

Officer responsible Community Relations Unit Manager	Author Walter Friedel, Community Secretary
Corporate Plan Output: Community Recreation Programmes and Promotions	

The purpose of this report is to inform Community Board members of the “Generations in the Park” concept, and to get support for an event in a park in each Board area in the 2000/01 financial year.

BACKGROUND

The Generations in the Park Working Party was established out of a “Meeting of the Generations” initiative sponsored by the Mayor. One of the comments from that meeting was that the City’s parks were currently an underutilized asset and would be a perfect place for people from various generations to meet. Hence a Working Party, chaired by Carole Evans, was formed with a representative assigned from each Community Board. The first meeting of that Working Party was held on Friday 27 August 1999 (*minutes attached as pages 28 and 29*).

GENERATIONS ENJOYING EACH OTHER’S COMPANY

At its first meeting the Working Party established a vision based around “generations enjoying each other’s company”. The mechanism for making this happen is the City’s parks. A vision of people from all generations meeting in a local park in the middle of summer, with sausage sizzles, music and community group involvement was quickly established. The Team decided on the concept of a “Though the Decades” celebration, where music and dancing from the 1930’s through to the 1990’s would be performed. It was felt that this would give younger generations an appreciation of their grandparents’ era, older generations an appreciation of today’s music and culture, and give those from a 60’s generation the chance to remember what actually went on. The idea is to have a fun exciting event for generations to interact with each other, possibly explaining their generations and sharing stories of their experiences.

The Team felt that local choir, school and dance groups could be involved in performing a song or dance from each generation. It would also be important to get a master of ceremonies who could get everyone involved in the spirit of the event. Community Groups could also be encouraged to set up stalls and sausage sizzles. Early discussions also indicated a preference for a separate event held in a park in each Board area. These events would be coordinated through the Recreation and Arts Team of the Leisure Unit, with involvement and input from residents’ groups, schools, Age Concern, Grey Power and other community based organisations.

It is expected that each event would cost somewhere in the vicinity of \$5,000-10,000 and be funded through community board discretionary funds, although a proposal will be put together to apply for metropolitan funds. At this stage however the Working Party is simply asking for your Board’s support and any further ideas you may have to advance this concept. Each Board has a representative on the Working Party who will be in a position to answer any questions.

The Leisure Unit's Recreation and Arts Team has indicated that it could coordinate the event, however there are a number of projects being run from now through until June 2000. The Team feels that Generations in the Park should be held later on next year, enabling it to plan well in advance and to possibly merge other smaller events into a wider programme.

CONCLUSIONS

The Generations in the Park concept is a chance to create a high profile community event that will bring people from all ages together. Its primary purpose is to establish a sense of community and a sense of understanding between a diverse range of people. The Working Party hopes that the Board will lend its support to this event and continue its representation on the Working Party.

Recommendation: That the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board support a Generations in the Park "through the Decades" event in a park in its area

Chairperson's Recommendation: That the officer's recommendation be adopted.