

**Minutes of Meeting
Planning and Environment Committee**

DATE OF MEETING: January 13, 2004

ATTENDEES: **Park Board Commissioners**
Commissioner Eva Riccius, Chair
Commissioner Suzanne Anton
Commissioner Anita Romaniuk
Commissioner Loretta Woodcock

Park Board Staff

Piet Rutgers	Director of Planning and Operations
Jim Lowden	Director of Stanley District
Kate Davis-Johnson	Manager of Park Development
Mark Vulliamy	Manager of Research and Planning
Terry Walton	Manager of Recreation Services
Tim Chow	Engineering Assistant
Vera Sukopova	Planning and Operations (Recording Secretary)

Delegations

Tom Caverly	Volleyball BC
June Binkert	Save Our Parkland Association
John Nightingale	President of Vancouver Aquarium
Clint Wright	Vice President of Vancouver Aquarium

SUBJECT: Planning and Environment Committee Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Commissioner Eva Riccius welcomed all to the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee and the Commissioners introduced themselves.

The Agenda was presented as follows:

1. Approval of Minutes of Meeting from December 2, 2003
2. Volleyball Update
3. Seawall Upgrade
4. Aquarium Capital Project

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee dated December 2, 2003 were approved.

2. Volleyball Update

Terry Walton presented an overview on Sand Volleyball Task Force idea where new sand volleyball courts could be located. Those locations are:

- \$ Vanier Park
- \$ Sunset Beach
- \$ New Brighton Park
- \$ Hastings Park
- \$ John Hendry Park
- \$ Killamey Park

He showed a map of each park and proposed location of either twelve or four volleyball courts. The area necessary for four courts is about 1/4 acre.

He recommended that the Board would explore the six sites and he explained that the first step would be to solicit local opinion from key stakeholders such as community center associations prior to conducting public consultation.

Tom Caverly explained that the notion of additional courts at Spanish Bank and Jericho have not been accepted well by public for the past seven years and therefore they would like to find other locations where courts would be less intrusive. **June Binkert** asked to implement mitigation measure to reduce impact of courts on sites.

3. Seawall Upgrade

Tim Chow explained that a seawall pathway reconstruction project will cover 2300 meters of the Stanley Park seawall pathway from Ferguson Point to Lions Gate Bridge and that the project is planned from March 15 to May 21, 2004. Seawall will be closed to public during construction and detour routes will be marked. The estimated cost is about \$1.2 M.

The objectives of the project are:

- \$ To improve safety and reduce conflicts between pedestrians and rollerbladers/cyclist
- \$ To provide a new smooth surface
- \$ To improve drainage on seawall
- \$ To improve structural integrity of a pathway

\$ Reconstruction involves reclamation of existing asphalt, split-level curb separation of two paths, limited widening of the path where possible and a new asphalt pavement. There will be 500 m² (0.1 acre) of grass areas and 100 m² of (0.02 acre) of a sand beach lost due to widening. No trees will be removed and effect of construction on Cormorants/Guillemots nesting on Prospect Point Cliffs will be monitored by an Environmental Monitor if required by the Ministry of Environment.

Commissioners discussed the proposed use of pavers in a small section (about 100 m) near Prospect Point. Safety impact on rollerbladers was a concern and staff agreed to follow up with Skate patrol. Discussions also took place about public art. Jim Lowden explained that this section was too narrow, but a plan of potential public art sites elsewhere on the Seawall would be prepared.

4. Aquarium Capital Project

John Nightingale provided an overview on the history of the Aquarium and their plans over next decade.

The Aquarium opened in 1956 in Stanley Park and since its beginning has operated without annual operating subsidies from any level of government. Because the Aquarium will be 50 years old, many older parts of the Aquarium require renovation or replacement. The plan is to renovate approximately one-half of the Aquarium's total 225,000 square feet over a 10-12 year period. As part of this review they are exploring the feasibility of adding some limited new utility/infrastructure and office space below-grade, most likely under the parking lot which would require an amendment to the lease.

While doing that work, they want to provide better working conditions for staff which went from 139 in 1992 to 215 in 2003 as well as volunteers. In addition the water re-circulation and treatment systems and the electrical system need to be replaced.

The spaces to be renovated first are:

\$ **Research Centre - 2004** (located in the centre of the facility)

The Aquarium proposes to renovate and enlarge its Research Wing by adding a partial second storey in the centre of the building to support and centralize research programs. A Development Permit application to the City of Vancouver was submitted in the beginning of January 2004. The addition has been designed to have no impact on public view corridors for Park users. This project would not require a change to the lease.

\$ Discovery Education Centre - 2006 (to be located in the north/east corner of the building - currently used for offices) The centre will have new classroom and wet lab facilities to support both formal and informal education. It will also include Clownfish Cove, space for the World Ocean News Network team and some administration offices.

In subsequent years, partly depending on funding, they plan to revitalize the Tropic Zone, the Wild Coast (former killer whale pool), parts of Arctic Canada, and service infrastructure throughout.

Because the Aquarium receives no government operating subsidies, increased operating costs must be matched by increased earned revenues. Some of the funds will come from the Aquarium's own reserves, but the Aquarium will need assistance from private and corporate donors and from the public sector.

John Nightingale presented an idea that they could build a new building across Avison Way to accommodate their own staff during planned reconstruction and possibly provide this building after construction is finished to the Stanley Park Ecological Society, which now resides in a small office at Pavilion Restaurant building. **Jim Lowden** was asked to organize an initial meeting with the Ecological Society.

Commissioners had questions related to work and programs provided by the Aquarium and Commissioners asked John Nightingale to consider submitting a broad master plan for the next 10 years. Some further exploration of the education centre needs to be done, including the requirement to amend the lease agreement, before the Board could consider this proposal.

Jim Lowden explained that the Park Board will be asked to approve every alteration or addition to the Aquarium, if the Aquarium requires a development permit. He will prepare a report for the Board on the first stage **Research Centre** based on the submission for development permit.

CONCLUSION

Commissioner Riccius thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and putting forth their ideas and comments.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.