



## Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Committee

- Date: Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2006
- Place: Anderson Room  
Richmond City Hall
- Present: Councillor Bill McNulty, Chair  
Councillor Linda Barnes  
Councillor Cynthia Chen
- Absent: Councillor Derek Dang  
Councillor Evelina Halsey-Brandt  
Councillor Sue Halsey-Brandt  
Councillor Harold Steves, Vice-Chair
- Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and advised that the following would be added to the agenda as additional items:
- Minoru Park Update
  - Public Consultation – Delegation Options

### MINUTES

1. It was moved and seconded  
*That the minutes of the meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee held on Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2005 and Tuesday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2005, be adopted as circulated.*(1685504, 1708894)

**CARRIED**

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## URBAN DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

### 2. **GARDEN CITY AND COOK ROAD/CHANDLER DEVELOPMENT PUBLIC ART PROJECT**

(Report: December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2005, File No.: 11-7000-09-20-046) (REDMS No. 1718555)

With the aid of a model, Ms. Suzanne Greening, Arts Coordinator, described the Garden City and Cook Road/Chandler Development public art project. She stated that there would be approximately 15 pieces of art of varying sizes. These would be placed in locations around the development and in public areas transiting from the development into the Garden City Park area.

It was moved and seconded

*That the artwork donated by Chandler Development at Garden City & Cook Road to the City of Richmond, as presented in the report dated December 19, 2005 from the Manager, Policy Planning, be approved.*

**CARRIED**

## PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION

### 3. **SUIAN MARU CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE REQUEST FOR THE RENAMING OF DON AND LION ISLANDS**

(Report: January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006, File No.: 06-2270-01) (REDMS No. 1730386)

A map of the Fraser River Delta and information concerning the Don and Lion Islands provided by Councillor Steves was distributed. (a copy of this information is attached as Schedule 1 and forms a part of these minutes). Chair stated that he was advised that there was a report on file concerning a claim by the First Nations band on these islands. Mr. Dave Semple, Director, Parks, advised that this site was originally used by the Cowichan Band. Staff were requested to forward a copy of the report concerning this claim to Committee.

Mr. Fukawa, Chair, Suian Maru Centennial Celebration Committee advised that he was familiar with the Cowichan Band claim. He then stated that he had discussed the renaming of the islands with Ms. Janet Mason, Provincial Toponymist, who advised that it would be difficult to re-name geographic features, such as these islands. She suggested that it may be easier to name the channel between Don and Lion islands or parklands. (a copy of the text of this telephone conversation is attached as Schedule 2 and forms a part of these minutes). In response to queries from the Committee, Mr. Fukawa advised that if the islands could not be renamed, other options which would be considered, would be the channel between the islands or a GVRD park. He stated that the renaming ceremony would be performed in October 2006.

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Mr. Mike Redpath, Manager, Parks - Programs, Planning & Design advised that staff would work closely with the Suian Maru Centennial Committee towards the renaming of the islands. However, if this was not possible, a proposal could be made to the GVRD to use either Oikawa or Sato as a park name.

Discussion ensued on this topic and staff were advised to liaise with Mayor Brodie and Councillor Steves with regard to bringing this issue to the appropriate committee of the GVRD.

It was moved and seconded

- (1) *That the City of Richmond prepare an official letter to the Suian Maru Centennial Committee in support of their efforts to initiate a re-naming/dedication of Don and Lion Islands to Oikawa and Sato Islands.*
- (2) *That staff be directed to work with the Suian Maru Centennial Committee to develop a commemorative/interpretive sign/plaque to be installed in a mutually agreed upon location prior to the Suian Maru Centennial celebrations planned for the fall of 2006.*

**CARRIED**

## 4. **CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT FOR THE STEVESTON WATER PARK**

(Report: January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2006, File No.:03-1000-03-032 ) (REDMS No. 1730244, 1740824)

It was moved and seconded

- (1) *That the contribution agreement between the Steveston Community Society and the City be approved and executed.*
- (2) *That construction of the water park commence upon execution of the agreement.*

**CARRIED**

## 5. **UPDATE ON MINORU PARK**

Ms. Cathy Volkering Carlile, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, introduced Councillor Cynthia Chen to staff.

She then provided an update on Minoru Park. She stated that staff held 4 open houses, and met with the Sports Council concerning the Minoru Park Vision and principles. She stated that meetings would also be held with individual Park stakeholders over the coming months. (a copy of the Minoru Park background, vision and framework is attached as Schedule 3 and forms a part of these minutes). She advised that some of the feedback received indicated that:

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- the public was concerned that there should be no net loss of activities in the park;
- the proposed Public Safety Building appeared to be too large for the site;
- there was a misconception that the Minoru ice skating arena would be removed from the site.

She stated that staff were still in the process of collecting input from the community. She advised that when this process was finished, the information would be collated and a report would be brought to Committee concerning this issue.

Discussion ensued concerning the re-development of sites surrounding the park and whether developers were aware that pathways and entrances to Minoru Park had to be provided through their sites.

In response, Mr. Mike Redpath, advised that prior to a site being developed, staff from the Urban Development and Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Divisions held discussions concerning these issues.

### 6. PUBLIC INPUT AND OPTION FOR DELEGATIONS

Chair advised that he would like to restructure the agenda so that members of the public, particularly community groups would have an opportunity to communicate with Committee and staff concerning their activities, achievements and concerns.

Discussion ensued on this topic and it was noted that this agenda item would be limited to half-hour at the end of each meeting and to one delegation per meeting.

It was moved and seconded

*A letter be written to Community Groups outlining this agenda item and to extend an invitation to attend a meeting as a delegate.*

**CARRIED**

### 7. MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Gord Barstow, Manager, Parks Operation, advised that:

- the area around Minoru Lakes was being replanted. He stated that signs denoting this activity would be placed around the area.
- staff was working with baseball groups to re-sod the diamonds at Gibbons Park. He stated that and noted that irrigation sprinklers had been donated to the City, and would be used to irrigate the area.
- an irrigation system would be installed at Miller Field at no cost to the City;
- a Sitka Spruce tree was being planted at Garry Point Park as a historical monument;

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- five traffic islands adopted by residents had been replanted. Staff would try to replant more islands for residents to adopt.

Kate Sparrow, Director, Recreation and Cultural Services advised that February 3<sup>rd</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> was Spirit of BC week. She stated that the Spirit of BC Community had planned a series of events, one of which was a free family skate at Minoru Arena – this was a Provincial event and more details on events would be forwarded to Committee as soon as possible.

Jane Fernyhough, Manager of Heritage and Cultural Services advised that the Lubzinski Collection would be moved by the end of February. Larry Tolton, Project Manager, was in the process of documenting each piece of equipment and the collection would be stored at Steveston Harbour.

Mike Redpath, Manager, Parks - Programs, Planning & Design advised that 4 herons, as well as some eagles had returned to their nesting area in Terra Nova.

In response to a query from Committee, Mr. Semple advised that staff had received complaints regarding the use of the artificial turf at Richmond High School. He stated that staff had met with the complainant to resolve their concerns. Mr. Redpath advised that staff were looking at options such as earlier start and closing times as well as planting trees on the berm which would act as both a noise and a visual buffer.

### ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded

*That the meeting adjourn (5:05 p.m.).*

**CARRIED**

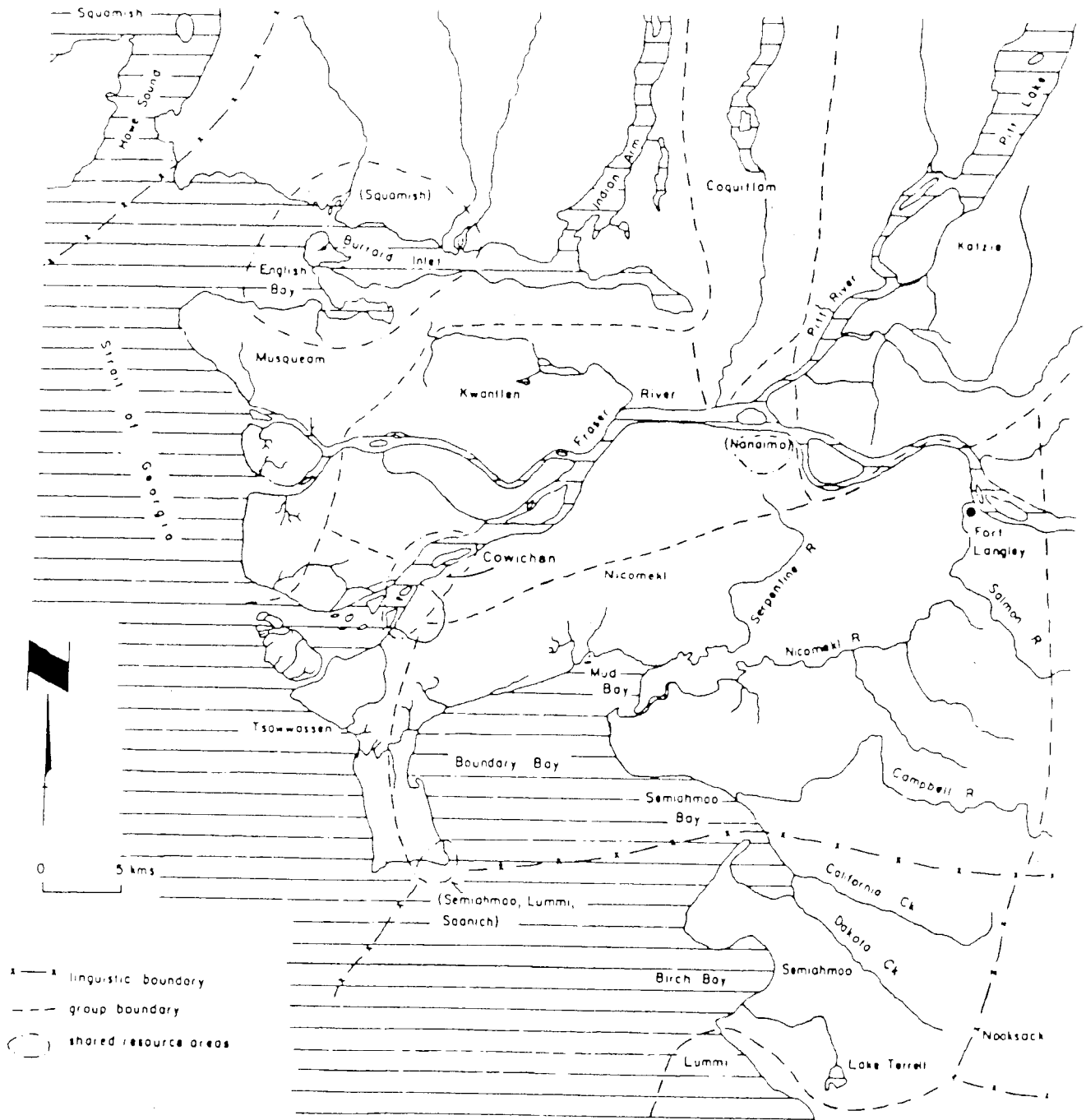
Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the meeting of the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Committee of the Council of the City of Richmond held on Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

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Councillor Bill McNulty  
Chair

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Desiree Wong  
Committee Clerk



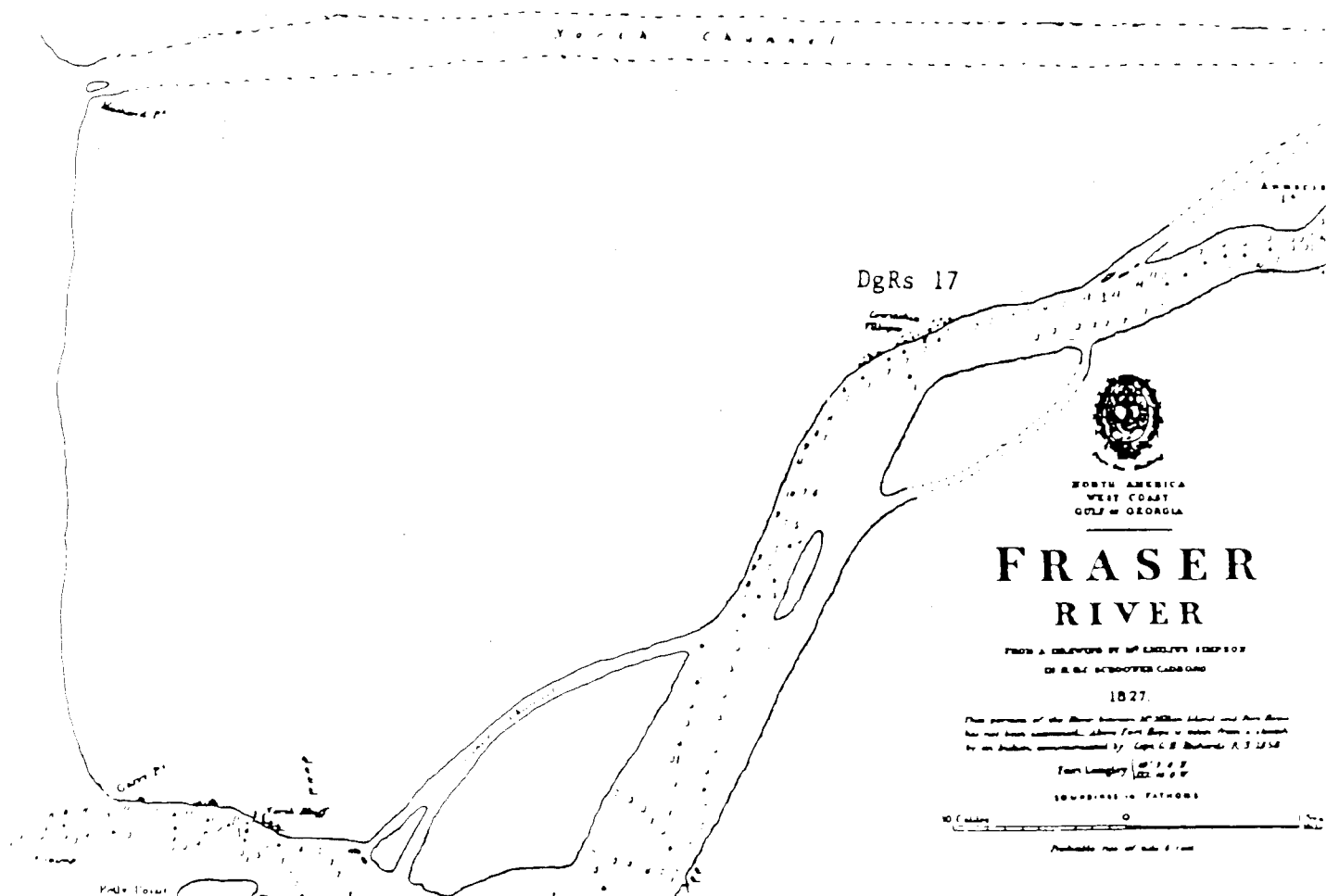
Schedule 1 to the minutes of the Parks,  
Recreation & Cultural Services  
Committee Meeting held on Wednesday,  
January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2006

(from Ham 1982)

Figure 2-1 Coast Salish People of Richmond and the Fraser River delta

DgRs 17 Richmond Dump Site

During the salmon season the north shore of the South Arm between No 7 Rd and No 8 Rd, was one of the most densely populated areas of Richmond. Commonly referred to as "tl'ektines" (tluck-TEE-nis, or kluck-TEE-nis), meaning "long beach" or "long chest" it was the location of three Cowichan fishing villages, while the Musqueam and Tsawwassen also had fishing camps in this area (Rozen 1979:62; see also Barnett 1975:34; and Duff 1952:27). They are noted on a chart made by Lieut. Aemilius Simpson in 1827 when he sailed the HBCo. Cadboro up the South Arm to establish Fort Langley (see Figure 3-11), and on maps of the 1841 Wilkes expedition. Original vegetation in this area consisted of riverbank alder (see Figure 3-1).



British Columbia Provincial Archives Map Collection CM/B165

Figure 3-11 Portion of Simpson's Chart Showing DgRs 17

Duff (1952:25) gives the names of these three fishing villages as Saumni, Pinellahutz, and Quomitzen, the same names as their respective permanent house sites across the Strait of Georgia on Vancouver Island. He also references Mr McMillan's journal as reporting the villages consisted of plank houses and were suitable for some 1500 people.

Kidd (1973:59) mentions the Paul and Jack families as the only Indian families living on the South Arm around 1875. Reference is also made in the Richmond Oral History Tapes (GM) to an old Indian locally known as Cranberry Jack who lived on the South Arm upstream from the eastern end of Steveston Hwy, the nickname originating from his picking native cranberries in the bog in the autumn.

The Paul family was from Saanich, a rich and powerful family who owned reef net locations at Point Roberts and were intermarried with members of the Tsawwassen, Musqueam, Katzie and Chilliwack and thus owned rights of access to Fraser River sockeye (Rozen 1986). The Jack family were from the lower Cowichan River but also had rights to resource sites on the Mainland (Rozen 1986), and it would appear were the last Cowichans to use their fishing village on the South Arm.

Several attempts have been made to find the remains of these villages without any luck. The entire stretch of the north shore of the South Arm was surveyed on foot on 24 and 25 of July and the only indication of a prehistoric occupation were two waterworn fragments of broken boiling stones (Richmond Museum 986.34.1 and 986.34.2) found just west of the natural gas line crossing.

This entire stretch of shoreline has been badly eroded from the low water mark of the river back some 20-30 m to the old CNR bed, behind which is the Richmond Landfill. Historic maps indicate these villages were along the shore and it appears some 100 years of ship wash has eroded them away.

Some clumps of silt and peat (leaves, twigs, branches, etc) with vegetation on them (up to 3 m in height) remain here and there along the shore, but none of them appear to contain any cultural deposits. Although a very careful and extensive survey might turn up some cultural remains, no additional research is recommended for this site.

Lulu Island, BLK5N, RGE4W, NWD.

DhRs 82 Gilley Rd Bypass Site

The site was located to the northeast of the intersection of Gilley Rd Bypass and No 8 Rd and was destroyed during construction of the Gilley Rd Bypass from the Annacis Crossing of the South Arm. The site appears to have been along the levee of part of the North Channel of Bath Slough, an outline of which is still evident to the northwest of the above intersection (Figure 3-6). This site was on the southern edge of the Lesser Lulu Island Bog and it seems it was once vegetated with alder and birch (RM), while vegetation to the north was cranberry bog and to the south grasslands (see Figure 3-1).

Cultural deposits at this site were encountered during plowing and included concentrations of broken cobbles and a pecked cobble bowl (RM). There are no recommendations for additional research at this site, although future survey work could very well turn up cultural deposits along the remnants of this slough channel to the northwest.

Lulu Island, BLKAN, RGE4W, NWD.

No recorded sites at this time.

No Provenience and Unrecorded Sites.

DhRs x Middle Arm Site

The location of this site is not known. The basis for it consists of a collection of artifacts placed at the Richmond Museum in the 1970s by the late Mr Alf Pearson. They include a ground slate point, basalt biface

Councillor Harold Steves, Chair of Richmond Council Committee of Parks, Rec. & Culture,

Dear Harold,

**Telephone Conversation with Janet Mason, Provincial Toponymist**

I spoke with Ms. Janet Mason, Provincial Toponymist with the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands in Victoria this morning, Jan. 24, 2006, about the possibility of re-naming Don Island in honour of Jinzaburo Oikawa.

She said that my letter of Jan. 17, 2006 was the first formal communication on this matter that she had received. She did not keep track of inquiries by phone, fax or e-mail as she had many such communications and they were too numerous to record.

From her comments, I concluded the following...

1. It is very difficult to re-name geographic features that are already named unless there is some urgent reason to do so. For example, if a name includes a racial slur or insults a community or family, this would constitute urgency.
2. It would be easier to have names accepted for geographic features that do not have a name as yet, e.g., the channel between Don and Lion Islands.
3. The history of the geographic feature, i.e. in this case the islands, should be included in the application stating the compelling reasons for the name change or first naming.
4. The local community, in this case, the community of present and past users of the islands and surrounding waterways would be the authoritative groups with regard to historic local names. In the case of the islands, any mariner's or fishermen's groups which plied local waters, on the one hand, and First Nations bands which made use of the islands, on the other would have to be asked to state in writing that there was no evidence of prior names given to the channel between the islands AND whether or not they would object to a specific name being given.
5. She suggested that the GVRD had a process by which land was declared park land and so would be likely to have examined the historical land use of the islands.

I don't know if this is adding any information to your re-naming/naming project or not. I just wanted to bring you up to speed on what I had learned from Ms. Mason, Provincial Toponymist.

From where I stand, it would seem that it would be easier to select a geographic feature that does not yet have a name, such as the channel between the two islands. The existence of river charts with Don and Lion Islands marked on them would be another reason for objections to name changes.

Stan Fukawa, Chair, Suian Maru Centennial Committee (sfukawa@gmail.com)

# Minoru Park Background

live

connect

grow

As part of the **Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Master Plan** it was determined that a vision for the future of Minoru Park should be developed.

## The Need to Revisit Minoru Park

### 1. The City Centre 'Green Necklace'

The City has adopted the concept of a 'green necklace' of parks around the perimeter of the Downtown District.

Three new parks are being added to the 'necklace':

- 21 acre Garden City Community Park
- Garden City Lands proposed park
- 2010 Richmond Oval and waterfront park along the Middle Arm.

*Minoru Park no longer has to be 'all things to all people' as the only major green space in the City Centre for the last 50 years.*

### 2. Higher Density Residential Developments/ Population Growth

As many as 60,000 people are projected to live in the City Centre. More proposed residential towers are underway adjacent to Minoru Park

*For these new residents Minoru Park will become their local neighbourhood park.*

### 3. Multiple Facilities and Aging Infrastructure

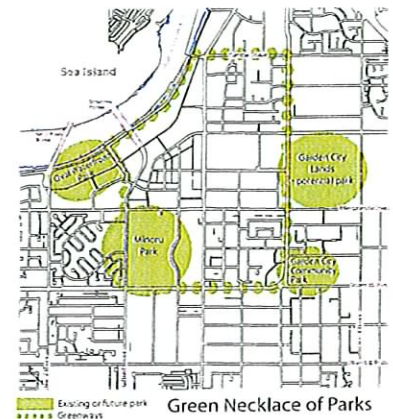
Many of the major civic facilities in the Minoru Precinct are now aging and will need to be replaced or expanded to keep up with growth.

*With the acquisition of new park land in the Garden City Lands Precinct, there is an opportunity now to determine the appropriate placing of new facilities or uses in Minoru Park and whether aging facilities should be replaced or relocated.*

Schedule 3 to the minutes of the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2006



Minoru Lakes



Each one of these parks will be unique and serve a different function and role within the City.



Higher density living



Aging infrastructure

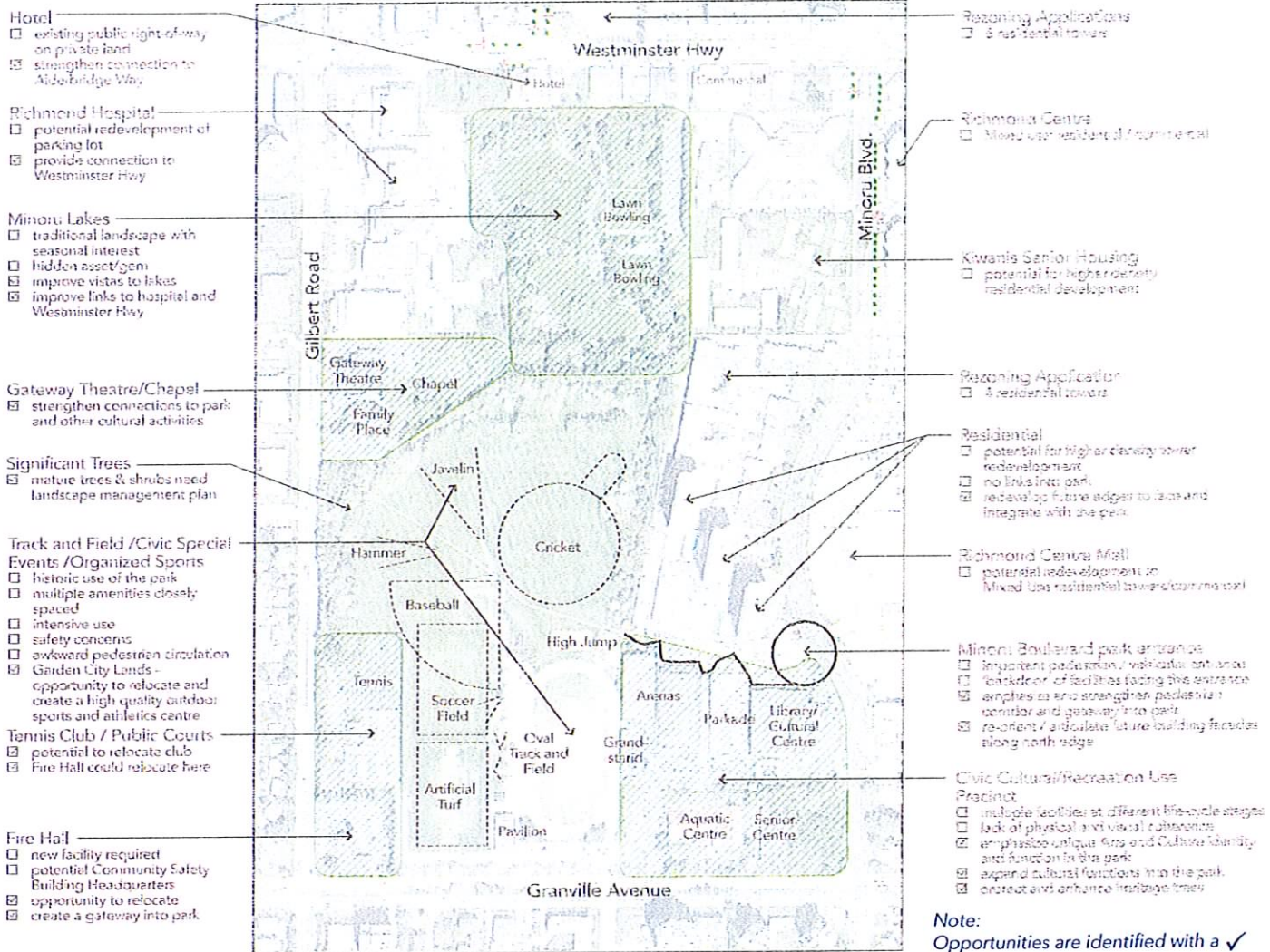
# Minoru Park Context

live

connect

grow

## Existing Site Conditions and Opportunities



Traditional landscape with seasonal interest



Unique civic cultural identity



The Lakes - the 'heart' of the City



Historic tournament site



Highrises bordering the park

# Minoru Park Vision

live

connect

grow

## The Vision

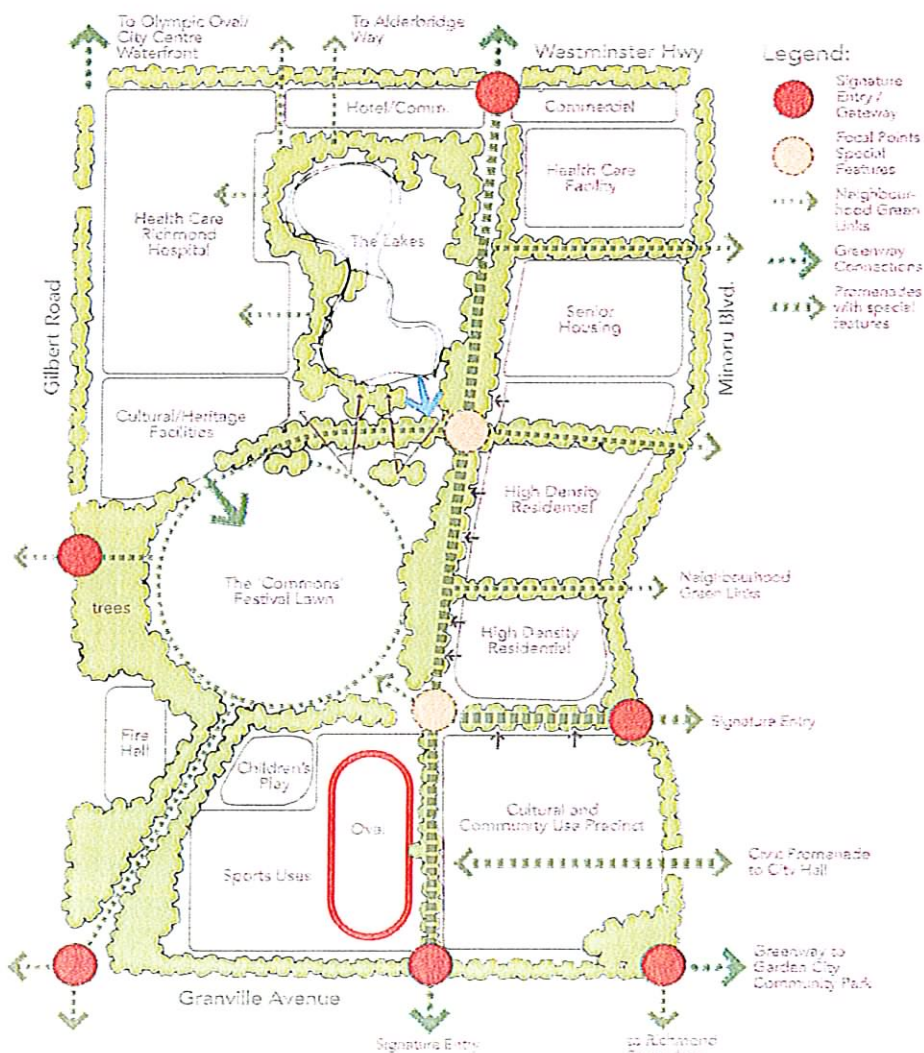
As part of this process, a vision statement has been developed that takes into consideration Minoru's history as a social gathering place for the community, the formal and mature landscape, and the many memories that people have of this park as well as the future needs of the City.

The Vision is:

*"Minoru Park is a vibrant social and cultural gathering place - a signature civic green space that is the heart and soul of the City."*

This is a long-term vision. Its implementation will be phased in over time as opportunities to relocate facilities in other City parks arise.

## Minoru Park Development Framework



Vital City Centre green space



Unique cultural precinct



Neighbourhood Green Links



Festival Lawn - gathering area

# Minoru Park Vision

live

connect

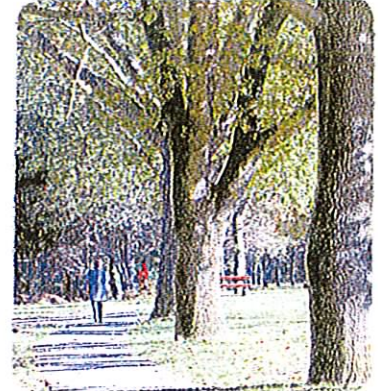
grow

## Guiding Principles

To support this vision and guide future development in the park, the following series of Guiding Principles, Development and Design Directives have been created.

### 1. Respect and build upon the history of the park site

- Protect heritage and significant trees
- Develop an interpretation program
- Create a 'Festival Lawn'
- Retain high quality sports uses on the south side of the park
- Work with sports and athletic groups to determine the best long term location for facilities within the park system



*Develop a Tree and Landscape Management Plan*

### 2. Expand the 'green' role and value of the park in the City Centre

- Ensure that Minoru Lakes continue to provide an area of tranquillity and seasonal beauty
- Develop a Tree and Landscape Management Plan
- Maximize the openness of the park to the street



*Work with users and athletic groups*

### 3. Establish a unique identity and civic role for Minoru Park

- Create a Civic Cultural/Community Use Precinct within the park
- Expand arts and culture into the park with festivals, art shows, literary events
- Develop a comprehensive strategy for placement of recreational facilities in the City Centre to determine their long-term 'fit' in the park



*Create neighbourhood gathering areas*

### 4. Create strong visual and physical links to the surrounding streets and neighbourhoods

- Develop a comprehensive pathway system
- Construct lit high quality north-south and east-west promenades
- Provide gateways and entry features

### 5. Minimize building infrastructure in the Park

- Focus all new building facilities in the south east corner
- Connect Minoru Park to City Hall and No. 3 Road

### 6. Recognize the role of the park as a local residential neighbourhood park

- Provide open unprogrammed green space
- Expand the playground to appeal to a wider age range
- Provide more seating and picnic areas
- Create gathering places



*Expand art into the park*