

Minutes of Meeting
Planning Committee, Vancouver Park Board

DATE OF MEETING: June 6, 2006

ATTENDEES: Park Board Commissioners
Commissioner Korina Houghton, Chair
Commissioner Spencer Herbert

Park Board Staff

Susan Mundick	General Manager
Piet Rutgers	Director of Planning and Operations
Joyce Courtney	Manager of Communications
Tilo Driessen	
Barbara Joughin	Committee Secretary

Delegations

Denis Howarth	Legislative Consultant
Riley Goldstone	Environment Law Centre
Calvin Sandborn	Environmental Law Centre
Kelly Bunting	Coalition for No Whales in Captivity
Keith Edwards	Coalition for No Whales in Captivity
Bryan Tisdall	Science World
Ken Spencer	Science World
Kevin Kearns	Science World
Jeff Devon	Science World
Marta Farevaag	Consultant to Science World

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm, with the following Agenda:

1. Approval of Minutes of May 29, 2006 Meeting
2. Coalition for No Whales in Captivity - Presentation
3. Science World Development Proposal
4. Ceperley Playground Proposal

1. Approval of Minutes of May 16, 2006 meeting

The minutes of the May 16, 2006 meeting were approved as presented.

2. Coalition for No Whales in Captivity - Presentation

On behalf of the Coalition for No Whales in Captivity (the Coalition), Denis Howarth presented the Committee with a letter of complaint of a violation of the Parks Control By-Law by the Vancouver Aquarium (the Aquarium). The report accompanying the letter of complaint summarized the Parks Control By-Law section 9(e), outlined actions of the Aquarium and the Park Board, and described the Coalition's interpretation of the Park Board's duty in the matter. He told the Committee that in 2004 the Coalition requested a formal position from the City of Vancouver but this has not yet been provided. He said that the Park Board made a factual determination of the case when it wrote the Aquarium on October 14, 2005 advising that the importation of the dolphin Hana would be a breach of the Parks Control By-Law, and it is now the Park Board's duty to commence prosecution of the Aquarium in this matter.

On behalf of the Coalition, he formally requested a response from the Park Board to its letter of February 4, 2004, and asked that the Park Board support a conviction of the Aquarium for breaching the Parks Control By-law on the importation of cetaceans. He noted that if the Park Board fails to enforce the by-law, citizens may register a complaint with the Park Board, register a complaint with the Vancouver Police or the City of Vancouver's by-law enforcement office, apply to the Supreme Court of British Columbia for an order to compel the City of Vancouver to enforce its by-law, or commence prosecution themselves.

Riley Goldstone presented the Committee with information about the importation of performing dolphins to Stanley Park. He said the Aquarium's purchase of dolphins supports the Futo dolphin drive fishery and the Enoshima Aquarium in Japan. The purpose of the Futo dolphin drive is to supply dolphins to Japanese aquariums and their breeding programs, and it is supported financially by the Enoshima Aquarium. He informed the Committee that the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums has stated that dolphin drive fishing is an unacceptable capture method for dolphins, and he concluded that purchasing dolphins from the Enoshima Aquarium supports this practice and contributes to other wild dolphins being taken in the dolphin drives. He asked the Park Board to enforce the Parks Control By-Law and strengthen it by restoring the wording that was originally proposed by the Park Board in 1996.

Delegations

- Keith Edwards noted that the Vancouver Aquarium's public consultation will be based on the expansion plans of the Aquarium. He said that it is appropriate for the Park Board to address the Aquarium's violation of the bylaw and as a Vancouver citizen, he hopes for legal action of some kind to help prevent other aquariums from breaching the laws.
- Kelly Bunting said the Park Board has an obligation to enforce the by-law, and if the Park Board does not, there will be legal action taken regardless of public consultation.
- A man said humans should have more consideration for animals, and noted there are many educational alternatives to keeping animals in captivity.
- Calvin Sandborn told the Committee that the Environmental Law Centre has been investigating the link between the Enoshima and Vancouver Aquariums, and offered their assistance in this regard.

Discussion

- A member of the Committee noted that while the Park Board Chair requested a legal opinion from the City of Vancouver in 2003, no such opinion was presented publicly. Staff explained that the Park Board heard the brief and made the determination not to respond in a public manner.
- A Committee member requested information about the process required to strengthen the Parks control By-Law and staff responded that the Board may change a by-law but in this case a long-term lease is in effect and any changes in the by-law would have to be done within negotiations for the lease.
- A member of the audience asked the Committee how the Board would respond to this call to action. A Committee member replied that dialogue with the public is preferable to litigation, and noted there will be a great deal of public consultation regarding the Vancouver Aquarium in the near future.
- A Committee member suggested that the Board come out of camera with a position on the issues, and the Committee discussed that the delegation's information be circulated to the Board and staff be requested to follow up.

Next Steps

The Planning Committee asked staff to distribute the information received at the meeting to the Board, follow up on the issues that were raised in the presentations, and report back.

3. Science World Development Proposal

Bryan Tisdall presented the Committee with information about the regeneration project that has recently been undertaken by Science World, and introduced Jeff Devons, Ken Spencer, and Kevin Kearns. Part of their regeneration vision is to create an 'Outdoor Science Experience' comprised of science exhibits placed outside the building that will focus on sustainability and encourage people of all ages to explore their natural and built environments. Science World proposes to do this in two ways, in an enclosed outdoor gallery for patrons of Science World, and with free outdoor exhibits, using large, durable, safe, and visually stimulating installations.

He outlined the consultation and design processes that have taken place which have cost about \$150,000 to date. Key planning principles include defining and improving the continuous and safe movement of pedestrians, cyclists and skaters, and minimizing view and noise impacts on neighbours. The proposed location for the enclosed outside area is in front of the existing Science World facility, with the free public displays placed to the south of the fenced area.

In order to proceed with further planning and design, Science World is requesting:

- Support for the concept of the Outdoor Science Park and its general location on the Indy chicane;
- Support for the location of the Environment Walk exhibits within the public open space to the south;
- Support for a revision to Science World's lease when a design has been agreed;
- Encouragement for a more extensive and detailed consultation process with the public and Park Board staff.

Discussion:

- A member of the Committee inquired about the results of Science World's public consultation. The delegation said that while the consultation process will continue, responses received to date support the proposed concept and location.
- A member of the Committee inquired about the involvement of the City's Bicycle Advisory Committee. A delegate explained that the Bicycle Advisory Committee has been involved as a key stakeholder. He said they are excited about opportunities to raise awareness about commuting alternatives, and have concerns related to managing movement through the site.
- The group discussed the problems that currently exist at this site due to the intersection of several different movement systems.
- A member of the Committee said any planning for this area should be coordinated with the development of other areas to the north and south.
- Staff told the Committee that City staff have notified Science World about several issues that need to be addressed including repairs to the water walk deck, and said that Council and the Park Board will receive a report on this process.
- The group discussed the proposed location of the expansion which include City and Park Board lands, and staff noted that approvals from both are required.
- A member of the delegation said that Science World needs approval in principle from the

City and Park Board before they can proceed with more detailed planning. Staff told the Committee that while there is support for the concept, the project must be carefully sited to meet the needs of each stakeholder and to ensure that waterfront continuity is maintained.

Comments from the Committee include: willing to support the idea; would like staff to work with the City and Science World to prepare a proposal for the Planning Committee or the Board; support the idea of free public access to sustainability exhibits; there are problems in that location now and can see it getting worse; concerned that there will be less land in a congested area; the connection with the park to north will be compromised; the project is too big; would prefer to have this come back later when the issues have been addressed.

Next Steps

The Planning Committee requested that staff continue to work with Science World and the City of Vancouver to resolve issues related to siting, movement management, preserving park quality, and waterfront park continuity.

4. Ceperley Playground Donation

On June 23, 1985, a bomb exploded on Air India Flight 182, killing all passengers and crew, including 280 Canadians. Every year since then, the victims have been commemorated at a ceremony held on a beach in Ireland near the accident site, and the families of the victims have asked the Canadian government to set up a commemorative site in Canada to reduce their burden of travel. Tilo Driessen told the Committee that the Park Board was approached by the Government of Canada in 2005 to explore how to create a commemorative site in Stanley Park that would provide opportunities for year-round remembering and an annual ceremony on June 23rd, which has been named as a national day of mourning. Vancouver has been identified as a good site because many of the families live in the Lower Mainland.

Park Board staff have cooperated with the Federal Government and representatives of the victims' families to develop criteria and a concept for a commemorative feature. The Federal Government has offered \$800,000 for park improvements and the creation of a children's play area near the Ceperley playing field in Stanley Park. The development will enhance enjoyment of the park with upgraded play, traffic school and folk dance areas and a new picnic area for families, and unused structures will be removed. The site will be used for an annual ceremony on June 23rd, and there may be a commemorative marker placed in the area. A request for proposals for design concepts has been placed and responses are due on June 13, 2006. The Park Board will not contribute funds but will manage the project and provide some services. The project will go through a public consultation process, and it is anticipated that construction of the site would be completed in time for the annual ceremony on June 23, 2007.

Discussion

- The Committee asked about the timeline of the project and staff said it is too late to do any public consultation before the summer break. A Committee member said it is important that the consultation take place while people are using the space and noted that consultation should not take place later than September.
- The group discussed a commemorative marker and staff suggested that it not include names and be designed to be dignified and unobtrusive.
- A member of the Committee requested that staff research any historical arrangements at Ceperley Park that need to be considered in the development of this project. Staff noted

there is an existing plaque to Mrs. Ceperley on the north side of the public washrooms.

Recommendation

The Planning Committee recommended that the Board accept the donation of \$800,000 from the Government of Canada to create a commemorative site of the Air India explosion in Stanley Park and endorse a selection of a project consultant. The Committee suggested that the public consultation take place no later than September 2006.

5. Next Meeting

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 20, 2006.