



Date: March 14, 2002

TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation
FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: The Vancouver Aquarium

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board approve the attached design for the expansion of the research pool facilities at the Aquarium.

CURRENT POLICY

Based on Board authorization in November, 1998, a new 15 year occupancy agreement was signed with the Aquarium.

The agreement anticipates and approves in principle two minor expansions of the Aquarium totalling 392 sq. meters to create an education centre and expand the research pool compound. (Agreement reference attached).

BACKGROUND

The November 30th, 1998 Board resolution also noted that the detailed design of these two proposed and approved expansions come back to the Board for final approval.

The Aquarium now wishes to proceed with the research pool compound expansion and is seeking Board approval of its detailed design.

DISCUSSION

The Aquarium, in conjunction with a consortium of universities including UBC, has been studying stellar sea lion diet and growth patterns at the research pool since 1993. Space is limited and the current on deck pens and tanks are difficult to work with. The expansion proposes new “in-ground” pools and more ample maneuvering spaces on the deck surfaces.

The research pool is on the north end of the Aquarium and backs onto the Lumberman’s Arch picnic lawns. Currently it is shielded by a 6.5 meter deep bank of natural plantings which hide the wooden fence surrounding the pool.

With the proposed expansion the natural planting edge will be replaced by a 2 meter wide planter with a new, more formal horticultural layout. This will be backed by a new granite clad wall which will match the building surfaces immediately across the service entrance to the west. The wall will be the same height as the current fence. The appearance will be similar to the new bridge and underpass areas being built in conjunction with the Stanley Park S-Curve.

CONCLUSION

The research pool expansion has already been approved in principle by the Board. The proposed design outlined in this report will provide an appropriate backdrop to the adjacent park areas.

Prepared by:

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