

Supports Item No. 4  
P&E Committee Agenda  
July 9, 2009



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: June 23, 2009  
Contact: Mario Lee  
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Meeting Date: July 9, 2009

TO: Standing Committee on Planning and Environment

FROM: Deputy General Manager of Community Services and Acting Managing Director of Social Development

SUBJECT: Slots at Hastings Racecourse - Report Back on Public Benefits and Recommended Allocations from the Hastings Legacy Fund (HLF)

**RECOMMENDATION**

- A. THAT Council receive for INFORMATION an update on the Hastings Racecourse Public Benefits as described in Appendix A.
- B. THAT Council approve six Hastings Legacy Fund grants totalling \$130,000 for the following organizations:
- Kiwassa Neighbourhood House - Small Grants Program: \$15,000
  - Kiwassa Neighbourhood House - Community Events: \$40,000
  - Hastings North Business Improvement Association - Hastings-Sunrise Patrol Team: \$25,000
  - Hastings North Business Improvement Association - Mural Program: \$20,000
  - Hastings North Community Policing Centre - Litter Clean-Up Project: \$10,000
  - Hastings Conservancy - Educational Project: \$20,000

Source of funding is the Hastings Social Responsibility Reserve.

Approval of grant recommendations requires eight affirmative votes.

**GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS**

The General Manager of Community Services RECOMMENDS approval of A and B.

### ***COUNCIL POLICY***

On July 22, 2004, following the conclusion of a Public Hearing, Council approved in principle the application by Hastings Entertainment Inc. (HEI) and the British Columbia Lottery Corporation (BCLC) to amend CD-1 By-law No. 3656 for 2901 East Hastings Street (Hastings Park) to permit slot machines at Hastings Racecourse.

On October 4, 2005, as part of the rezoning conditions for Hastings Park, Council accepted a number of public benefits from Hastings Entertainment Inc.

On October 4, 2005, Council instructed the Director of Social Planning to report back within a year of the slot machines becoming operational, with an assessment of impacts.

Approval of grant recommendations requires eight affirmative votes.

### ***PURPOSE***

The purpose of this report is to update Council on public benefits related to the Hastings Racecourse, inform Council on the impact of the slot machines, and request Council's approval on Hastings Legacy Fund (HLF) allocations.

### ***BACKGROUND***

On August 25, 2005, as part of the rezoning conditions for Hastings Park, HEI submitted a formal offering of public benefits, which were accepted by Council on October 4, 2005. The public benefits approved by Council included:

- i. a local hiring program,
- ii. a childcare program,
- iii. the creation of a local groom school,
- iv. funding for a learning centre,
- v. movie nights and community days at the track, and
- vi. a community legacy fund.

Corresponding legal agreements to secure the public benefits were signed between the City and HEI prior to the issuing of a development permit and the slots becoming operational at Hastings Racecourse. On November 27, 2007, HEI and BCLC began operating 150 slots in a temporary facility at the racetrack, and on August 15, 2008, all 600 approved slots became operational at the permanent facility in the racetrack's Grandstand.

At the time of approval of the public benefits, staff were asked to update Council on the public benefits i - v, update Council on the impact of the slots and report back on recommendations for the Hastings Legacy Fund (vi) with input from the local community.

### ***DISCUSSION***

#### **Public Benefits (i - v)**

Staff met with representatives from HEI and received updates regarding the local hiring, child care, local groom school, learning centre, movie nights and community days. Upon reviewing HEI reports, staff is satisfied that the racetrack operator is in compliance with these public

benefits and in some cases exceeding expectations. A brief summary of these public benefits is provided in Appendix A.

### Impact of Slots

The total number of permitted slot machines (600) was introduced in August 2008, and while it may be early to do a full analysis of impacts, indications are that the addition of slots has not materialized in some of the negative impacts raised as concerns during the rezoning process. These included increased traffic, problem gambling, prostitution and increased crime.

Police statistics indicate that there has been a decline in most crimes affecting business and residents, and no specific criminal activity affecting the neighbourhood could be directly linked to the introduction of slots. The following table demonstrates criminal activity trends for some key offences in the Hastings neighbourhood since 2006:

	Year	Assaults	Robbery	B&E	Theft MV	Prostitution	Traffic Accidents Fatal	Traffic Accidents Non Fatal
CITY TOTAL	2006	5760	1631	8656	4338	279	21	1374
CITY TOTAL	2007	5404	1528	7638	3924	198	23	1193
CITY TOTAL	2008	5490	1536	6825	2962	162	20	1174
Hastings Sunrise	2006	192	82	410	284	1	1	76
Hastings Sunrise	2007	191	51	325	238	0	2	68
Hastings Sunrise	2008	185	52	279	159	1	1	64

The Vancouver Police Department continues to have a good working relationship with the security personnel at both the Hastings Racecourse and at the PNE.

In regards to problem gambling, the last study on problem gambling prevalence was conducted by the Province in 2007 and released in January 2008 and therefore these slots were not included in the study. The 2007 study found that 4.6% of adult British Columbians are problem gamblers (0.9% categorized as severe problem gamblers). Casino types of games (including slot machines) were found to attract a higher percentage of problem gamblers. A new problem gambling study will be conducted in 2012. A copy of the latest provincial problem gambling study can be found at: <http://www.hsd.gov.bc.ca/gaming/responsible-gambling/index.htm#four>

### Hastings Legacy Fund

As of May 31, 2009, there is a balance of \$202,700 in the Social Responsibility Hastings Reserve. Annual contributions from Hasting Entertainment Inc. of \$100,000 (2007 base) with an annual CPI adjustment are expected until the Operational Agreement between the City

and Hastings Entertainment Inc. expires on October 2012, with an option to renew for another 15 years.

The original intent of this public benefit was to utilize the money “to help the City to provide benefits to the community and mitigate any potential problems”. Staff from Social Policy, in partnership with staff from other Departments, undertook the actions described below to gather community input, identify priorities and provide Council with the funding recommendations contained in this report.

### *Neighbourhood Survey*

On March 14, 2009, 1,400 English/Chinese surveys were distributed to the residents immediately surrounding the Hastings racetrack (copy attached as Appendix B). A survey with a large sample distribution of 1,400 surveys was used as a broad-based method to gather input from the general public. The response rate was 15%, however this is relatively high for a mail out survey. A listing of survey comments can be made available.

The survey asked respondents to rate neighbourhood priorities previously identified by other City processes which included: traffic control, parking enforcement; public realm improvements, and public safety. Respondents were also asked to identify and rate other priorities.

Of the four previously identified priorities:

- 51% of the respondents indicated that public safety was of a high priority,
- 39% indicated that public realm improvements was of a high priority,
- 33% indicated that traffic control was of a high priority, and
- 31% indicated that parking enforcement was of a high priority.

In addition, 117 respondents provided additional comments on the survey. The majority of these relate to public safety (i.e. community patrols), public realm improvements (i.e. beautification projects), traffic control (i.e. traffic calming devices on some streets), and parking enforcement (i.e. additional enforcement during large events). There were also suggestions related to community needs such as celebrations and support for community services (i.e. recreation programs).

Many respondents used this opportunity to provide feedback on City services that are beyond the scope of this report, including traffic control and parking enforcement. This information has been forwarded to respective City departments (i.e. Engineering Transportation Branch, Parking Enforcement, Hastings Park/PNE Planning).

### *Meeting with Neighbourhood Organizations - Proposals Received*

Staff met with six neighbourhood organizations to gather ideas on use of the HLF based on the community input received. These included the Hastings Community Centre Association; Hastings Business Improvement Association (BIA); Hastings North Community Policing Centre (CPC); Burrardview Neighbourhood Association; Hastings Sunrise CityPlan Committee, and Kiwassa Neighbourhood House.

Many of the local organizations submitted proposals, which constitute the basis for recommending allocations. Copies of the full proposals presented to staff are available in the Social Policy Division. A summary of these proposals is attached as Appendix C.

*Funds Distribution: Six Recommendations*

The recommended allocations from the Hastings Legacy Fund support neighbourhood priorities and include projects that will help to build strong, safe and inclusive communities and correspond with Council's interests in community capacity building, public safety, civic engagement, and supporting green initiatives at a neighbourhood level.

1. Kiwassa Neighbourhood House - Small Grants Program \$15,000

Staff recommend that \$15,000 be allocated to Kiwassa Neighbourhood House to administer a small grants program (up to \$1,500 each). The program builds on the Vancouver Foundation's Neighbourhood Small Grants initiative that Kiwassa administers, and will facilitate community development activities sponsored by local schools, artists, local business and agencies to engage such as celebrations, community gardens, mural paintings, etc. Kiwassa Neighbourhood House, the Hastings Community Centre, the Hastings BIA, and the Hastings CPC will form a steering committee to oversee the process.

2. Kiwassa NH /Hastings Comm. Ctr. Assoc. - Community Events \$40,000

It is proposed that \$40,000 be allocated to Kiwassa Neighbourhood House and the Hastings Community Centre Association to hire a Coordinator to help organize, promote, and coordinate a series of community festivals and celebrations. The funds will be used to support a Coordinator and for program expenses (i.e. publicity, transportation, administration, food).

3. Hastings BIA and the Hastings North CPC - Public Safety Initiative \$25,000

It is proposed that \$25,000 be allocated to a community patrol program that Hastings BIA and the Hastings North CPC will implement together.

4. Hastings BIA and the Hastings North CPC - Mural Project \$20,000

It is proposed that \$20,000 be allocated to this initiative. The Hastings BIA and the Hastings North CPC will organize a mural program to further complement the graffiti removal initiatives already in place in the neighbourhood.

5. Hastings North CPC - Year Long Litter Clean-Up \$10,000

The Hastings North CPC will organize litter clean-ups involving volunteers every second Saturday through out the year. It is proposed that \$10,000 be allocated to support this initiative.

6. Hasting Conservancy - Educational Project at Hastings Park \$20,000

It is proposed that \$20,000 be allocated to fund this proposal. The Hastings Conservancy will use an educational project to enhance the understanding of the natural and

environmental components of the Park. The implementation of this project will require coordination with staff from the Park Board, Hastings Park/PNE Planning, and other relevant Departments.

These six recommendations total \$130,000, leaving \$72,700 remaining in 2009. It is recommended that remaining funds be made available to respond to future resident and Council priorities.

*Reporting & Accountability Requirements*

City staff have used a streamlined approach to facilitate allocations while ensuring that appropriate processes are in place, to ensure the accountability required in all grant allocations. All grant recipients are registered societies and fulfill the basic requirements usually expected from grant recipients. All grant recipients will report on the use of funds and outcomes of the activities supported by the Hastings Legacy Fund. Grant recipients will be given a standard outcomes measurement tool utilized by grant recipients in other City grant streams. Outcomes will be reviewed by staff and will help to form recommendations to Council for future use of the fund.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The total contribution to the Hastings Legacy Fund to date is \$202,700. This will continue to grow at a rate of \$100,000 a year (with an annual CPI adjustment) until the Operational Agreement between the City and Hastings Entertainment Inc. expires (the existing Operating Agreement expires on October 2012, with an option to renew for another 15 years after that date).

Contributions to the Hastings Legacy Fund - November 2007	\$100,000
2008 Contribution (November 2008)	\$102,700
<b>Total Contributions To-date</b>	<b>\$202,700</b>

*Note:* The next instalment for the HLF will be received in November 2009

If the grants contained in this report are approved, the remaining available balance within the Hastings Legacy Fund will be \$72,700.

**CONCLUSION**

Upon reviewing all of the reports submitted by HEI for all public benefits, staff is satisfied that HEI is in compliance with the implementation of all public benefits.

The six allocations from the Hastings Legacy Fund recommended in this report address many of the interests and concerns of community groups and residents of the Hastings neighbourhood. The remaining unspent funds will be available to respond to future community needs to enhance the quality of life of the Hastings neighbourhood.

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REPORT BACK ON PUBLIC BENEFITS - HASTINGS ENTERTAINMENT INC.  
(Except Hastings Legacy Fund)

### Local Hiring

The Local Hiring Agreement signed between the City and Hastings Entertainment Inc. (HEI) requires that HEI should implement a local hiring policy whereby a minimum of 10% of new hires should come from residents in the Northeast sector of Vancouver, including the neighbourhoods of Hastings-Sunrise, Grandview Woodlands, and Strathcona.

Although the opening of a temporary gaming floor was in November 2007, recruitment and hiring for gaming staff occurred in October 2007. For the period between October 2007 and September 2008 the new hires statistics are as follows:

Number of new hires	205
Number hired within Local Hiring Zone	51
<b>Local Hiring percentage</b>	<b>24.9%</b>
Number of applications	1727
Number of local applications	387
Percentage of applicants within Local Hiring Zone	22.4%

For the period between October 2008 and April 2009 the new hires statistics are as follows:

Number of new hires	24
Number hired within Local Hiring Zone	7
<b>Local Hiring percentage</b>	<b>29.2%</b>
Number of applications	805
Number of local applications	105
Percentage of applicants within Local Hiring Zone	13.0%

At present there are 394 people working at the Hastings Racecourse.

### Childcare

HEI offered to build a permanent childcare facility to address the needs of both the racetrack workers as well as the community. The facility will have 44 childcare spaces. HEI was also committed to provide an operating subsidy for all 44 spaces.

In addition, the offer involved a commitment from HEI to fund an interim childcare program to address the needs of the racetrack workers until the permanent facility is constructed and operating. This interim program is in coordination with Kiwassa Neighbourhood House.

City staff have been working with HEI to facilitate the implementation of this public benefit. A Development Permit has been issued in May 2009. It is anticipated that construction of the childcare facility will be completed by the end of 2010. In the meantime, HEI continues to work with Kiwassa Neighbourhood House to offer temporary childcare services to HEI employees.

## Movie Nights

HEI offered two specific strategies to further enhance their linkages to the community. One of the initiatives is for HEI to host several nights each year where movies would be played in the infield, free of charge. The other initiative is an invitation to community groups to use the racetrack facility to engage in fundraising activities. HEI offered to sponsor the costs of hosting the Community Days (eight per year) at the racetrack, and to provide a grant of \$5,000 to each participating group.

Hastings Racecourse put on a series of six movie nights in 2008, which began shortly after sunset so as to provide enough darkness for the outdoor screen which was located in the infield. These movie nights were advertised through the Hastings Racecourse local community newsletter, posters, and faxes and emails to local organizations. The turnout for each movie night grew over the course of the six evenings with an average of 220 people in attendance. Movies were selected by a Movie Night Committee and movies appealing to children and youth were selected, as the following table indicates:

Date	Movie	Attendance
Tuesday, July 22, 2008	Shrek	225
Tuesday, July 29, 2008	E.T.	142
Tuesday, August 5, 2008	The Wizard of Oz	210
Saturday, September 13, 2008	Pirates of the Caribbean	275
Saturday, September 20, 2008	Spider Man	260
Saturday, September 27, 2008	Napoleon Dynamite	205

For 2009 HEI is planning to implement movie nights on August 10, 11 and 12 as well as on September 8, 9 and 10.

## Community Days

The Community Days program has also been very successful, with nine community groups having had the opportunity to utilize the racetrack for fundraising purposes as well as receiving a grant of \$5,000 and donated food for their guests (\$1,500 value) from HEI. The following table indicates the organizations selected during 2008:

Community Group	Date	Number of Guests
Swingers Slo-Pitch Club	Sunday, June 1, 2008	175
CirKids School of Circus Arts	Sunday, June 8, 2008	150
Kiwassa Neighbourhood House	Saturday, June 21, 2008	83
The Kettle Friendship Society	Saturday, June 28, 2008	150
Variety - The Children's Charity	Friday, August 8, 2008	175
Hastings Community School Society	Sunday, October 5, 2008	130
Franklin Community School Association	Sunday, October 5, 2008	75
Hastings CPC	Sunday, October 12, 2008	100
The Cultch (Vancouver East Cultural Centre)	Sunday, October 19, 2008	100

HEI is planning to implement another eight community days during the 2009 horse racing season. The eight organizations that have been selected for this year's community days are:

- Kiwassa Neighbourhood House
- Ray-Cam Cooperative Centre
- Vancouver Tap Dance Society
- VCC Foundation
- Crisis Intervention & Suicide Prevention Centre
- New Stride Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation
- Richmond Therapeutic Equestrian Society
- Variety-Children's Charity

### **Groom School and Learning Centre**

HEI agreed to create a local groom school to fully train and mentor workers who are involved in the care and grooming of the thoroughbred horses in the barn area of the racetrack. Considering the local hiring policy being implemented, HEI indicated that this groom school is also benefiting local residents working at the racetrack. The groom school was created in conjunction with the Horsemen's Benevolent & Protective Association of B.C. (HPBA).

In 2008, eight groom school students graduated from the two-week program. In 2009, HEI received 18 applications to attend the Groom School, and had 14 of them attend school, with 12 students graduating. Nine of the graduates were placed with Trainers.

HEI was also committing to continue funding the learning centre located at the racetrack. HEI has partnered with Capilano College to deliver skill development activities and program support at this learning centre. In addition to an Instructor from Capilano College, the Learning Centre functions with a number of volunteer tutors (five at present). This activity benefits both backstretch workers and employees of HEI working at the racetrack and slot machine operations. In 2008, the Learning Centre saw 1,720 drop-in visits. Classes cover one-on-one support to groups working on ESL, Spanish, High School Equivalence, and other topics.

LETTER TO RESIDENTS IN THE VICINITY OF HASTINGS RACECOURSE:



As part of the rezoning related to the Hastings Racecourse that allowed the introduction of slot machines to the site, the City accepted a number of public benefits from the racetrack operator. One benefit is an annual contribution of \$100,000 to the City, as part of a “Community Legacy Fund”, to help the City provide benefits to the community and mitigate potential problems related to the expansion of gaming at Hastings Racetrack.

City staff will be making recommendations to City Council identifying priorities for distribution of the funds. Before going to City Council, staff is requesting feedback from residents of the area surrounding the Hastings Racecourse, to help identify priority services or programs that could be enhanced.

Some priorities on how to mitigate potential impacts were already identified during the rezoning discussions. Neighbourhood priorities have also been identified by other City programs, and they include:

- traffic control (i.e. signals, traffic bulges)
- parking enforcement (i.e. additional parking enforcement)
- public realm improvements (i.e. beautification projects), and
- public safety (i.e. crime prevention programs)

The above are just some examples of potential uses for the Legacy Fund. However, with this survey of residents in the neighbourhood, we would like to rate existing priorities and learn about additional priorities. Please take a moment to fill out the attached survey and return it in the enclosed envelope prior to **March 24, 2009**. You may also fax or scan and email the survey to us.

If you require additional information please contact Mario Lee, Senior Social Planner, at the following address:

Mario Lee, Senior Social Planner  
 Vancouver City Hall  
 453 West 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
 Vancouver, B.C. V5Y 1V4  
[mario.lee@vancouver.ca](mailto:mario.lee@vancouver.ca)  
 Tel: 604-871-6034 Fax: 871-6048

**PRIORITIES**

Please rate each of the following identified priorities by putting an X in the box that corresponds with the level of priority (3 being high priority):

PRIORITY	1	2	3
Traffic Control			
Parking Enforcement			
Public Realm Improvements			
Public Safety			
Other (Specify)			
Other (Specify)			

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LETTER TO RESIDENTS IN THE VICINITY OF HASTINGS RACECOURSE:

Please feel free to include additional comments in the attached space. Thanks.

LETTER TO RESIDENTS IN THE VICINITY OF HASTINGS RACECOURSE:



致喜士定馬場鄰近居民信件：

溫哥華市政府在重劃喜士定馬場地區及容許場內設置吃角子老虎機的計劃中，從馬場方面獲得了一些公眾經濟利益，其中包括馬場每年向市府繳付十萬元，成立『社區承存基金』，令溫市社區受惠及減輕因喜士定馬場擴充博彩而可能引起的問題。

市府職員將向市議會提交有關基金分配優先次序的建議，但在提交建議之前，職員需要徵詢喜士定馬場附近居民的意見，藉此確定各項重點服務及可改善的項目。

我們在重劃地區時已確定了一些可減輕負面影響的重點項目，而與鄰舍有關的重點項目亦在其他市府計劃中獲得確認，包括：

- 增強交通管制(如交通訊號、行人過路安全點)
- 增強泊車執法(如增加泊車執法行動)
- 增強改善公眾地方設施(如美化項目)及
- 增強公眾安全(如防止罪案項目)

以上只是如何使用『承傳基金』的一些例子，但我們希望藉著這個向區內居民所作的調查，評核這些項目的重要性，同時發掘出更多項目的建議。請花一點時間填寫以下的調查表格，並使用付上的信封在**2009年3月24日**之前交回市府。閣下亦可以傳真或電郵遞交調查表格。

如需更多資料，請與高級社會規劃師Mario Lee聯絡，地址：

Mario Lee, Senior Social Planner,  
Vancouver City Hall, 453 West 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue,  
Vancouver, B.C. 5Y 1V4  
[mario.lee@vancouver.ca](mailto:mario.lee@vancouver.ca)

請在以下各欄以X符號給予1至3分的評分  
3是最需優先處理的項目

優先次序	1	2	3
增強交通管制			
增強泊車執法			
增強改善公眾地方設施項目			

LETTER TO RESIDENTS IN THE VICINITY OF HASTINGS RACECOURSE:

增強公共安全			
其他(請指出)			
其他(請指出)			

歡迎在以下一欄提供其他意見：

**SUMMARY OF PROJECT PROPOSALS PRESENTED BY HASTINGS-BASED COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS (submissions in full available with Social Policy)**

1. **Kiwassa Neighbourhood House:** Kiwassa Neighbourhood House noted that the Hastings Legacy Fund should stay in the local community and be used as intended, as a legacy to benefit the community, rather than for City services. Activities including festivals, celebrations, art projects and other community building events developed and organized by local groups are recommended to strengthen and improve the quality of life.
2. **Hastings Community Centre Association:** The Association is calling for the funds to be used for local groups or agencies to deliver programs or services that celebrate the Hastings community, make Hastings more safe or welcoming to all who live there, or otherwise build community capacity. As well, a portion of the funds might be used as seed money to start stand-alone programs. Specific ideas include community movies, community art projects, outdoor evening concerts during August at New Brighton Park, an annual summertime Hastings Park Day, and in winter, Light Water Drums, to celebrate the park and educate neighbours about the neighbourhood's assets and potential.
3. **Hastings BIA:** The Hastings Business Improvement Association, in partnership with the Hastings North CPC is proposing the following initiatives:
  - a) A joint Hastings-Sunrise Patrol Team funded by the BIA and managed by the CPC. It would enable the BIA and the CPC to have patrollers in the commercial district 3 days a week for 4 hours per shift.
  - b) A mural program involving local artists and volunteers. The proposed project would remove graffiti and paint historical and multicultural murals depicting the community at four previously identified sites. It would be implemented in partnership with the City's Graffiti Management program.

The BIA is also supportive of projects for festivals and celebrations organized in the community and supported by the local neighbourhood organizations.
4. **Hastings North Community Policing Centre:** The CPC proposes litter clean-ups in the Hastings neighbourhood every second Saturday throughout the year as a partnership with the City's Solid Waste Management program. The year-long clean-ups flow from the annual Keep Vancouver Spectacular held through-out the city during the month of May. This activity will aim to involve local volunteers and focus on youth participation as a mechanism to build recognition and appreciation for their own neighbourhood.
5. **Hastings Conservancy:** The Conservancy has submitted two proposals for consideration: an educational project to enhance the understanding of the natural and environmental components of the Park; and a request that washrooms be opened near playground and park sites on the east side of Hastings Park.