

## Community Services Committee

Date: Tuesday, January 11, 2000

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

Present: Councillor Harold Steves, Chair  
Councillor Derek Dang, Vice-Chair  
Councillor Malcolm Brodie  
Councillor Ken Johnston  
Councillor Linda Barnes

Also Present: Councillor Lyn Greenhill

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

### MINUTES

1. It was moved and seconded

***That the minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 1999 be adopted.***

**CARRIED**

2. Mr. Richard Zokol of Richard Zokol Enterprises Ltd. & Callidus Golf Designs Inc. was in attendance to make a presentation to the Committee. Referring to golf as the "game of life, for life", Mr. Zokol reviewed his proposal to form a partnership with the City for a public daily fee community centre golf facility. He gave a brief overview of his background in golf, both in the United States and Canada and stated that, as an ambassador for the game, he takes special pride in representing Canada, and British Columbia and the Lower Mainland. He noted his desire to contribute to the community by building an affordable and accessible golf facility for young people.

David McLellan, General Manager, Urban Development advised that staff had been in discussions with Mr. Zokol regarding the proposal and had also investigated other facilities. Mr. McLellan advised that staff have reviewed a site for the proposed project, approximately 170 acres in size, outside of the Agricultural Land Reserve and Federal Lands and will provide further information at the General Purposes (closed) meeting of Monday, January 17, 2000.

Mr. Zokol stated that research shows the Pacific Northwest makes maximum use of golf facilities in North America due to mild winter and summers. It was anticipated that the proposed course could offer up to 80,000 rounds annually and that the facility would be maintained by professional golf management. Mr. Zokol noted the cost of golf facilities in Richmond, e.g. Mayfair Lakes,

Greenacres, etc. and stated that there was no course of this category presently in Richmond. The City would provide the land for a percentage of the revenue and the private sector would build and operate the facility with a minimum lease of 25 years. A price of \$32.50 per game was quoted with the suggestion that Richmond residents could get a discounted rate. Mr. Zokol observed that other courses may charge over \$60.00 dollars per game. He stated that this would be a links type of course with few trees and referenced courses of this kind in Scotland and Arizona.

It was moved and seconded

***That staff bring forward a report on the feasibility of a community centred public golf facility.***

**CARRIED**

Councillor Barnes, in accordance with Section 231 of the Municipal Act, advised that she was in a potential conflict of interest as her husband is a fire fighter, and left the meeting (4:40 p.m.).

3. **ENGINE 4 STAFFING RECOMMENDATIONS**

(Report: Dec. 15/99, File 160-01, REDMS 124398)

**Designated Speaker:** Reg Smith

Reg Smith, Manager, Special Projects, provided a brief overview of the staff report. He referred to the four options in the report and recommended that fire dispatchers be re-deployed to Engine 4 to increase staffing from three to four fire fighters once E-Comm assumes dispatching responsibility.

Reference was made to a letter dated January 11, 2000 from Geoff Lake, President of the Richmond Fire Fighters Association (Schedule A) suggesting that due to the delay in the "Go Live" date for E-comm, "the money saved be used to immediately staff Engine #4 at a safe level, (4-men)".

Councillor Dang advised that he was awaiting word on the specific start date for this Program.

Geoff Lake, President, Richmond Fire Fighters Association was in attendance and reiterated the contents of the submitted correspondence for the Committee members.

Chuck Gale, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works, advised that a protocol was in place and that, prior to the new Workers Compensation Board regulation on this matter, three man engines had been used for some time. He agreed there was additional risk but stated that it was difficult to quantify. He noted other municipalities with three-man engines, i.e. New Westminster, Surrey, etc. He stated that the provisional budget includes funding for E-Comm and reported that funding for E-Comm will now be prorated.

It was noted that due to the significant turnover of staff at present, there would be no difficulty accommodating the acquisition of the five bodies necessary to maintain one position.

It was moved and seconded

***That five additional fire fighters be immediately hired to increase Engine 4 from a 3-man crew to a 4-man crew with the provision that, once E-comm is activated, the fire dispatchers are used in the rotation, and the complement be reduced by five PCC numbers.***

**CARRIED**

4. **REVIEW OF OVERTIME EXPENDITURE IN FIRE/RESCUE**

(Report: Dec. 5/99, File 0100-01, REDMS 122267)

**Designated Speaker:** Chuck Gale

The General Manager, Engineering and Public Works provided a brief review of the staff report. He advised that previously, overtime had been utilized to accommodate additional staffing needs, but due to changes within the department, it was now felt that less expense would be incurred with the hiring of younger, less expensive fire fighters. If ten additional fire fighters were hired, approximately \$260,000 would be saved annually and would significantly reduce the budget over the long term. Mr. Gale then noted some difficulties in the hiring process which will undergo review in the near future.

Geoff Lake stated that the Union supports the concept and will attach a letter of support to the collective agreement.

It was moved and seconded

**(1) *That Resolution No 90/1-15, adopted by Council in-camera on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 1990 (and released to the public on January 22, 1990) which addressed the new firehall, and equipment and manpower levels in the Fire Department, be rescinded in its entirety, and***

**(2) *That approval be given to create 10 new Fire Rescue positions (as outlined in the report dated December 5<sup>th</sup>, 1999, from the General Manager, Engineering & Public Works).***

**CARRIED**

Councillor Barnes returned to the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

5. **GENERAL MANAGER'S UPDATE**

- a) Mr. D. McLellan advised that negotiations have concluded with the appropriate parties resulting in changes to community centre agreements. Staff will continue to work on the documents.
- b) Mr. D. Semple, Director, Parks provided photographs for the perusal of committee members indicating that work would be commencing on stabilizing Building No. 9 at Britannia. He stated that approval had been obtained from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans for the work which would include replacing a rotted section of the Chinese bunkhouse and stabilization of land. He noted that the work is being done with grants from the federal government.
- c) Mr. Semple advised that they have been working with the Fishers Alliance Group on a number of projects including repair of the work floats at McDonald Beach and debris clean-up in Garry Point Park. A further summary of activities will be submitted in the near future.

- d) Gordon Barstow, Manager, Parks provided photographs showing a typical healthy, but large tree, originally planted on private property, but now spread onto City property and commented on the difficulties this poses for the City. He advised of the necessity of reviewing the policy and procedures regarding trees on public property in order to facilitate City crews addressing this issue

**ADJOURNMENT**

6. It was moved and seconded  
***That the meeting be adjourned at 5:35 p.m.***

**CARRIED**

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee of the Council of the City of Richmond held on Tuesday, January 11, 2000.

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Councillor Harold Steves  
Chair

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Susan Kopeschny  
Administrative Assistant