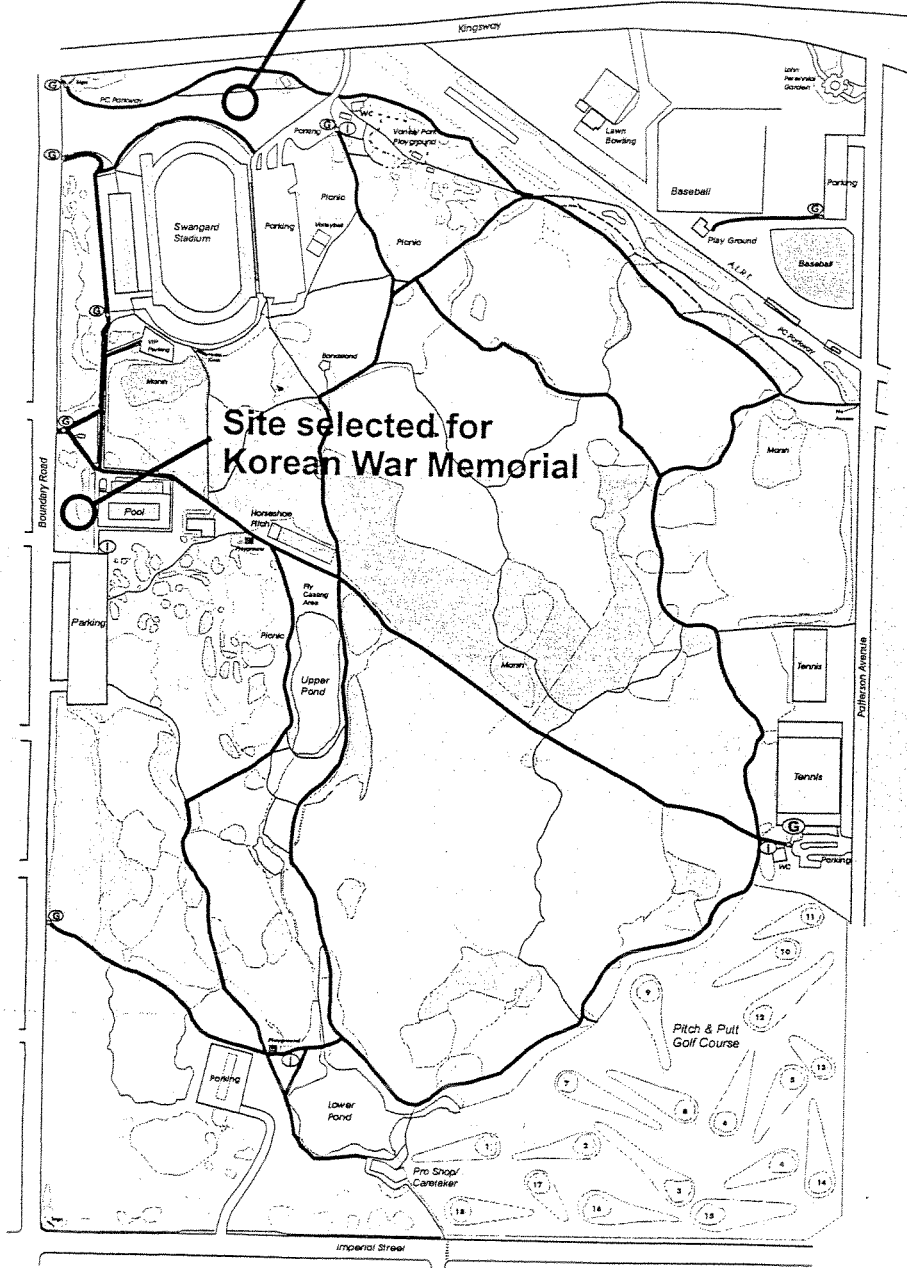
Please contact Doug Germaine Phone/Fax 604-584-8193 Fax
or Email: woody83@telus.net

We look forward to hearing from you.

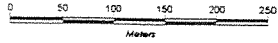
Yours respectfully


Doug Germaine

Site requested for
Korean War Memorial



- Key**
- Major Trails and Service Access (Vehicle can Access)
 - Open Forest
 - Forest with Dense Understorey
 - Tree Groves with no Understorey
 - Access Gate or Locked Barrier
 - Information Kiosks



Central Park : Proposed site of Korean War Memorial

ATTACHMENT # 2

