

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
HELD AT THE PARK BOARD OFFICE
TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 2004
AT 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT:	Chair	- Anita Romaniuk
	Vice-Chair	- Loretta Woodcock
	Commissioners	- Suzanne Anton
		- Heather Deal
		- Allan De Genova
		- Eva Riccius
	General Manager	- Susan Mundick
	Director of Stanley District	- Jim Lowden
	Manager of Communications	- Joyce Courtney
	Recorder	- Julie Casanova

Aquarium Renovation / Expansion

Board members received copies of a staff report dated March 4, 2004 recommending that the Board approve the Development Permit application for the renovation and expansion of the laboratory and related work stations at the Aquarium.

Staff advised the Board that a renovation within the Aquarium footprint would not normally require a development permit, however, significant changes as a result of the vertical elevation and the added floor space require a development permit. The agreement with the Aquarium stipulates that the Board needs to approve proposed design prior to applying to the city for a development permit. The proposed changes are within the footprint of the Aquarium. The impact on the park is minimal and limited to a visual change in the building appearance.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board :

1. Ron Rothwell
2. John Nightingale, Vancouver Aquarium
3. Lance Barrett-Lennard, Vancouver Aquarium
4. Jeff Marliave, Vancouver Aquarium
5. Jim Kershaw, Vancouver Aquarium

The following is a summary of comments provided by the foregoing delegations:

- it would be in the best interest of the Aquarium to develop an alternate site outside of Stanley Park;
- parks are to be used as a park;
- an entity like the Aquarium should not be on public land;

- the decision to have the Aquarium in Stanley Park should be reversed;
- the Aquarium is a non-conforming use of the park and it creates traffic;
- the Aquarium building is old and needs revitalization;
- the Aquarium's focus is on conservation and research;
- the research lab work area is undersized and needs upgrading;
- research data is shared with other institutions working on conservation;
- staff do not have suitable work spaces in the research labs;
- the present work station set up is difficult for different groups to interact;
- do not intend to expand beyond the footprint of the present building for the lab expansion;
- offer opportunity for school children to visit the Aquarium and experience the life science program;
- important to have the researchers on site to provide answers to questions from visitors.

Board members thanked the delegations for their informative presentations and indicated that the tie between research and education was understood. The Board encouraged the Aquarium to continue with their education outreach program. Board members suggested that the Aquarium produce a 10 year vision plan as transparency of the organization is key and it is important that the public is provided with the information. There was a suggestion that the Aquarium keep the Board informed of their activities by regularly attending the Planning and Environment Committee meeting.

Moved by Commissioner Riccius,

THAT the Board approve the Development Permit application no. DE 408234 for the renovation and expansion of the laboratory and related work stations at the aquarium.

- Carried Unanimously.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Commissioner Riccius put forward the following notice of motion:

WHEREAS the current process of shaping the future of Hastings Park and of the PNE is premised on ‘building on complementing’ the Hastings Park Restoration Plan, which was supported by the community and unanimously approved by both Park Board and city Council in 1997;

WHEREAS the Park Board supports an annual fair in Hastings Park;

WHEREAS an Annual Fair, if properly designed and managed, can occur without sacrificing the principles contained in the Hastings Park Restoration Plan; and

WHEREAS alternative futures for the park are being presently developed and evaluated by a consultant team within an extremely restricted timeframe.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT :

The Park Board support the development of variations, which create a sustainable, accessible, public park that:

- A. connect the restored park areas (Italian Garden, Sanctuary and Empire Fields)
- B. continue with the development of Windermere Hill and the stream/pedestrian corridor to New Brighton Park
- C. creates an inviting edge and welcoming entrances to the park will accommodate an Annual Fair through:
 - the use of existing buildings and facilities on site including the racetrack grandstand and barns
 - the development of a temporary Midway with the existing Roller Coaster as its southern anchor
 - the development of a wide promenade along the Miller Drive alignment suitable to accommodate a range of Fair activities.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Susan Mundick
General Manager

Commissioner Anita Romaniuk
Chair