



COUNCIL/SCHOOL BOARD LIAISON COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Date: Wednesday, January 19th, 2000

Time: 1:30 p.m.

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

Present: Councillor Lyn Greenhill, Chair
Councillor Harold Steves (entered at 1:50 p.m.)
Trustee Sandra Bourque
Trustee Chris Evans

Also Present: Mr. David McLellan, General Manager, Urban Development
Mr. Dave Semple, Director, Parks (1:42 p.m.)
Mr. Mike Redpath, Co-ordinator, Partnership & Stewardship Programs
Ms. S. Carter-Huffman, Senior Planner/Urban Design
Mr. K. Morris, Secretary-Treasurer
Mr. B. Fraser, Deputy Secretary-Treasurer
Mr. G. McLean, Manager of Facilities
Mrs. F. Ashton, Committee Clerk

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the agenda for the meeting of Wednesday, January 19th, 2000, be adopted, with the addition of the following items to the agenda under 'New Business':

- (a) the School District's 2001/2002 Capital Budget Submission; and***
- (b) the membership of School Trustees on the City's Intercultural Relations Committee.***

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 23rd, 1999, be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Council/School Board Liaison Committee held on Wednesday, December 15th, 1999 be adopted with an amendment to the third line of the first paragraph of Page 4, by deleting the words "vehicle access on No. 4 Road and instead would be looking for a pedestrian access from Granville Avenue", and by substituting the words "right-in, left-out and right-out at a signalized intersection at No. 4 Road and Granville Avenue".

CARRIED

The Committee agreed to deal with Item 4.1 at this time, while awaiting the arrival of Councillor Steves.

- 4.1 Dogs Off Leash in Public Parks and School Grounds
(City Memo: Jan. 12/00; File No.: 2300-03-02) (REDMS 129082, 82706, 99350)

The Co-ordinator, Partnership & Stewardship Programs, Michael Redpath, reviewed his memorandum with Committee members. He indicated that the City's Dog Off-Leash Program began on a trial basis in March of 1999, with 6 parks which did not border on school park sites, other than the McCallum Road right-of-way, included in the program.

Reference was made to a proposal been received by the Mayor from approximately 30 residents of the Rideau Park area who wished to have the Rideau School Park site designated as a dog off-leash area. Mr. Redpath stated that the request was reviewed by the Rideau School Parent Advisory Committee, at which time many concerns were expressed about the likelihood that residents from outside Richmond would come to use the park. It was noted during the discussion that the park was already unofficially used as a dog off-leash area and residents did not want to draw any further attention to the park for this use. As a result of the concerns expressed, the recommendation was made that the City continue with its education program rather than designating the park as a dog off-leash area.

The Director, Parks, Dave Semple, commented briefly on the situation, reiterating the concerns of residents that visitors from outside of Richmond would bring their dogs to the park. In response to a question from the Chair, he confirmed that staff were recommending that no change be made to the designation of the Rideau School Park site as a dog off-leash area.

Mr. Redpath referred to the existing dog off-leash program, and he advised that staff were in the process of evaluating the program, based on feedback from various users of the 6 off-leash areas. He further advised that the Greater Vancouver Regional District was hosting a seminar on 'dogs off-leash' and that the City's program was being considered as a possible model for GVRD parks. Mr. Redpath added that staff would be recommending the continuation of the City program.

Discussion then ensued among Committee members and staff on the program. Trustee Evans provided information on a bylaw passed by a town in New Zealand which established when dogs could be in parks off-leash and she questioned whether staff were giving any thought to a similar bylaw for the entire City. She stated that such a bylaw would allow those individuals who did not like dogs, to use the parks without fear of being accosted by these animals. In response, Mr. Redpath advised that staff had examined different models, including the City of Vancouver, to prepare the criteria for the current program. He noted that requests had been received to make Garry Point Park a dog off-leash area during winter months, however, he stated that the park, because it was a community park, did not meet established criteria.

(Councillor Steves entered the meeting at 1:50 p.m.).

Trustee Bourque advised that she had encountered as many as 7 to 10 off-leash dogs on the West Dyke which was in contravention of existing regulations, and she questioned whether the City relied only on the SPCA for enforcement. The Chair confirmed in response, that the SPCA had a contract with the City to undertake enforcement of dog control regulations, and that the SPCA provided frequent patrols of the dykes to ensure that these rules were being obeyed. Trustee Bourque added that she would find it difficult to support a school park site as a dog off-leash area because, while a majority of dog owners were responsible and cleaned up after their dogs, some were not, and then the issue became a health problem.

The Chair indicated that no further action would be taken until such time as City staff had had the opportunity to complete its evaluation of the program.

3. BUSINESS ARISING

3.1 MacNeill Secondary Site

(School District Memo: Jan. 11/00; File No.: 8060-20-7050) (REDMS 127748)

Secretary-Treasurer Ken Morris advised that he had had this issue placed on the agenda as a consequence of events which had transpired and in anticipation of the need for further discussion as a result of the Planning Committee meeting of the previous day.

The General Manager, Urban Development Division, David McLellan referred to the issues relating to the designation of a roadway at the southerly edge of the school perimeter. He suggested that these concerns could be mutually addressed in a meeting between Mr. Morris and himself, and that the School District and the City could then convince Victoria to accept the solution. Mr. McLellan commented that it appeared that both groups preferred the original concept, and he expressed the belief that it would be worthwhile exploring this option in greater detail.

Reference was made to the amount of the Development Cost Charges (DCC) to be paid to the City, and Mr. Morris advised that the fee would be approximately \$ 1 Million. He questioned whether this money would be placed into a 'pool of funds' and would be used throughout the City to undertake various improvements

rather than benefiting local residents. Mr. McLellan confirmed that this was true, however, some of the DCC programs which were proposed, such as work on No. 4 Road and the upgrade of Granville Avenue, would take place in the McLennan area. Reference was made to the poor road conditions along No. 4 Road, and Mr. Morris questioned whether DCCs would provide the funds for improvements to the roadway. Advice was given by Mr. McLellan that other mechanisms would be explored to deal with this particular roadway, rather than taking funds from the project itself. He added that DCCs would finance the upgrading of the area's water trunk system, as well as to assist with the acquisition of needed road and park land requirements.

A lengthy discussion then ensued among Committee members and staff on this matter. Mr. Morris commented at the beginning, that he hoped that Ministry staff would be putting in writing, the Minister's position regarding the dedication and disposal of land as it related to the proposed school site.

Reference was made to the issue of 'time lines' and to the fact that this matter had been referred to staff for clarification, and questions were raised about the process that Council and staff would be pursuing to return the matter to Council for consideration. Trustee Bourque stated that if City staff could not provide a reasonable time line, then the School Board would have to examine other alternatives and would be asking the Minister of Education to redirect the funds for the MacNeill Secondary School project elsewhere. She stressed that the Board faced a very tight time line because of the impending change in Provincial Government leadership.

Mr. McLellan advised that there were two aspects which had to be considered which would affect the time line, the first being that there was a concern about how much land had been acquired for the proposed school. He stated that the second issue related to access and circulation around the school site, and he suggested that if the City and School District could find a mutually acceptable solution, then the issues could be dealt with quickly.

(Superintendent Chris Kelly entered the meeting at 2:00 p.m.)

Trustee Bourque advised that the School District had made major concessions with regard to the rezoning application in direct relation to the comments made by Suzanne Carter-Huffman in a letter to the School District dated January 7th, 2000. She questioned what the City's intentions would be with respect to the rezoning application if the proposed roadway did not proceed.

In response, the Chair noted that Trustee Bourque was referring to two different levels, and that what staff negotiated or talked about usually suited that they think they would want, to get the project to the second level, which was Council. Discussion then ensued between the Chair and Trustee Bourque about the City's rezoning process and the difficulties which the Board was having in understanding the process, especially when the Board had made major concessions in an effort to have the zoning application expedited. Mr. McLellan noted during the discussion that the problems being experienced by the School Board were typical at the development level. He advised that in most development scenarios, the developer would set its own time line.

Trustee Evans expressed the opinion that this issue had arisen because this was not the first time that the application had been on a Planning Committee agenda. She stated that in the initial discussions with both City and School District staff, staff had come to the conclusion that there would be a park drive, however, it subsequently became clear that this requirement was going to be an issue. Trustee Evans explained that because of the questions raised about the proposed park drive at the initial Planning Committee meeting when this matter was considered, the application was referred to staff for further review. She noted however that Council had indicated that the park drive would remain as part of the development, but she expressed the hope that all concerned would realize that this would not be feasible. Trustee Evans referred to the proposed alternate solution which was submitted to the Planning Committee on January 18th, 2000 with a recommendation that it be supported because this option was supported by the School Board, however, the application was again referred to staff. She questioned how many times the matter could be presented to the Planning Committee and subsequently referred back to staff. She noted that the School District was advised to submit its rezoning application for the subject property, which it did, and still the application had not been brought before Council for approval. She asked at what point City staff would cease its negotiations.

The Chair reviewed the history of the rezoning application with Committee members, during which she noted that the first referral to staff from the Planning Committee dealt with the concerns of area residents, while the second referral was made to allow discussions to take place between the City and School District in a closed meeting on proposed land acquisitions. In response to questions, the Chair advised that it was conceivable that the rezoning application could be placed on the agenda for the February 8th, 2000 Planning Committee meeting, considered by Council at its meeting of February 14th, and submitted to the March Public Hearing. Cllr. Steves added that, with respect to the proposed driveway, a great deal would depend on the letter from the Minister of Education on this issue, assuming that the City and School District would want to have a meeting with the Minister.

Discussion continued on this matter, during which the Chair noted that there were still 4 members of Council who had not yet reviewed the proposal. The Chair added that it might be possible to hold a special Public Hearing, rather than waiting until the March Public Hearing, at which time the rezoning bylaw could receive three readings, and possibly be adopted, if there were no legal requirements which had to be completed.

Mr. Morris, in answer to questions from Trustee Evans, advised that the School District could apply for funding once the rezoning bylaw had received three readings. He indicated that staff were finalizing working drawings which would be 90% complete by the end of January, and were hopeful that the tender call would be approved by the end of February. Mr. Morris further advised that School District staff had already submitted the proposed building plans to the City's Permits & Licence section for a preliminary review. Reference was made to possible legal requirements, and advice was given by Ms. Carter-Huffman that two legal requirements – provision of a utilities right-of-way for a sanitary sewer system and completion of a subdivision agreement for the consolidation of three

properties on No. 4 Road, would have to be completed prior to adoption of the bylaw. She advised, however, that it would be possible to require the completion of not only the legal requirements but also the development requirements as a condition of obtaining the building permit. Mr. Morris added that fulfillment of these requirements would be subject to the approval of the Minister of Education. He referred to the need to provide a utility right-of-way, and stated that while School District staff did not anticipate any problems with regard to this requirement, staff could not ask the Minister to give advance approval.

Trustee Evans referred to a request made at the recent School Board meeting that the issue of traffic circulation be referred to the Traffic Advisory Technical Committee. In response, the Chair asked that the Manager of Transportation Gordon Chan be advised of this issue, and that the Trustee be asked to contact Mr. Chan on this matter. Trustee Bourque indicated, in response, that the Board would send a letter to the City on this matter.

3.2 Public Parks & School Grounds Bylaw
(City Memo: Jan. 12/00; File No.: 8060-20-6959) (REDMS 129082, 82706, 99350)

Mr. Semple briefly reviewed the report with Committee members, noting that this matter was being submitted for information.

A brief discussion ensued during which Mr. Morris recommended that the proposed bylaw be submitted to the School District's District Management Committee and the Facilities Building Committee for review as staff had practical concerns which needed to be addressed. In response to a request for City staff to be in attendance during these reviews, Mr. Semple advised that Mr. Redpath and he would attend both meetings. In response to questions from Mr. Redpath, Mr. Morris advised that clarification was required on some of the terminology being used, and he provided examples of specific issues, such as substituting "Superintendent of Schools" for "Secretary-Treasurer".

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Dogs Off Leash in Public Parks and School Grounds
(City Memo: Jan. 12/00; File No.: 2300-03-02) (REDMS 129082, 82706, 99350)

See Page 2 of these minutes for action taken on this matter.

4.2 School District's 2001/2002 Capital Budget Submission

Mr. Morris advised that the District had just received its 2001/2002 Capital Budget submission from the Minister of Education and would be forwarding a copy to the City for its review.

4.3 Attendance of School Trustee at Meetings of the Advisory Committee on Intercultural Relations

Trustee Bourque expressed concern about the effectiveness of having a School Trustee sitting on the Advisory Committee on Intercultural Relations, as it seemed that the Trustee attending a meeting would spend the entire time advising Committee members on School District issues. She recommended that a Trustee not be required to attending meetings on a regular basis, but rather that a Trustee be requested to attend only if there was a particular issue which required a Trustee's input.

Mr. McLellan advised that staff in co-operation with the subject group have undertaken a review of all City advisory committees, and he provided information on the status of the Advisory Committee on Intercultural Relations, which is inactive at the present time. Discussion continued briefly on whether the Trustees should restrict themselves to issues which were believed to be related to the School District. The Chair advised that if the City decided to strike up a task force, the School District would be invited to participate, no matter what the issue might be.

5. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

5.1 Planning and Construction Schedule Renovations – January, 2000.

Mr. Morris reviewed the schedule with Committee members, during which he noted that the elementary school in Terra Nova was now under construction, and would be completed in time for a September opening.

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, February 16th, 2000** in the W. H. Anderson Room, Richmond City Hall.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

It was MOVED and SECONDED

That the regular meeting of the Council/School Board Liaison Committee be adjourned (2:35 p.m.).

CARRIED

Certified a true and correct copy of
the Minutes of the Council/School
Board Liaison Committee held on
Wednesday, January 19th, 2000.

Councillor Lyn Greenhill
Chair

Fran J. Ashton
Executive Assistant