



Council Member Motion

For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of April 4th, 2024

(time sensitive)

To: Committee of the Whole

Date: March 28th, 2024

From: Councillor Gardiner

Subject: Spot Prawn Family Event

BACKGROUND

Over this past week, Council members and City staff have received expressions of interest for the City to support in some way, through sponsorship, permitting, or in-kind contributions, a “Spot Prawn Festival” either on Erie Street or on Erie Street and Fisherman’s Wharf Park.

While a spot prawn festival has been held at MacDonald Park over the past two years, the desired 2024 Spot Prawn Festival, nearer to the family-friendly Fisherman’s Park and residential complexes, would be more low-key and family oriented than the 2022 and 2023 festivals.

To minimise local negative impacts of traffic disruption and noise while maximizing local positive opportunities for families and anyone wanting to learn about or consume Spot Prawns, those advocating for a Festival would:

- host several children’s exhibits or activities - *Open Ocean Robotics and Dakini Wild Seaweed, Dino Lab* (underwater sea fossils) and the *Maritime Museum of BC* (marine knot-tying),
- host general marine tables/displays including marine sustainability information tables/tents - *SurfRider Foundation, BC Young Fisherman’s Network, BC Spot Prawn Fisherman’s Association, and First Nations Fisheries Canada,*
- minimize traffic impacts by requesting that street closure be confined to Erie Street, leaving St Lawrence and Dallas Streets accessible, and
- minimize noise by retaining services of low-volume buskers or other source of music entertainment which does not include amplified sound (No music stage).

Support letters for a 2024 Spot Prawn Festival from nearby residents of the Reef and Shoal Point, Destination Victoria, and the Chamber, have been forwarded to the City.

As with the MacDonald Park 2022/2023 Spot Prawn festivals, local spot-prawn fishery business *Finest-at-Sea* would be offering prawns and have committed to setting up a *Chef’s Table/stage* for culinary entertainment. The spot-prawn feast will be augmented by offerings from not-for-profit *Imagine Café*.

There are very few family-oriented festivals in James Bay which are open to the general public. The area including Erie Street and Fisherman’s Park is ideal for a low key event. Children can partake in the activities and families can sit in Fisherman’s Park and enjoy the spot prawns. With the Festival intended to be open from 11am to 5pm, suggested controlled access to Erie Street from 7am to 7pm seems reasonable.

There would need to be a one-day bus/traffic street rerouting, just as there was last summer for the closure of Cook Street for the retail market.

While the festival's financial beneficiary would be the Maritime Museum of BC, I understand that the museum is not in a position to submit an application due to associated financial obligations that would accompany sponsorship.

Time is of the essence as the Spot Prawn season is short, over a 6-week period.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council direct staff to convene a meeting, or otherwise consult, with the organizations which have been identified as being interested in participating in a Spot Prawn Festival with the intent of the City facilitating the Spot Prawn Family event either through sponsoring or permitting, and with financial and/or in-kind contributions. Such festival to be held on a Sunday in May during the spot prawn season.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a circular scribble followed by a horizontal line.

Councillor Gardiner