



# COUNCIL/SCHOOL BOARD LIAISON COMMITTEE

## MINUTES

Date: Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2000

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Place: W. H. Anderson Committee Room  
Richmond City Hall

Present: Councillor Lyn Greenhill, Chair  
Councillor Harold Steves  
Trustee Sandra Bourque  
Trustee Chris Evans

Also Present: Ms. K. Sparrow, Director, Recreation & Cultural Services  
Mr. Dave Semple, Director, Parks  
Mr. Joe Erceg, Manager, Development Applications  
Mr. Ken Morris, Secretary-Treasurer  
Mr. G. McLean, Manager of Facilities  
Mrs. F. Ashton, Executive Assistant

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

1. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

It was moved and seconded

***That the agenda for the meeting of Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2000, be adopted.***

**CARRIED**

2. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

It was moved and seconded

***That the minutes of the meeting of the Council/School Board Liaison Committee held on Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2000, be adopted as circulated.***

**CARRIED**

3. BUSINESS ARISING

3.1 Joint School Board/City Task Force on Safe Meeting Places for Youth  
(City Memo: Nov. 7/00; File No.: 0100-20-JSBC1) (REDMS 215364)

The Director, Recreation & Cultural Services, Kate Sparrow, reported on the results of the September 29<sup>th</sup> Joint Task Force meeting, advising that representatives of the City Parks Department, the School District, the RCMP and the Recreation & Cultural Services Department had met to talk about the establishment of the task force. She stated that one of the key issues was whether the recent evening parks closures had had a negative impact, and advised that the RCMP only enforced the regulation when there appeared to be a problem occurring. Ms. Sparrow advised that the Parks Department had also reported no negative impact resulting from the closure.

Ms. Sparrow advised that discussion then ensued on many other issues, including what action should be taken, and the age and type of youth to be targeted. As a result, the group had agreed that there was more which could be done in the community, however problems arose when discussion centred around who would assume responsibility for doing more. It was agreed that while resources should be dedicated to that responsibility, group members expressed concern that they already had enough to do and did not have the time to survey youth or involve them in discussions. Ms. Sparrow stated that the group was now seeking further direction and clarification from the Council/School Board Liaison Committee before proceeding any further. She noted that the existing youth programs with youth coordinators, was having a positive impact, however such high cost programs as the nightshift program would require additional resources to expand the programs further.

Ms. Sparrow advised that one of the issues raised by the Police was that the needs of the surrounding neighbourhoods would have to be considered when selecting appropriate locations for late evening programs. She stated that there should be an education program and the raising of public awareness about needs of Richmond youth. She commented that because of the issues which surround youth and the difficulties in opening facilities late at night, the programs offered might not necessarily meet the need.

Discussion then ensued among Committee members and staff on the results of the meeting, during which the following information and comments were provided:

- feedback from the agencies was that additional staff time was required to deal with the youth issue and that an interagency approach was the most appropriate manner to address problems

- the School Board had a policy on the provision of City access to school gymnasiums up until 11:00 p.m. at night, however the policy had been written at a time when the District did not have a 'graveyard shift' at certain school facilities; the opinion was expressed that it would not be a great inconvenience to provide the gymnasium at McMath Secondary School, especially since this school had been subjected to significant acts of vandalism; having people in the school might prevent the vandalism from occurring; further advice was given that other schools with 'graveyard shifts' could also be considered
- concern was expressed that there appeared to be a breakdown with parents as some made sure that their children were involved in appropriate activities, while others did not, and the suggestion was made that parents should be contacted on this issue
- a private gymnasium should not be used to provide activities for local youth as the programs offered were not the types of activities needed; community supported activities were needed, however the financial resources were not available to supervise the after-hours programs; the School Board was willing to look at the use of the gymnasium space and to co-operate with others to provide youth services
- the provision of supervision was questioned, especially when part of being a youth was a reduction in the amount of supervision and having a sense of freedom; the opinion was voiced that the community needed to find ways of expanding upon what was good for those youth for whom the police and social workers had concerns, so that it became more obvious that that was the place to be; the opinion was expressed that nothing more could be said on behalf of the School Board until the issue was taken to the Board for further discussion to determine exactly what the Board was willing to offer, and to hear from others as to what they were willing to do and offer
- the City Youth Strategy was already in existence, and the City continued to look for ways of working with the community, community associations, etc., to increase opportunities for youth; there were youth co-ordinators in a number of different centres who were looking at different strategies to acknowledge those youth not involved in the traditional programs
- support was voiced for having the schools open in the evening, and the suggestion was made that the revenue returned to the City from casino operations would give the City the opportunity to fund these late night openings; it was noted that Council had indicated that it wanted a large part of the funds to go to the young people

Discussion centred around the use of school facilities late at night, during which the School District was commended for offering these sites. The opinion was voiced that the City now had to examine how community associations could put programming into these schools. The comment was also made that it was important to encourage a sense of community in neighbourhoods to acknowledge that their youth were important and were prepared to accommodate

a certain amount of disruption. The suggestion was made that this issue should be addressed before making decisions on which schools would be opened. The importance of involving parents was also addressed and the comment was made that discussions should be held with youth on how this could be accomplished. Also discussed was the challenges created by Richmond's ethnic diversity and about the need to consider both long and short term solutions concurrently.

Reference was made to the questions raised by Ms. Sparrow as to how to proceed to the next step. The Chair asked whether on-going staff meetings would be more appropriate than forming a task force, or did the Council/School Board Liaison Committee go to its respective agencies indicating that the best way to proceed would be through the provision of additional resources. The comment was made that either way would require the involvement of the School District and City Council, however a further comment was made that dedicated staff time on the part of the School District would be difficult. The history of the proposed task force, which was at the initiative of the School District, was then reviewed by Trustee Bourque.

Ms. Sparrow noted during the discussion that the group had agreed that there was more which could and should be done. She added that the reference to additional research was not intended to mean a youth survey, but rather, talking to youth, police, school representatives and other stakeholders. Ms. Sparrow stated that schools had access to youth and therefore the means to talk to them, however the group indicated that they did not have the time to educate people to sit down and analyze the information to make sure that the programs being offered would attract youth with problems.

Discussion continued, during which the Chair clarified that the question which the School Board representatives would take to the Board, is do we want a task force and if we did, how would you support that task force. She indicated that City staff would take the same question to the Community Services Committee.

Support was offered for a task force, and the comment was made that the City could undertake the project, and that additional casino funding could be considered to support this initiative. Discussion ensued on the establishment of a task force, during which the comment was made that clarification was needed on whether the task force would be comprised of staff or public volunteers. It was noted that Mr. Morris had indicated that sending School District staff to meetings would not be a problem, however, talking to youth would be difficult. The comment was also made that more information was required about the scope of the task force to decide whether there were other avenues available either for staff or the public.

As a result of the discussion, the Chair directed Ms. Sparrow to prepare a report to the Community Services Committee on the scope of what could be considered.

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1 MacNeill Secondary School Site  
(Memo: Nov. 8/00; File No.: 8060-20-7050)

Mr. Morris referred to the conditions which had to be completed prior to the adoption of the zoning amendment bylaw for the school site, and indicated that the School District had been optimistic that it could proceed to tender for the school even though these conditions had not yet been completed.

Mr. Morris advised however that the Ministry of Education had indicated that the tender call could not proceed until these conditions were resolved. He further indicated that discussions were being held with the Ministry on this matter, and that School District staff were hopeful that they would be able to proceed with the tender call.

Reference was made to the resolution adopted by City Council with regard to public vehicular access to the school site, and to the wording which had been added "*That subject to the School Board acquiring the agreed upon properties on Granville Avenue and No. 4 Road.....*". The Chair indicated that the wording had been added because of concerns about how access would be provided to the rear properties if the land along Granville Avenue and No. 4 Road was not purchased. A brief discussion ensued on this matter, during which it was noted that City Council wanted to have the opportunity to review the situation if these properties were not acquired.

4.2 McNair Secondary School - Paving  
(Oral report )

Mr. Morris noted that the School District had originally intended to pave the area from the northerly edge of the school to the Fire Hall to provide additional parking, and that the plan had subsequently been scaled down to pave only as far as the portable music room. He stated that because of the cost of installing drainage and other improvements, the District's plans to pave around the music room had been put on hold, and would proceed incrementally over the next two years.

A brief discussion ensued, during which questions were raised about whether the area which was to have been paved, would be covered in a gravel base. School District staff were also requested to advise the City's Manager of Transportation about this decision because of the impact which this decision might have on transportation needs in the area.

4.3 City 5 Year Capital Plan  
(Report: Nov. 9/00; File No.: 0970-02-01)

The Manager, Development Applications, Joe Erceg, briefly reviewed the City's 5 Year Capital Plan with the Committee, and discussion ensued between Committee members and staff on the various components of the program. Mr. Erceg indicated during the discussion that he, as leader of the Budget Team, would be willing to meet with Committee members to address specific projects.

Discussion also took place on the City's Land Acquisition Program, during which advice was given by Mr. Erceg that based on current economic realities, projections for the next five years were not good.

**5. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**5.1 Planning and Construction Schedules - New/Renovations**  
(Memo: Sept. 12/00; File No.: 0155-02)

Mr. Morris briefly reviewed the schedule, noting that Spul'u'kwuks Elementary School was now open. With regard to Richmond Secondary School, the over 18 architects had responded to the proposal call; a short list had now been created. Mr. Morris suggested that future Development Cost Charges would be impacted because the only remaining large School District project was the rebuilding of Steveston Secondary. A brief discussion then ensued between Committee members and staff on Development Cost Charge payments.

**6. PENDING ITEMS**

None.

**7. FUTURE MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council/School Board Liaison Committee would be held at **1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2001** at the School District Offices.

Concern was expressed about the delay which would result in staff reporting further to the Committee on the proposed youth task force, and as a result, it was agreed that Ms. Sparrow would submit her report directly to the Community Services Committee.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved and seconded  
***That the regular meeting of the Council/School Board Liaison Committee be adjourned (2:23 p.m.).***

**CARRIED**

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Council/School Board Liaison Committee held on Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2000.

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Councillor Lyn Greenhill  
Chair

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Fran J. Ashton  
Executive Assistant