



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 38 (RICHMOND)

**COUNCIL/BOARD LIAISON COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2003
1:00 p.m.

Place: 4th Floor Meeting Room
School District Administration Office

Present: Trustee A. McKittrick, Chair
Trustee P. Whittaker
Councillor E. Halsey-Brandt*

Regrets: Councillor D. Dang

Also Present: Trustee L. McPhail
K. L. Morris, Secretary-Treasurer
G. McLean, Manager of Facilities
D. Semple, Director of Parks
M. Redpath, Manager, Parks Administration & Programs
K. Sparrow, Director, Recreation & Cultural Services
J. Erceg, Manager, Development Applications
G. Hackenbruch, Recording Secretary

* Councillor E. Halsey-Brandt arrived at 2:05 p.m.

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED**

THAT the agenda for the Tuesday, January 21, 2003 meeting be adopted with the following additions:

- (i) New Business 5.4 - New Master Plan - Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
- (ii) New Business 5.5 - Timing of the Future Meetings

CARRIED

Mr. Morris advised that in the absence of Councillor Halsey-Brandt, the meeting could proceed. It was agreed that for those items on the agenda which might require a decision, to defer such decision until Councillor Halsey-Brandt is in attendance.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were made around the table.

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3. MINUTES

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the October 22, 2002 Council/Board Liaison Committee meeting be received for information.

CARRIED

4. BUSINESS ARISING

4.1 Update on Grass Cutting/Block Booking Agreement

Mr. Redpath stated that this is a standing item for this meeting. He advised that close communication is maintained between the City and the School Board in order to continually streamline the booking process. He then reported on the dates by which bookings are required to be made by the school district, the City and users of the facilities in the community.

Mr. Redpath reported that school bookings account for approximately 30,000 hours of usage per year, and the City utilizes 15,000 hours per year for community centres, most of which are attributable to summer camps.

He noted that although the number of rentals for adult groups over the last 5 years had lessened, youth type group booking are really strong, currently standing at over 11,000 hours usage per year.

Mr. Morris stated that historically problems had been encountered with some irresponsible groups and individuals but such incidents are dealt with immediately and directly by staff. Mr. Redpath further reported that there had been no issues regarding booking procedures over the past year.

Mr. Morris provided background on the original Policy for the use of School and City facilities. He advised that approximately 18 months ago a joint investigation was undertaken as to the relationship between the City and the School Board and the ownership/maintenance of city and school land. He then provided information on the relationship that had been negotiated between the City and the School Board, such that the City cuts the grass around school sites in exchange for the School Board taking the reservations for the use of City facilities. Mr. Morris then reported on the process, planning and timelines necessary for handling gymnasium bookings.

Discussion ensued around the need for additional facilities in the City Centre. Mr. Morris stated that many discussions have been held over the past 10 years with respect to these needs. He advised that Ferris, Currie and DeBeck Elementary Schools had been enlarged and provide additional facility usage, that A.R. MacNeill Secondary School has 2 gymnasiums and that Richmond Secondary School would also provide additional facilities.

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Mr. Semple referred to Poverty Report and the social issues that had been recognized from this report. Mr. Morris reminded the trustees that the sole responsibility for the School District is to provide for public education. Trustee McKittrick asked if there had been joint discussion between City staff and School District staff around the issues of increasing densification in the city core, the level of poverty and the lack of resources available to City Centre residents. Mr. Morris advised that discussion had taken place but could be further discussed. Trustee McKittrick requested that this be added to the Agenda for the next meeting of this Committee.

4.2 School Site Acquisition Charge

Deferred until the arrival of Councillor E. Halsey-Brandt.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Potential School Closures

Mr. Morris provided an update on this item and spoke to such items as the public meetings dates and times, the current use of these schools and the current use of these facilities by the City. Mr. Morris advised that the School Board will maintain the exteriors on any facility that may be closed, ensure any graffiti is removed as quickly as possible, windows would be boarded and painted, outside lighting would be maintained for security purposes, and it is envisioned that the City will continue to cut the grass.

5.2 Park Playing Field User Fees

Mr. Redpath provided background on this item and spoke to such topics as the number of playground upgrade projects undertaken, available funding for future upgrades, ownership of various playgrounds, and emphasised that the well-being and safety of the children using these playgrounds are always top priorities.

Mr. Semple referred to a recent report of potential arsenic poisoning in playground soil and acknowledged the concern of every parent whose child used playgrounds. He advised that the City is co-operating with the Vancouver Health Department in this regard and will provide an update at a future meeting.

**Councillor E. Halsey-Brandt entered the meeting at 2:05p.m. during discussion of the above point.*

5.3 Park Playing Fields

Mr. Redpath provided details on the user fees and advised that 60% of the fees is being anchored back into the asset and 40% goes to either the operation of the field or for upgrades.

Mr. Redpath advised that the Sports Council has not yet met this year but it is anticipated that a survey will be carried out to determine the willingness of user groups paying User Fees. Mr. Semple spoke to the high level of interest in booking the artificial turf field and stated that it is anticipated that a fee will be levied for those who book and then not use the field. Mr. Redpath referred to the precedents on user fee charges and advised there is a limited supply of facilities and there are over 12,000 registered users.

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Mr. Morris asked if the City contemplated using School District playing fields to generate revenue. Discussion then took place around the complex issues regarding user fees for joint school/park sites. Councillor E. Halsey-Brandt referred to the varied condition of fields in the community and stated that this would require to be discussed prior to any fee structure being considered. Discussion then took place around projected costs for upgrading fields, drainage problems encountered and general maintenance of the fields. Councillor E. Halsey-Brandt suggested that as both the City and the School Board are looking at revenue generation, a joint long-term plan, say 5, 10 and 20 years, should be developed for upgrading these facilities, such plan would allow for maximum value in this pre-planning process. Discussion ensued around any benefits to adapting sites for the use of a particular user group.

Trustee Whittaker commented on the benefits the artificial turf provides and questioned why users would be required to pay for the use of fields, when in some cases the users themselves are actually subsidizing maintenance costs by pre-preparing fields prior to using them. Mr. Semple responded that budget cuts were responsible for the decrease in field maintenance. Trustee McPhail suggested that the user groups be involved in any plans that may be put in place. Some discussion took place around the maintenance of fields in the community for user groups.

Mr. Redpath was requested to provide an update on this item at a future meeting.

5.4 Master Plan – Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

Kate Sparrow provided an update on a community survey for a planning process to develop a framework for decision making regarding leisure need requirements. She indicated that this master plan will be rolled out within the next few weeks and stated that many opportunities for building community partnerships will exist. Upon confirmation of a consultant, meetings will be scheduled with various stakeholder groups in the community. Ms. Sparrow reported that an estimated 25,000 to 30,000 people live in the city centre for whom Minoru Park is their neighbourhood park, that the area is currently under review and that it may be an area of consideration for joint review between the City and the School Board. Councillor E. Halsey Brandt suggested that as we begin the process and start planning for new facilities, that communication between the City and School District staff take place. She requested that the School District surveys and advises of the leisure areas of interest of children in the area, such as what children currently do for leisure and what leisure activities they would enjoy if facilities were available. It was requested that suggestions and ideas for the Minoru Park area be submitted by the School Board to this process.

Councillor E. Halsey-Brandt emphasized that this information requires to be provided at the beginning of this process in order to adequately meet the leisure needs in the City.

Discussion took place around skateboarding and cycling and the lack of facilities for such activities by the youth in the City Centre.

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It was suggested that teachers, PAC's and youth should be involved in the master plan and that the youth themselves could be involved in fund raising for equipment and that such equipment be easily accessible to the youth. Mr. Redpath briefly spoke to the possibility of "mobile units" for skateboarding.

Trustee McPhail assumed the Chair for 10 minutes during discussion of this item.

Mr. Morris advised that any items agreed to by this Committee involving action by staff is required to go before the Board of School Trustees for resolution. Councillor E. Halsey-Brandt stated that she would report to Council on the discussions held at this committee and the request to the School District to submit ideas and suggestions at the beginning of the master plan process.

Trustee Whittaker departed the meeting at this point – 2.40p.m

Councillor E. Halsey-Brandt spoke to the master plan the necessity of pooling resources and working together to meet the needs of the youth in the community.

5.5 Timing of Future Meetings

This item was deferred to the end of the meeting.

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

6.1 School District Planning & Construction Schedule

Mr. McLean reviewed the current school planning and construction schedule, highlighting the an Occupancy Permit has recently been received for A.R. MacNeill Secondary; Richmond Secondary construction is on schedule, planning funding has been received for Kilgour, McKay, Sidaway, Steves and Woodward. Mr. Morris advised that throughout the Province school districts have submitted capital requests to the Ministry of Education and of those requests, 41 projects are under investigation for possible replacement. Steveston Secondary School is one of the projects selected for further investigation. Mr. Morris then reported that should this replacement project be selected and receive approval from the Ministry of Education, it is planned to re-build Steveston Secondary adjacent to London Secondary. He referred to operating capacities of both schools, potential future revenue generating uses of the current Steveston Secondary School and resultant cost reduction in combining the administration for both schools.

4. BUSINESS ARISING (continued)

4.2 School Site Acquisition Charge

Mr. McLean provided background on charges and stated that the Ministry, in a letter dated December 23, 2003, had approved the base rate for capital year 2002/03 in the amount of \$357.00 and the amount of \$205.00 for the 2003/04 capital year. Discussion ensued as to the base rate amounts and the procedure to be used to adopt these charges. He advised that we have 60 days from the date the letter was received in which to adopt capital bylaws.

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Mr. Morris advised the City that the School Board is recommending approval of both rates for both capital years and further. As a result of discussion it was agreed that 2 Capital Bylaws be passed by the Board relating to these base rate amounts.

Trustee McKitrick re-assumed the Chair during the above discussion.

Mr. Erceg, Mr. Redpath, Ms. Sparrow departed the meeting at 3 p.m.

7. **NEXT MEETING**

Discussion took place as to the most convenient date and time for this Committee to meet. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council/Board Liaison Committee would be held at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 11, 2003 in the 4th Floor Meeting Room at the school district administration offices.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the regular meeting of Council/Board Liaison Committee be adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted,

A. McKitrick, Chairperson