



Council/School Board Liaison Committee

- Date: Tuesday, November 30th, 2004
- Place: Anderson Room
Richmond City Hall
- Present: Councillor Evelina Halsey-Brandt, Chair
School Trustee Sandra Bourque
School Trustee Linda McPhail
- Absent: Councillor Derek Dang
- Also Present: B. Beairsto, Superintendent of Schools, School District No. 38 (Richmond)
K. L. Morris, Secretary-Treasurer, School District No. 38 (Richmond)
G. McLean, Manager, Facilities
E. Thorliefson, Energy & Project Manager, School District No. 38 (Richmond)
K. Sparrow, Director, Recreation & Cultural Services
G. Barstow, Manager, Parks Operations
D. Pearson, Manager, Community Bylaws
M. Daykin, Assistant Manager – Environmental Programs
F. J. Ashton, Executive Assistant, City Clerk's Office
- Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

1. It was moved and seconded
That the agenda for the meeting of Tuesday, September 28th, 2004, be adopted; and that the order of the agenda be varied to deal with Item Nos. 4.4 and 4.1 in that order, at the beginning of the agenda.

CARRIED

Council/School Board Liaison Committee

Tuesday, November 30th, 2004

MINUTES

2. It was moved and seconded

That the minutes of the meeting of the Council/School Board Liaison Committee held on Tuesday, September 28th, 2004, be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

4.4 One Tonne Challenge

(City Memo: Nov. 27/04; File No.: 10-6125-00/Vol 01) (REDMS No. 1362908)

The Assistant Manager – Environmental Programs, Margot Daykin, accompanied by Eric Thorleifson, Energy & Project Manager for the School District, provided information on the selection of the City as one of Canada's 1-Tonne Challenge Communities. She reported that the City would receive a \$200,000 Environment Canada grant and other resources from the Federal Government to support existing initiatives to encourage the community to reduce local greenhouse gas emissions and address climate change.

Discussion ensued on:

- the steps being taken by the School District to provide more energy efficient heating and lighting systems in schools, and the significant amount of savings being realized annually by the District
- the need to make not only staff and students, but Richmond residents as a whole, more aware of climate change and greenhouse gas emissions, what causes greenhouse emissions; and the impact of these emissions on our climate
- the leadership role of the City in energy management
- the opportunities which exist within the City to connect the 1-Tonne Challenge to other City programs, such as the upcoming 'active communities program' which would be launched within the next year
- the need to change the perspective of Richmond residents through awareness and education, by alerting them to the fact that Richmond is a low-lying area which would flood as a result of global warming; and that parents driving their children to school were adding to the problem of greenhouse gas emissions and global warming
- the connection of health and obesity to the impact of global warming due to declining air quality and increased bacteria, virus and parasite populations.

Reference was made to the issue of parents driving their children to school, and the comment was made that the two main reasons were because (i) proper sidewalks were not available around certain schools, and (ii) a perception that walking to school was no longer safe. The Chair commented, in response, that the schools without proper sidewalks should be identified and the City's Traffic Department requested to review these particular situations.

Council/School Board Liaison Committee

Tuesday, November 30th, 2004

Ms. Daykin then left the meeting.

4.1 Richmond Secondary School Artificial Turf Delay (Oral report)

Mr. Thorleifson, accompanied by the Director, Parks Operations, Gord Barstow, reported that installation of the turf had been delayed because of unexpected problems which had been encountered with the demolition of the old building, with another contractor who had been hired to complete the site works, and with the fact that the 'rainy' season had now commenced, which has resulted in the field now being a quagmire. He expressed confidence that the basic groundwork leading up to the installation of the artificial turf could be completed within the next month, and that the final installation would take place in the Spring of 2005.

A brief discussion ensued, during which Mr. Barstow voiced his concerns about the delay and asked that the City be advised when the artificial turf was installed. He advised that it was the City's intention to close four fields in 2005 for maintenance and replacement of the existing field surfaces, and this work could only be completed with the opening of the Richmond Secondary playing field.

Mr. Thorleifson and Mr. Barstow then left the meeting.

3. BUSINESS ARISING

3.1 Survey on Municipal/School District Relationship - Update (Oral report)

The Superintendent of Schools, Bruce Beairsto, advised that Cathy Volkering Carlile had asked that the proposed survey be delayed until after the upcoming Council retreat, which was now anticipated to be held in January or early February of 2005.

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Richmond Secondary School Artificial Turf Delay (Oral report)

See Page 3 of these minutes for discussion on this matter.

4.2a 2004 Halloween Activities (City Memo: Nov. 4/04; File No.:) (REDMS No. 1351749)

4.2b Halloween Safety Issues and the Board's support for same (e.g. banning of fireworks) (Oral report) (Discussion Item)

Council/School Board Liaison Committee

Tuesday, November 30th, 2004

The Manager, Bylaw Enforcement, Don Pearson, reviewed his memorandum (a copy of which is on file in the City Clerk's Office), noting that the information provided did not reflect all the activity which occurred in the City during the Halloween period.

Mr. Pearson reported that Lower Mainland Fire Chiefs were undertaking a survey to determine if there was any interest in obtaining a regional ban on fireworks, and that it appeared that there was a willingness to explore that option.

Discussion ensued among Committee members and staff on a possible fireworks ban, whether such a ban would reduce the amount of damage to Richmond schools which occurred each Halloween, and whether other options could be considered which would reduce this damage.

The feasibility of using volunteers was discussed, with the comment being made that the police should be involved in any future discussions on this matter. At the same time, reference was made to the use of 'rockets' as weapons by certain individuals, which would decrease the likelihood of Blockwatch and other volunteers wishing to put themselves into that kind of danger.

Also addressed was the need to find other diversions or organized activities which would draw some of the offenders off the streets and away from trouble. As well, the suggestion was made that for Halloween, all school lights should remain on.

As a result of the discussion, the Chair stated that the City would work with the School District on possible options, and review the situation prior to Halloween, 2005.

4.3 City's Requirement for Specific Number of Parking Spaces at Schools

(Discussion item)

The Manager, Facilities, Garry McLean, provided information on a problem which was being experienced by the School District with respect to the number of parking spaces to be provided for educational facilities as required in the City's Zoning & Development Bylaw, and the number actually needed. He stated that this requirement restricted the use of the land for other applications.

A brief discussion ensued, as a result of which, the Chair referred the matter to staff for review and report to the Planning Committee. The Chair further requested that the School Board be advised when this matter would be on a Planning Committee agenda as it was important that a School Trustee speak to this matter at that meeting.

Council/School Board Liaison Committee

Tuesday, November 30th, 2004

4.4 One Tonne Challenge

(City Memo: Nov. 27/04; File No.: 10-6125-00/Vol 01) (REDMS No. 1362908)

See Page 2 of these minutes for discussion on this matter.

5. INFORMATION ITEMS

5.1 School Planning and Construction Schedule

(Report: November, 2004) (File No.: 0155-02)

Mr. McLean reported that the planning of the new Steveston Secondary School had now been completed, and was in the process of finalizing the agreement with the Ministry of Education on the size of the school. He noted that a decision had not yet been made on the future of the salmon hatchery at the school.

Mr. Beairsto spoke briefly about meetings which had been held with the General Manager, Urban Development, Joe Erceg, which have resulted in the establishment of a 'one stop shopping' procedure with respect to rezoning applications submitted by the School District to the City.

6. PENDING ITEMS

None.

7. FUTURE MEETING DATES

The next meeting of the Council/School Board Liaison Committee is scheduled to be held at 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, February 15th, 2005, in the School District offices.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded

That the meeting adjourn (10:35 a.m.).

CARRIED

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the meeting of the Council/School Board Liaison Committee held on Tuesday, November 30th, 2004.

Councillor Evelina Halsey-Brandt
Chair

Fran J. Ashton
Executive Assistant, City Clerk's Office