



Bloedel Conservatory Visitor Centre - Feasibility & Funding

Excerpted from Minutes April 11, 2022

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MOVED by Commissioner Coupar
SECONDED by Commissioner Mackinnon

Amendments (revising A, merging A & B) MOVED by Commissioner Demers

Final motion as amended:

WHEREAS:

1. The Vancouver Park Board manages the iconic Bloedel Conservatory at the pinnacle of Vancouver with the Vancouver Botanical Garden Association (VBGA) and has done so since 2012.
2. There has been an identified need to expand the Conservatory's footprint to include a visitor centre containing classrooms, gift shop, and food services; this need was confirmed in the joint business plan of 2011 and at a VBGA strategic planning session in November 2018; past VBGA Board motions also support the need for a new visitor centre, including formally indicating to the Park Board that they were prepared to contribute \$50,000 toward a feasibility study.
3. In March 2019, the VBGA President indicated the VBGA Board was prepared to fund a portable option as proof of concept and was prepared to tender a contract to purchase. In July 2019, in support of Bloedel Conservatory's 50th anniversary, the Park Board approved a [motion](#) directing staff to explore the feasibility of allocating up to \$150,000 from the operating budget to provide a portable for the VBGA to do public education at Bloedel; staff indicated in the [feasibility report back](#) that although it was not possible to provide a facility for the 50th anniversary celebrations, staff would continue to work with the VBGA toward the goal of increased programming capacity for Bloedel Conservatory.
4. In the book "[The Jewel atop Vancouver: 50 years at the Bloedel Conservatory](#)", published to commemorate the 50th anniversary and signed by Stephen Shapiro, the Executive Director of VBGA, the VBGA has signalled that improvements can be made through investments from both donors and taxpayers alike in building a state-of-the-art Visitor Centre that includes: a new admissions and information desk; an airlock door for better temperature control; a classroom to deliver and expand on world class education programming; and a café with food service for guests to enjoy refreshments. Continued investment in the collections will ensure endangered plant species can be saved and cultivated in the Conservatory's environment. Since then, the VBGA has discussed plans to raise up to 5 million dollars in support of this new addition.
5. The Park Board will soon be deciding on Capital funding priorities for the upcoming 4 year Capital Plan, and almost 10 years have passed since the need for a new Visitor Centre was identified in the joint business plan.



THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board accept the offer of \$50,000 from the Vancouver Botanical Garden Association (VBGA) toward funding a feasibility study for a new Visitor Centre at the Bloedel Conservatory, and that this feasibility study be carried out concurrently with the ongoing work on the Queen Elizabeth Park Master Plan.
- B. THAT staff report back with the study findings and recommendations for next steps.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY