

NO: **R122**

COUNCIL DATE: **July 8, 2013**

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **July 2, 2013**

FROM: **General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture;
City Clerk**

FILE: **6140 – 20/CB**

SUBJECT: **Public Special Occasion License Request - Beach House Theatre Society**

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department and the Legislative Services Division recommend that Council approve the issuance of a Public Special Occasion License to the Beach House Theatre Society for the evenings of August 14 through August 18, 2013 inclusive in support of the Society's presentation of Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" at Blackie Spit Park all as generally described in this report.

BACKGROUND

Under Provincial liquor regulations, City Council is authorized to grant a Public Special Occasion License for community or public celebrations. Such a license allows for the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages during the celebration subject to certain conditions.

The Beach House Theatre Society ("the Society") presents theatre productions at Blackie Spit Park at Crescent Beach during the summer months. The Society presents professional live theatre to entertain, inspire and educate the local community in a unique location. The Society also offers educational and mentorship opportunities for youth who wish to gain experience in the performing arts.

In 2012, the Society presented Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" during the evenings of August 15th through August 19th. The production was staged within a 280-seat theatre tent. The production was very popular with all shows being sold out. The production received rave reviews from the community.

DISCUSSION

The Society is proposing to hold a similar event at Blackie Spit Park in 2013 by presenting Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" between August 14th and August 18th. They will be using a similar theatre tent to the one that was used last year. This year the Society would like to add a food & beverage tent to their event, which will be operated by Chef John Kavanagh, a local restaurant owner. The Society has requested that the City approve a licence to allow for the sale of wine and beer to patrons at the event. The Society's request is contained in a letter dated June 18, 2013, a copy of which is attached to this report as Appendix 1.

The food and beverage area within which the beer and wine will be sold will be secured. The catered food tent will allow patrons an opportunity to enjoy a small meal and a beverage before the show and during intermissions.

The Beach House Theatre is working with Surrey's Festival and Support Team (FEST) in the planning of the 2013 event. It is anticipated that up to 280 people will attend each presentation.

Staff is satisfied that that the issuance of a Public Special Occasion License to the Society is reasonable. The Society will be responsible for meeting all the requirements and stipulations of the RCMP, the BC Liquor Board and the City. The RCMP and City staff will monitor the operation of the licensed area to ensure that it is operated in accordance with the requirements of the various authorities.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The theatre presentation that is being planned by the Society will assist in meeting the following goals of the City's Sustainability Charter:

- Socio-Cultural Goal 12, being to establish a range of local cultural and entertainment opportunities throughout the City; and
- Socio-Cultural Goal 13, being to promote a variety of opportunities for community celebration and gatherings through local and City-wide events and festivals.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above discussion, the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department and the Legislative Services Division recommend that Council approve the issuance of a Public Special Occasion License to the Beach House Theatre Society for the evenings of August 14 through August 18, 2013 inclusive in support of the Society's presentation of Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" at Blackie Spit Park all as generally described in this report.

Laurie Cavan
General Manager,
Parks, Recreation and Culture

Jane Sullivan
City Clerk

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Appendix 1 – Letter, dated June 18, 2013, from the Beach House Theatre Society

Appendix 1 – Letter from the Society



Tuesday, June 18, 2013

Dear Mayor and Council,

The Beach House Theatre Society & Co. consists of a group of creative and talented theatre industry members and a Board of Directors who share an artistic vision. Our mission is to stage live theatre under a tent in Crescent Beach. We aim to create a memorable, artistic and cultural experience for our audience. Our purpose is to connect the arts with the local community, to inspire artistically minded youth, and to expose theatre-goers to the special charm of Crescent Beach. This is an excellent opportunity for the community to host an exciting summer event while boosting its profile as a progressive supporter of the arts.

Our Society incorporated in late 2010 and is a registered charity. We have worked tirelessly over the past three years to develop our Theatre Company and to fundraise for our productions. We are passionate about our special summer project and about our relationship with the community.

Our first production of Shakespeare's, "A Midsummer Night's Dream" was a smashing success. The production event involved a wide range of local performing artists, designers, technicians, actors and volunteers. Tickets sold out in just 4.5 days, proving that our local community has a keen appetite for a cultural event of this kind. We were very proud of how we made positive and collaborative connections with local businesses and groups. The Alexandra Neighbourhood House and the Crescent Beach Property Owner's Association were great supporters of our work. We were also thrilled to have been working closely with John Kavanagh, chef and owner of two popular Crescent Beach restaurants, The Seahorse Grill and Hooked Fish Bar. John was a sponsor of our event in numerous ways and contributed greatly to our success.

As we prepare for our event in 2013, our team would like to add a catered food tent to our event site. This would be a "Tapas Garden" spot that would be located in one corner of our lobby area. The tent will be catered by Chef John Kavanagh and it will offer our adult audience members the opportunity to have a glass of wine or beer with some of John's famous hors d'oeuvres. Adult patrons would be able to partake of the wine or beer with the food there from 7pm to 7:55pm before the show starts. Then, the Tapas Garden would be open to serve again during the 15 minute intermission. Our evening production of Shakespeare's, "Twelfth Night" runs from August 14 to 18, 2013. There is a 6' high fence around the perimeter of our site, and our event is for ticket holders only. We have two security guards hired to be present on site for the duration of our run. Our intention is to create a sophisticated experience for our audience members and we see it as an excellent opportunity to partner with a successful local business. This type of wine/beer service is available for the enjoyment of patrons at Vancouver's famous Bard on the Beach event, and we are seeking to re-create that experience here in Surrey. The Cultural Committee for the City of Surrey was very keen for us to develop partnerships with local businesses and this is a great way for us to do so.

We sincerely hope you will see fit to granting us permission to have a liquor license for our Beach House Theatre event. Please feel free to call us if you have any questions. We are also happy to meet in person any time. You can reach Candace Radcliffe, Artistic Director, at 604-710-4929. Or call Geoff McEvoy, Technical Director at 604-551-1481, or Rick Harmon, Co-Artistic Director, at 604-574-3044.

Sincerely,

Candace Radcliffe
Artistic Director

&

Fran McEvoy
President

Beach House Theatre Society