



Date: September 23, 2004

TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation

FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation

**SUBJECT: Aquarium Development Permit Submission –
Discovery Education Centre**

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board approve the design for the redevelopment of the “Discovery Education Centre” at the Vancouver Aquarium as illustrated in the attached drawings.

POLICY

The Board must approve all development permit submissions made to the City by the Vancouver Aquarium.

BACKGROUND

The 15 year licence agreement between the Board and the Aquarium was approved on November 30, 1998 and became effective on January 1, 1999. The agreement makes reference to the redevelopment of the education facility and provides for a 288.7 sq. meter expansion of the footprint in the north east corner of the site to accommodate this change.

On March 30, 2004 the Board approved the Development Permit application #DE 408234 for the renovation and expansion of the laboratory and related work stations at the Aquarium.

DISCUSSION

The concept for this redevelopment has been reviewed by staff. It entails the demolition of the north east corner of the building and will be replaced with a two storey plus basement facility. This addition will house a redeveloped laboratory, workstations and classrooms . It will create a net increase in the footprint of the Aquarium complex of 288.7sq. meters which excludes the landscaped area to the north of the Aquarium. The new second storey will not exceed the height of the existing roof line of the shark tank. The building face along Avison Way will vary in terms of set backs and materials. The

landscape treatment which wraps the north east corner of the facility will be redesigned to incorporate building lightwells and an outdoor water feature. The design as described was presented at a public open house on September 22, 2004 at Coal Harbour Community Centre. 25 members of the public attended the open house and 18 people filled out comment sheets, all of whom were in favor of the project.

This project is intended to follow the completion of the redevelopment of the research and laboratory facilities which are currently underway. It will utilize the same temporary construction compound and therefore create no further disruptions to the park.

The redevelopment is not envisaged as adding Aquarium staff, hence no significant parking changes are anticipated.

The project will be staged in two phases with initial construction to start in December, 2004. Phase one completion will be April, 2006. Phase two construction requires the completion of the funding program but is expected to commence in 2006.

CONCLUSION

Development permit submission approval is sought at this time to meet a construction date of December, 2004. This is designed to meet a funding grant close out date of March 30, 2006.

Prepared by:

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