



MINUTES

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, February 5th, 2001

Place: Anderson Room
Richmond City Hall

Present: Mayor Greg Halsey-Brandt, Chair
Councillor Linda Barnes
Councillor Malcolm Brodie
Councillor Derek Dang (entered at 4:02 p.m.)
Councillor Lyn Greenhill
Councillor Kiichi Kumagai
Councillor Ken Johnston
Councillor Bill McNulty (entered at 4:47 p.m.)
Councillor Harold Steves

Call to Order: 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 General Purposes Committee held on Monday, January 15th, 2001, be adopted as circulated.
CARRIED

FINANCE & CORPORATE SERVICES DIVISION

2. **APPLICATION BY GUJARATI SOCIETY FOR AN ADDITIONAL LATE NIGHT EVENT (RAVE) LOCATION**
(Report: Nov. 30/00, File No.: 8060-20-7179) (REDMS No. 239070, 202263) (Referred from the January 15th, 2001 Committee meeting.)

City Solicitor Paul Kendrick reported that the owners of 11460 Horseshoe Way were not in attendance at today's meeting, that the owners were endeavouring to find a buyer for the building; and that the required public information had not yet been held with adjacent property owners. He advised that as a result, staff were recommending that the application to have 11460 Horseshoe Way approved as a location to hold late night (rave) events be denied.

In response to questions, Mr. Kendrick stated that the owners were aware of the proceedings now taking place.

Discussion then ensued among Committee members and staff on the problems being experienced by adjacent property owners and lessors as a result of events currently being held at 11460 Horseshoe Way, and whether there were options available to deal with the situation. Information was provided during the discussion that the City could require non-profit societies to obtain business licences; and that in the event the property was rezoned, the existing use could continue as being legally non-conforming and would only cease if the use stopped for a period of six months.

It was moved and seconded

That the application by the Gujarati Society of BC to have 11460 Horseshoe Way identified as an approved location to hold late night dance (rave) events, BE DENIED.

The question on the motion was not called, as discussion continued on the ramifications of requiring specific non-profit societies to obtain business licences. Advice was given that in the event that the current use continued at 11460 Horseshoe Way, a business licence would be required.

The question on the motion was then called, and it was **CARRIED**.

3. **2001 GRANTS PROGRAM**

(Report: Dec. 17/00, File No.: 1085-01) (REDMS Nos. 251726)

The Manager, Customer Services, Anne Stevens, accompanied by Social & Community Planner Kari Huhtala, reviewed the report with Committee members. During her review, Ms. Stevens advised that the amount of \$3,500 (recommended for the Richmond Mother & Child Society) was now available for distribution because that Society was no longer in existence.

During the discussion which ensued, Ms. Stevens provided information on such issues as:

- the amount of funding provided to community associations, both through grant applications and within the City's operating budget
- the Category 2 designation and how organizations within this category were impacted by the designation.

Ms. Frances Clark, of 8160 Railway Avenue, spoke about the grant applications which had been submitted by the Richmond Committee on Disability and the Richmond Therapeutic Equestrian Society, and about her belief that the City was not providing sufficient support to the disabled community. A copy of Ms. Clark's submission is attached as Schedule A and forms part of these minutes.

In response to questions from Committee members on how she thought the City might assist the disabled, Ms. Clark made the following comments:

- the City could hold workshops to bring community groups together to examine what action should be taken as well as providing information on how to hold successful fund-raising and other revenue generating events
- the City should contribute more within its budget system to Richmond's disabled population

- the General Manager, Urban Development David McLellan had included a line item in the proposed operating budget for costs related to the operation of the Independent Living Centre

During the discussion staff responded to questions from Committee members on such issues as:

- why the City would be paying for costs in a centre which was not a City facility and which was not staffed by City employees
- the timing of applications submitted for casino funding and the impact which this would have on those organizations to which the suggestion had been made that they apply for casino funding (if qualified).

It was moved and seconded

That the grants (identified in the report dated December 17th, 2000, from the Manager, Customer Services):

- (1) for Health and Social Services applicants be awarded and the cheques disbursed for a total of \$248,200; and***
- (2) for Cultural, Community Promotions and Summer Programs applicants be awarded and the cheques disbursed for a total of \$68,300.***

The question on the motion was not called, as the following **amendment** was introduced:

It was moved and seconded

That the Health, Socials Services & Others and the Cultural, Community Promotions and Summer Programs components of the 2001 Grant Applications be amended to redistribute the \$3,500 grant to the Richmond Mother and Child Care Society to:

- (a) the Richmond Committee on Disability and the Richmond Therapeutic Equestrian Society in the amount of \$1,500 each; and:***
- (b) the Sea Island Community Association in the amount of \$500.***

CARRIED

The question on the motion, as amended, was then called, and it was **CARRIED**.

It was moved and seconded

That staff examine and report on the costs of facilitating a workshop for non-profit societies to deal with fund-raising and other constructive revenue generating proposals.

Prior to the question being called, staff were asked to review the financial contributions made by the Ministry for Children & Families and other ministries giving money to non-profit societies, to determine the amount of funding provided to these organizations over the past few years.

The question on the motion was then called, and it was **CARRIED**.

COMMUNITY SAFETY DIVISION

4. **COMMUNITY POLICING COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY**

(Report: Feb. 5/01, File No.: 5355-01) (REDMS No. 263479)

The Manager, Communication & Public Affairs, Ted Townsend, accompanied by the General Manager, Community Safety, Chuck Gale, reviewed his report with the Committee.

Mr. Gale, in commenting on the report and its recommendations, advised that if the proposed recommendations were adopted by Council, he would like the opportunity to report to Committee in the future on how these recommendations would be implemented.

Discussion then ensued among Committee members and staff on such issues as:

- the community police stations and whether these stations were functioning as initially intended
- the purpose of the community consultative groups, why these groups became dysfunctional; and the need to review the goals and objectives of the community consultative groups and the community police stations to ensure that the needs of the community were being met
- the role of local community centres in distributing information and providing rooms for holding forums on specific issues, as part of the public awareness campaign.

(Councillor McNulty entered the meeting at 4:47 p.m., during the discussion on the above matter.)

It was moved and seconded

- (1) ***That the Community Policing Communications Strategy be endorsed in principle with the strategy to be reviewed and updated once the Community Safety Division is implemented.***
- (2) ***That a public awareness campaign be undertaken to better inform Richmond residents of the implications of the creation of the new Community Safety Division and of proposed initiatives arising from the BC Policing Study.***
- (3) ***That the public awareness campaign include public information/consultation meetings designed to introduce the new Community Safety Division and seek input in developing the overall vision for delivery of public safety services.***
- (4) ***That the RCMP be encouraged to re-establish community consultative groups at each of the Community Police Stations with a mandate to improve communications to neighbourhoods regarding specific safety matters happening in their area; further, the RCMP be encouraged to co-ordinate its own ongoing public awareness campaign on community policing with City initiatives and to involve auxiliary constables in these efforts.***

- (5) *That the City website's section on Police/RCMP Services be expanded to provide more detailed information on community policing programs and in particular the roles and functions of the Community Police Stations.*
- (6) *That the Manager, Communication and Public Affairs take action specified in the Community Policing Communications Strategy to raise public awareness of the Citizen's Advisory Committee on Policing in order to increase its effectiveness as an advocate for community policing and as a forum for public input on issues surrounding the delivery of policing services.*
- (7) *That the Community Safety Division co-ordinate its communications strategy to reflect all community policing-related initiatives, including the Task Force on Drugs and Crime.*

CARRIED

ENGINEERING & PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION

5. **PROVINCIAL COURT FACILITY, 7577 ELMBRIDGE WAY - APPOINTMENT OF ARCHITECTS**

(Report: Jan. 12/01, File No.: 2050-20-CHT) (REDMS No. 247947)

The Manager, Facilities Planning & Construction, David Naysmith, reviewed the report with the Committee.

In response to questions from Committee members, Mr. Naysmith advised that:

- the fees proposed were for the entire project; if the required lease was not successfully negotiated within the next short while, the financial impact would be minimal because the design consultant would be instructed not to proceed with the preparation of the plans until the lease arrangements were completed
- staff were confident that the firm was qualified to undertake the work as the company had undertaken large projects which involved police and correctional facilities and had the expertise to interpret the needs related to this type of renovation project.

It was moved and seconded

That the appointment of Kasian Kennedy be approved as the prime consultants for the refurbishment of the Interim City Hall building as the Provincial Courts facility at a fee of \$264,500 plus GST.

CARRIED

URBAN DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

6. **ABANDONED RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS**

(Report: January 17/01, File No.: 8080-01) (REDMS No. 215570, 263030, 264921)

The Manager, Community Bylaws, Sandra Tokarczyk, accompanied by the Manager, Building Approvals, Rick Bortolussi, and Bylaw Enforcement Office Larry Wilson, reviewed the report with the Committee.

In response to questions, information was provided on the status of those buildings listed in Attachment 1 to the staff report.

Ms. Carolyn Racich, of 3591 Sexsmith Road, advised that there were a number of abandoned homes in her neighbourhood which had not been included in the list provided in Attachment 1. In reply to questions from the Chair, Ms. Racich indicated that she had provided this information to the City sometime ago.

Discussion then ensued among Committee members and staff on the procedures which would be followed and the time frame required to review complaints received about damaged and abandoned buildings. In response to questions from the Chair, Ms. Tokarczyk advised that a response to the addresses identified by Ms. Racich should be completed in one month's time.

It was moved and seconded

That the report (dated January 17th, 2001, from the Manager, Community Bylaws and the Manager, Building Approvals) regarding abandoned residential buildings, be received for information.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded

That the meeting adjourn (5:31 p.m.).

CARRIED

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee of the Council of the City of Richmond held on Monday, February 5th, 2001.

Mayor Greg Halsey-Brandt
Chair

Fran J. Ashton
Executive Assistant

COMMUNITY GRANTS

February 5, 2001

Your Worship & Members of Council,

Keeping in mind my experience of the year 2000, I submitted two grant applications for \$50,000. A bit high, you will say, in relation to the overall budget of one group. However, after the response I got from a Councillor last year that "you should be happy to receive 25% of what you apply for". what was I to do in order to get your attention.

Last year, token grants were offered to the two organizations this year the recommendation is to give nothing to either group. The report does, however, take this money and recommends new grants for groups that are obviously serving able bodied children, etc.

I realize that the RCD's Disability Resource Centre is listed in the year 2001 City operating budget for funding which it should be (as is the Seniors Centre). That budget, however, has not yet reached final reading and approval, so I sit here not knowing what you will do.

I also realize that the RCD has applied for the \$25,000 from the Casino Fund, but that was money we requested last year to cover our lost revenue relating to the delay by the City in providing us with information on whether we could have the Centre the Elmbridge location, monies we lost in the year 2000. Council directed us to apply for it from the Casino fund.

David McLellan indicated that he had also included in the year 2001 City operating budget our request for the Therapeutic Riding Program, but Danley Yip was unable to find it when I met with him a couple of weeks ago.

In November, I approached Council to obtain an emergency grant of \$15,000 for the Therapeutic Riding program. At that time, all of you were very supportive of our problem, but on a split vote you ended up "guaranteeing" a loan we obtained from our bank. I still have to repay that loan . . . in March.

For most of its five years the Therapeutic Riding program has had a large waiting list of children with disabilities whose parents, etc. wanted to get them into the program. We receive referrals from the Centre for Abilities, Service providers, government officials, schools, to name only a few. Finally, after many years of waiting, we have been offered an opportunity by which we can expand the program to serve more children, many more. It involves a new Riding Arena. To go forward, however, I need to be sure that we have funds for our operating costs. .

Children with disabilities have few opportunities to participate in recreational activities in Richmond that work for them. The experience by one of our riders, when he tried to "integrate" into recreational sports (baseball), only to be asked to leave- - - as Coulson was, further verifies that. The Therapeutic Riding program is a City initiated program, not supported by the City it is time to change that, it is time to provide us with the assurance that the City will provide funds to cover an approved cost item in our budget. The amount that has been requested for the operating budget does just that. Otherwise, the grant recommendation made by your staff today sends the wrong message.

The RCD came before you two years ago to obtain a grant to start up the Disability Resource Centre (then called, an Independent Living Centre). One Council member asked staff to look into whether or not this Centre would be "redundant". We felt insulted at the time, as who but the community of people with disabilities would know best what is needed in the community.

Well, we did succeed in raising the seed money we did succeed in opening the Centre (officially, at the beginning of September)we did succeed in getting funding from CAILC (Canadian Association of Independent Living Centres) for a special program called "Navigating the Waters". Remember that word "redundant". in 5 months the Centre has already handled several hundred requests for information & referrals, had a considerable level of onsite traffic, assisted a number of people with disabilities through difficult situations, and the number of people who have already participated in Navigating the Waters in 5 months is within a couple of people of exceeding the annual (12 month) average for the program across Canada. This Centre was - and is needed. I might add, our Executive Director, James Sullivan, has been working with the Coordinator of Special Needs, Sean Davies, developing future partnership plans and has provided Sean with needs already identified by our consumers.

Over the last few years you have become aware of my concerns about people issues, social service issues in. You have, I am sure, felt that I was exaggerating when I said that we were heading for serious problems in this community if City Council didn't change course and start supporting people services. You preferred, I am sure, to tune me out!! Well, let me tell you, today, that you are sitting on a time-bomb! Don't tune me out, ladies & gentleman, as the problems are becoming serious. You already have proof of that on your desks.

It is time to revamp your thinking your spending priorities. Where Richmond used to be at the top of the list in partnership building, supporting and working with community service agencies, for recreational, cultural and social services . . . in the lower mainland, it has quickly dropped to the middle of that list and will hit bottom if something isn't done. You wonder why you are having more problems out in the community you have citizens who are worried about crime . . . you regularly talk about vandalismyou have set up a task force on drugs & crime . . but you avoid discussing social issues.

Your Senior staff has already brought some of this information to your attention, and the revamping of staff is directed at responding to some of the issues. . . . but, it also takes a decision on your part to relook at your budget priorities.

A few months ago, when you were upset with the Vancouver/Richmond Health Board's lack of funding support for our Richmond Hospital, Councillor Brodie said "I'm glad Frances Clark is here tonight because she said, at the time the Richmond Health Board became part of the Vancouver Health Board, that this would happen". Yes I did. Hear me now!!

When I look at community planning issues, be they relating to people with disabilities, social issues or physical bricks & mortar planning, I see beyond what is happening today! I see the long range picture . . . what will happen "if" . I could see what would happen when we lost our Health Board, and I see where the City is heading now based on your priorities of the past 4 years . .

You can choose to ignore my words today . . . you can choose to stay the status quo, provide no additional funding for those who need it stick with your roads, sewers, parks & beautification programs . .

Or, you can look at another report you have received this week . . which supports what I have been saying for some time you can relook at your funding priorities to truly address the health and wellbeing of the people of Richmond.

As well,

I ask you, today, to commit this City to properly supporting people and children with disabilities . . . as equal citizens of Richmond not second class citizens as we are made to feel.

Frances Clark

P.S.

While your at it you can look at changing the length of time it takes to process grant applications. The largest Foundation in Vancouver has a turnaround time of 3 months. Why can't we match that ??