

July 18, 1996

SUBJECT: REDEVELOPMENT OF LOWER ZOO AREA

#### RECOMMENDATION

That the Board approve the attached concept plan for the restoration of the former Lower Zoo and Lumberman's Arch picnic areas.

#### BACKGROUND

The removal of zoo exhibitry is nearly complete. The penguins will be shipped out this fall, leaving only one polar bear which will remain until it dies. Staff and supporting consultants have developed a plan in 1995 to accomplish the following objectives (revised plan attached).

1. Provide an overall, simplified pedestrian network for the overall area. This would acknowledge existing and emerging desire lines for movement and remove redundant asphalt areas related to previous displays (approximately 1.8 acres).
2. Expand and enhance the existing partial stream and pond system into a consolidated, open watercourse from the Farmyard, Japanese monument area to the Coal Harbour shoreline. Three sub objectives are to:
  - a) develop other water sources to replace the existing potable water outlets,
  - b) reintroduce native trees and vegetation to support the stream environment and
  - c) in conjunction with the Aquarium, develop a salmon rearing and release interpretive display in the stream and related ponds.
3. Redevelop the plaza and food services in the area which previously held the monkey house, aviary, otter and penguin displays.
4. Reinforce the family nature of the Farmyard and adjacent picnic area by adding a major children's playground.
5. Redevelop the information kiosk on Park Drive as a Park Board run facility including public washrooms, information services and sales of packaged food, beverages and possibly souvenirs.

#### DISCUSSION

The underlying intent of the plan is not to create a number of new attractions in the park to replace the zoo and draw more people. It is

dominantly a landscape repair scheme, returning the old exhibit scars and related asphalt to native growth and lawn. It plays up the one natural unifying feature - the stream - and looks to introduce a natural phenomenon of interpretive value, a salmon run within parts of this proposed stream system.

There are the following impacts related to the opening up and connecting the stream to Coal Harbour and creating a green link from the seawall. Thirty-eight parking stalls in the lower parking lot will be removed and four ornamental maples and two cedar trees will be removed and replaced with indigenous coastal forest trees and understory. The redeveloped information centre will require the relocation of the horse drawn carriage stop to the east of the new stream bridge.

The concept was taken to a 3 day open house in Stanley Park last September. It has also been examined and refined by the different staff divisions. Reaction of both the public and staff has been supportive. The plan has also been presented to Aquarium staff and was displayed to the public on the hoardings adjacent to the Aquarium prior to demolition last fall. The result of Aquarium consultation is the joint effort to introduce a salmon rearing program to the stream upgrading.

Detailed design and related costing has not been pursued pending Board endorsement of the concept plan. With Board support, the following program will be undertaken.

- a) Proving out the hydrological and environmental aspects of building the stream, incorporating non-potable water sources and recirculation. This would occur in conjunction with the Aquarium.
- b) Pursuing, in conjunction with the Aquarium, a major donation program to fund the "salmon stream" in the Park.
- c) Detailing the walkway rationalization and related underground services and costing this construction for tendering this fall.
- d) Detailing the integration of a new playground, picnic area and east approaches to the Farmyard/trainride.
- e) Developing a food services overall plan for the central area of Park. Leading from this will be an image/menu/service design brief for the existing outlets and two replacement facilities.
- f) Based on the food service plan directions, design and cost of a replacement plaza in front of the Aquarium.

## CONCLUSION

Based on concept approval, staff are prepared to start asphalt removal and relandscaping this fall. Also, the playground can be added prior to next spring.

The stream enhancement program can be prepared as a donation package this fall with funding commitments hopefully materializing in spring '97.

The food services/plaza plan can be developed this fall for approval prior to Spring '97 with a potential construction start in fall '97.

Prepared by:

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Attachment

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