



Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Committee

Date: Tuesday, January 25, 2005
Place: Anderson Room
Richmond City Hall
Present: Councillor Harold Steves, Chair
Councillor Evelina Halsey-Brandt, Vice-Chair
Councillor Linda Barnes (7:00 pm)
Councillor Derek Dang
Councillor Sue Halsey-Brandt
Councillor Bill McNulty
Mayor Malcolm Brodie (5:15 pm)
Also Present: Councillor Rob Howard (5:12 pm)
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 Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee held on Tuesday, January 11th, 2005, be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

DELEGATIONS

2. (1) *Ms. Carol Day, regarding a proposal that would limit the number of dogs per person allowed in an off-leash dog park. (11-7200-20-DPAR1-01)*

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Ms. Day, of Seahurst Road, spoke about the lack of a limit on the number of dogs taken into the park by one person. Ms. Day cited several instances of professional dog walkers having 5 –7 dogs in their care, which she did not feel was sensible due to the lack of control one person can have over that many dogs. Ms. Day suggested that the number be limited to three.

Discussion ensued among Committee members and Sandy Pearson, Manager, Operational Support Community Safety, which resulted in the following *referral* motion being introduced:

It was moved and seconded

That staff:

- i) conduct a review of other jurisdictions to determine whether the number of dogs per person is limited in off-leash areas, and how enforcement is undertaken;*
- ii) investigate whether a specific site could be designated for professional walkers that could be administered by admission fee or yearly permit; and*
- iii) review additional signage for off-leash areas.*

CARRIED

(2) Mr. Jack Lowe, regarding a Minoru Public Art Proposal. (11-7000-09-01)

Mr. Jack Lowe, accompanied by Mr. Graham Turnbull, presented the proposal, a copy of which is on file in the City Clerks Office.

Mr. Turnbull, Chair of the Richmond Heritage Commission, said that both the Heritage Commission and the Richmond Museum Society were in unanimous agreement that the proposal provided a wonderful concept for the commemoration of both Mr. Bob McMath, and Minoru Park.

Discussion ensued among Committee members and the delegation as a result of which the following motion was introduced:

It was moved and seconded

That:

- i) the proposal for a bronze statue of the thoroughbred Minoru be endorsed;*
- ii) staff work with the proponent to further develop the proposal; and*
- iii) the City make a contribution in support of the proposal, in an amount to be determined, from the Public Art Fund.*

CARRIED

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PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION

3. **POWERPOINT PRESENTATION – ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION**

A powerpoint synopsis of the accomplishments of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Division over the past year was presented. The presentation was well received, and the Chair requested that the presentation be repeated at a future Council meeting. Staff were then congratulated for making 2004 so successful in Parks and Recreation.

4. **STEVESTON HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ARTWORK DONATION TO THE CITY OF RICHMOND - “THE STEVESTON LEGACY PROJECT”**

(Report: December 2/2004, File No.: 11-7000-09-20) (REDMS No. 1311149, 1350089)

It was moved and seconded

That the artwork which is proposed to be donated by the Steveston High School Alumni Association to the City of Richmond and the allocation of \$50,000 from the Public Art Program toward the artwork (as presented in the report dated December 2nd, 2004 from the Manager, Policy Planning) be approved, subject to the Steveston High School Alumni Association raising the remaining required funds (e.g. \$200,000) to initiate and complete the project.

Prior to the question being called discussion ensued among Committee members, the Manager, Policy Planning, Terry Crowe, Kari Huhtala, Senior Planner, and Mr. Norm Williams, sculptor and member of the Steveston High School Alumni Association, regarding various aspects of the project, including: the history of the development of the project; the fundraising rationale; the maintenance that would be required for the artwork; and that updates be provided to the Committee on the progress of the project. Cllr. Steves questioned whether the BC packers Legacy Fund could be applied to a public art project on the Imperial site.

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

5. **GATEWAY THEATRE “FLY TOWER” WALL ART**

(Report: January 6/05, File No.: 11-7000-09-20-041) (REDMS No. 1345046)

Cllr. Howard joined the meeting – 5:12 - pm during the introduction to the project made by the Manager, Policy Planning, Terry Crowe, and Kari Huhtala, Senior Planner.

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It was moved and seconded

That an allocation of \$53,000 from the 2003 Public Art Project for the development of wall artwork at the Gateway Theatre, as per the report (dated January 6, 2005 from the Manager, Policy Planning), be endorsed.

CARRIED

- 5a. Cllr. McNulty spoke about the efforts of a group of parents who were interested in the development of tax credits for parents who contribute financially to their child's participation in sports. Cllr. McNulty asked that the City send a letter, to the three Richmond MLA's, the Premier of the Province and the Minister of Sport for Canada, advising of Richmond's support for such an initiative. It was agreed that the letter would also include support for contributions made to art, music and drama.

Mayor Malcolm Brodie joined the meeting – 5:15 pm

It was moved and seconded

That the City send a letter to the three local MLA's, the Premier of the Province and the Minister of Sport for Canada, advising of Richmond's support for an initiative that would create a tax credit for parents who make expenditures on registration and equipment fees for children participating in minor sports, and art, music and drama programs.

CARRIED

- 5b. Cllr. Steves spoke about the current circumstances of the 'Kaiwo Maru', a Tall Ship that had run aground and required repair, and indicated that a campaign was underway to generate assistance for those repairs. During the discussion that ensued among Committee members information was provided that a delegation from the City would be travelling to Japan that could pursue the matter.

It was moved and seconded

That the circumstances of the 'Kaiwo Maru' be referred to staff for follow-up.

CARRIED

6. MANAGER'S REPORT

The Director of Parks, Dave Semple, reported on the progress being made in the removal and replanting of the 'Crestwood Business Park' trees to King George Park. Mr. Semple said that this was the largest tree removal project undertaken by the City due to the substantial size of the trees.

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The Chair called a recess of the meeting – 5:21 pm.

The meeting was re-convened at 7:05 pm in the Council Chambers with all members of Council, with the exception of Cllr. Kiichi Kumagai, in attendance.

PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION

7. COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP REPORT

(Report: January 14/2005, File No.: 01-0100-20-PRCS1-01/2005-Vol 01) (REDMS No. 1351764, 1351967)

The Director of Parks, Dave Semple, and the Director of Recreation and Cultural Services, Kate Sparrow, provided a summary of the process to date.

A lengthy discussion ensued among Committee members, Cllr. Howard, and staff in an attempt to further define the framework for moving the process forward. It was noted that the recommendations put forth by the Community Working Group are to become a part of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Master Plan.

Ms. Sparrow elaborated on the Relationship Model, and the Community Involvement frameworks as included in the appendices.

Further discussion then ensued that included the following:

- that the roles to be performed were clearly understood;
- that the collaborative approach should allow the work to be achieved within the existing resources, i.e. an opportunity existed to maximize resources in the system;
- that a phased approach would be undertaken in the execution of service agreements with priority being given to youth, sports services, and the 2010 Olympic projects, including the Oval. It was also noted that some operating agreements that have expired would be transitioned to service agreements based on the identified principles;
- that the implementation strategy, for which a variety of tools are required to be applied, had yet to be created;
- that the City would work with Volunteer Richmond in the training and support of the different Boards that are involved. It was noted that due to the differing interests, capacity and willingness of the individual Boards, flexibility will be required;

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- that a detailed financial analysis had not yet been undertaken;
- that a Business Plan was required to be included in the Financial Plan;
- the Community Working Group recommended that surplus funds be re-invested in the system;
- the emphasis was to determine the community needs, then proceed to how to fill those needs;
- the City would look at all groups or alternatives to provide services;
- that no determination of revenues had been decided at this point;
- that work would be undertaken with the various groups on the transitioning of responsibility;
- that a stronger role was needed in supporting the volunteer system and that the services offered by Volunteer Richmond should not be overlapped or duplicated.

Ms. Julie Halfnights, a member of the Community Working Group, read a written submission, a copy of which is attached as Schedule 1 and forms a part of these minutes.

Mr. Ian Shaw, read a written submission from a number of members of the Community Association presidents, who were also present. A copy of the submission is attached as Schedule 2 and forms a part of these minutes.

Ms. Olive Bassett read a written submission, a copy of which is attached as Schedule 3 and forms a part of these minutes.

Mr. Michael McCoy, Co – Chair of the Richmond Community Services Advisory Committee and a member of the Community Working Group, thanked all of the members of the Community Working Group (CWG) for the hours of effort they had committed to the process and the amount of work undertaken. Mr. McCoy also commended staff for synthesizing the information and generating the document. Mr. McCoy indicated that unanimous agreement had been achieved on the recommendations as outlined in the report. Mr. McCoy said that the CWG recommendations were creative, and offered an unparalleled use of resources. A concern was expressed by Mr. McCoy regarding the motion put forward in the submission read by Mr. Shaw, in that as a member of the CWG he had not been aware of the additional recommendation prior to the meeting, and also because he felt that the content of the recommendation was already included in the document itself.

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Ms. Sharon Meredith, member at large of the CWG, read a written submission, a copy of which is attached as Schedule 4 and forms a part of these minutes.

Mr. Jim Lamond, a member of the Richmond Sports Council, thanked the CWG for the amount of work it had undertaken. Mr. Lamond then said that he did not see in the report what work would be done on the recommendations. Mr. Lamond felt that community centres were an important part of the City, and that it was important that they be retained, but he thought that they should be given autonomy and run like a business

Cllr. Steves made mention of the number of excellent presentations made to the CWG by various organizations, and he requested that they be contacted to come forward to Council.

A written submission from Ms. Nicky Byres, was read into the record, a copy of which is attached as Schedule 5 and forms a part of these minutes.

Mr. Peter Mitchell spoke about the large number of volunteers in the City, and the concerns that he had about the report, including: that he was not interested in revenue sharing; that he didn't understand why this route had been chosen or why individual groups would sign on without information; that he lacked trust in the process in that there had been no representation of the typically disadvantaged or newcomers; and, that he saw only vague generalities when what he wanted to see was what would be done in his neighbourhood.

Cllr. Dang read a written submission from Ms. Elizabeth Specht, Executive Director of Volunteer Richmond Information Services, a copy of which is attached as Schedule 6 and forms a part of these minutes.

As a result of the discussions and the presentations, the following motion was introduced:

It was moved and seconded

That the practice of community-based recreation service delivery in Richmond and the partnership between the City and the Community Associations in the delivery of these services, be reaffirmed without prejudice to the Community Working Group recommendation.

CARRIED

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It was moved and seconded

That:

- (1) *the Community Working Group report (dated January 14th, 2005 from the General Manager, Parks Recreation and Cultural Services) be received for information and referred to staff for further analysis including the development of an action plan;*
- (2) *the Community Working Group be disbanded with thanks; and*
- (3) *the recommendations be considered for incorporation into the Parks Recreation and Cultural Services Master Plan where appropriate.*

CARRIED

It was moved and seconded

That:

- (1) *staff report back to Committee on the scheduling and cost of a financial analysis related to the implementation of the recommendations of the Community Working Group;*
- (2) *in recognition of the importance that service agreements play in the overall implementation strategy, staff report back to Committee on the possibility of advancing the service agreement frameworks.*

CARRIED

It was moved and seconded

That the concerns and recommendations submitted by the various community groups involved in the Community Working Group report be summarized and brought forward to be addressed.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded

That the meeting adjourn (10:35 p.m.).

CARRIED

Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Committee

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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 Tuesday, January 25th, 2005.

Councillor Harold Steves
Chair

Deborah MacLennan
Administrative Assistant

25 January, 2005

To the members of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee

As members of the CWG, we are here to say we are okay with the majority of the CWG recommendations, but that we think they are too vague for practical purposes and do not constitute a "plan" to which staff recommendation #1 can apply. We are dismayed that we were only able to do about one third of the job you set for us; that third is included in the CWG report recommendations. The other two parts are critical; there has been no financial analysis whatsoever, little work done on the role of volunteers and we never clearly identified a model so we could not identify an implementation strategy.

We feel Council should direct an **independent financial analysis** of the current system before any changes are contemplated and before any further action is taken by anyone. Such a financial analysis should look at all PRCS and Association (and society) expenditures and revenues, producing a baseline or benchmark against which any future changes can be measured. We were told by staff this was too hard to do but we know that such analyses are done daily in the business world; City Auditor Don Matthew of KPMG will be happy to recommend a consultant who has the necessary qualifications to carry this out. Such an analyst may also be able to produce a **risk analysis**; another common business practice when significant change is considered – an understanding of the current roles of volunteers and volunteer model would assist immensely in evaluating the impact of any proposed changes and it would **build the groundwork for sustainable volunteerism** in Richmond recreation. It would evaluate the feasibility of looking at recreation in streams of service vs the areas of interest and community currently in place.

This is the work we thought we would be doing as well as **consideration of alternate models of recreation service delivery** - but that never happened. We apologize for not fulfilling our duty to both Council and to the Community Associations we represent. We're honoured to have had the chance to serve; we just wish we could have done the job we were asked to do.

Greg Robertson, South Arm Community Association
Kuo Wong, City Centre Community Association
Julie Halfnights, Thompson Community Association

January 25, 2005

Members of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee,

We, the Presidents of the eight community associations, are pleased to finally be here tonight, a night we hope will mark a new start for the partners that provide recreation services in Richmond. We've reviewed the staff report and the Community Working Group recommendations. Our comments on the 26 Community Working Group recommendations are detailed in this handout; we can go through them tonight or leave them for your consideration. Many are excellent, others need clarification and some are unrealistic.

With regard to Staff Recommendation #1, we ask for clarification. The model that seems to be suggested is that there is no model – that anything and everything will be investigated as “streams” of services are looked at individually. Unfortunately, this disregards the fact that most of these “streams” are parts of a system that may collapse if pulled apart. We believe that all of the staff concerns expressed in February 2003 can be successfully addressed and most of the 26 recommendations outlined in the CWG report can easily fit into today's model of service delivery by Community Associations in partnership with the City.

With that in mind, we ask that you pass the following motion tonight and take it on to Council for endorsement:

That Richmond City Council reaffirms the practice of community-based recreation service delivery in Richmond and, further, reaffirms the partnership between the City and the Community Associations in the delivery of these services.

By community-based recreation service delivery, we mean a model where citizens are able to access all basic recreation services at their community facility (subject to facility space and resources to provide these) and that these services are managed as a unit to ensure balance, continuity, accessibility and effectiveness. We see basic programs as youth, seniors, youth and family drop-in sports, fitness/wellness, preschool programs, adult recreation and a variety of introductory instructional programs. As well, we recognize the need for events and planning that brings neighbours together in a safe and welcoming place. Some might add childcare but we are reluctant to do so as so few of our facilities can physically accommodate this service. It goes without saying that these services are made available to as wide a spectrum of the community as possible, because that is what we have always done.

We understand the need for (new) partnership agreements that clearly set out the responsibilities and expectations of both parties involved. We understand the need for the City to recover a greater portion of its expenditures on recreation. We are ready to work on these. The past two years, while they have been frustrating in many ways, have brought the eight Community Associations and the Minoru Seniors Society together as never before. We composed and presented a Consensus Document on December 18th, 2003 (there should be a copy in your binders) that addresses all concerns set out by staff

	involvement of Volunteer Richmond; many Associations are members.
16	Strongly supported; clear roles and expectations make for strong partnerships
17	Strongly supported and often requested in the past
18	When there is no model to frame decisions upon, how can staff or current partners “develop a detailed implementation strategy immediately”? While some of the details are welcome and long-needed, many of the points presume a level of decision-making that simply has not yet occurred
19	A legal opinion is needed. Can a City Fees and Charges Policy apply to non-City bodies? An alternate would be inclusion of fees and charges in annual operating agreements. Associations have made great progress toward unified fee structures in the past five years and all of us subsidize youth, seniors and community programs. A clear understanding of the variables of the various facilities, amenities and staff are required; this has been absent from reports published in the past two years
20	Strongly supported
21	This requires a great deal more explanation and work before adoption, though some points are supported. Apart from the fact that no system-wide financial analysis has been carried out, this recommendation places all three small community associations (and likely Minoru Seniors as well) at great risk. Whereas the larger associations generate enough income to provide an excess of income over expenses, this does not happen at Sea Island, Hamilton or City Centre – that is why our Consensus Document provides an alternate model for the City to share in the combined excess of revenues over expenses. From where will the City collect the revenue mentioned in #5 – much of the current subsidy is covered by Associations – a financial analysis would make this clear. In regard to the last point, it should be noted that Associations have worked together to ensure that almost all fees are standardized across the city – the notable exception is the City-managed Aquatics branch. Program costs cannot be standardized when the facilities vary so drastically in size, availability and amenities and when instructor qualifications and years of service also vary.
22	We support the recommendations of the Consensus Document as more easily implemented and more fairly distributed. This is unnecessarily difficult, places small organizations at risk and creates barriers for innovation.
23	Strongly supported; this is exactly as we recommend in the Consensus Document
24	This has always been done and, in fact, is a huge part of the reason recreation services developed as it did in Richmond – Associations will always pursue such funding – it should be noted that (city) government involvement in day-to-day operations is often the prime exclusion to such funds.
25	Supported
26	The City staff assertion that Associations have not provided fiscal data in a timely manner has been an extremely upsetting one for volunteers – all associations are registered under the Societies Act and, until this year, were required to submit annual financial statements to the BC government. Most of us provide City staff and board members with monthly statements and all provide annual financial statements at AGMs to which PRCS staff and Council members are always invited. While our accounting practices may vary, the information is always publicly available and has always been.

January 25th/05 mtg. of PR&C. Committee of Council

My name is Olive Bassett, I am a member of the Minoru Seniors Activity Centre, Chair of the Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee and a Council appointed volunteer on 'The Community Working Group'.

This volunteer group's task was to look into the 'staff proposed recommendations' in 'A Report on the Renewal of Parks Recreation & Cultural Services in Richmond'. PRC staff had several recommendations which changed the way services were to be delivered. It was presented to Council for approval in Feb.2003. Many of these proposals put a vast majority of the recreational public up in arms. Council then appointed the 'Community Working Group' comprised of 15 members from various volunteer organizations throughout the community. We were given instructions and guiding principles to follow. Representing the seniors of the community I hoped to take back information on how the proposed changes would directly affect and impact the seniors of our community. Our agenda, however, was set by staff or the facilitator and there was no place on the agenda for questions or concerns of seniors.

The WG had ~~between 25 and 30~~^{between 25 and 30 Chinese} public presentations from Recreational Groups in Richmond. Most of them were given very little notice. The structure of our agenda and meetings was such that we had no control over our own meetings, we did not have our own Chair, we did not vote, everything was done by consensus, we did not control our agenda, and yes, we could have objected but at that point many of us were still feeling our way and at least for myself the format was most unusual. And later our objections were met with, "Yes, we'll get to that". But we did not.

One of the guidelines Council insisted upon was that our recommendations, -'**Must Value and Ensure Community Involvement,**' what kind of a message went out to those 25 or 30 volunteer recreational groups who were expected at the eleventh hour to put forward a thoughtful presentation?. There were so many groups slated for us to hear, crammed into one evening, it left no time for questions or deliberation. None of these presentations were on any of the CWG's future agendas for discussion, yet staff made their presentations to us at countless meetings and the questions and concerns of the volunteer groups were left unaddressed.

Surely this is not an example of community Involvement?. What effect does this kind of a process have on dedicated volunteers?

And yet, to their credit throughout these past two years now, these volunteers have carried on running their programs, caring about their clients, regardless of the worry and tension all of this must have caused them.

Another of the guiding principles decreed by Council was - that '*our recommendations*'....**ENSURE FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY**the CWG hasn't the remotest idea of the financial implications of any of the CHANGES proposed IN RECREATION SERVICE DELIVERY, because this was not on the agenda, even though many of us felt the financial impact should have been part & parcel of every suggestion, discussion or recommendation. Indeed how can Council render its' conclusions without the guidance of an accompanying fiscal sustainability document? *Here I feel the CWG and P&R staff both failed yet another task !*

Members of the Community Association drew up alternative recommendations that addressed most points in the 'Service Delivery Proposal'. It has been refined throughout these fifteen months and definitely deserves full consideration.

CWG members who support the Consensus Document felt that one of the most critical issues in Richmond's recreation model is that *communities make decisions for themselves*. This not only allows development and support of responsive services *by those who know what is needed,IT ALSO CULTIVATES OWNERSHIP*. Those responsible for the 'Consensus Document' have said many times:

"OWNERS "(will).....take responsibility AND Responsible citizens make strong communities.....STRONG COMMUNITIES WORKING TOGETHER..... result in cities that are SAFE, INVITING AND SELF-SUFFICIENT. I feel this is a very important statement of fact. I also feel it is a cornerstone of good communication, which has been sadly lacking.

It is not my intention to cast aspersions on staff for the manner in which this project was handled, I'm confident they did what they felt they had to when faced with certain situations, however, I am extremely unhappy with the kinds of city policies that allow a 15 member Community Working Group to be appointed without any effective authority to do what was asked of them.

Compared to everyone else involved here I am probably in a time warp but a wise friend of mine once said :, 'If you want to find out the reason behind many an action..... FOLLOW THE DOLLAR...!!

I have to state that regardless of what it is printed in the community Working Groups final report, I do not feel it represents the approval of the full working group. I do not feel I personally have signed off on this document.

In closing, I thank you for giving members of the CWG the opportunity to be heard this evening. I have two requests of Council , 1. That you ***never again allow another community working group to be set up in this same manner. and..***

2. that you

will compare the THE WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS from the Consensus Document with THE RECOMMENDATIONS from Parks & Rec.

And consider choosing those that you feel will be IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE MAJORITY OF RICHMOND'S VOLUNTEERS AND

RECREATIONAL PUBLIC."

Thank you for your attention.

Respectfully submitted

M.Olive Bassett

Speaker Notes
January 25, 2005

Schedule 4 to the Minutes of the
Parks, Recreation and Cultural
Services Committee meeting held on
Tuesday, January 25th, 2005.

Sharon Meredith,
Member at Large, Community Working Group

I would like to express my gratitude to the Members of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee for this opportunity to address you in support of the Community Working Group Report.

I am here as a member-at-large of the Community Working Group and a 25 year resident of the City of Richmond.

My understanding of the mandate of the Community Working Group was to provide recommendations on a framework for a new recreation service delivery system. I would like to highlight the terms "framework" and "new".

It became apparent from the beginning of my term on the Community Working Group that the City of Richmond could not continue business in the same way in the provision of recreation services to the citizens of Richmond. We needed a new way of doing business and we needed a flexible and adaptable plan which could address the needs and issues of diverse community partners; existing partners and future partners. I believe this report provides this framework. It provides a road map to move the City of Richmond into the next 10—15 years, a time in which the City will be presented with ~~a~~ multiple ~~of~~ opportunities directly or indirectly related to the 2010 Olympic Games.

I believe the proposed framework provides flexibility in implementing a variety of delivery options based upon a consistent and transparent evaluation process. This model also provides accountability and a consistent standard of care on a citywide basis. The report recommends a collaborative process with existing partners and allows for participation of new and emerging community groups. It also addresses the need to assist in building capacity at the community level for "grassroots" initiatives and supporting the efforts of the volunteers.

I will admit, the Community Working Group experienced challenges relating to group process, however, I would caution the Committee not to discount the recommendations contained in this report based upon these challenges.

I would strongly recommend that the Committee receive the Report and that the report be referred to staff to develop an implementation strategy. I am confident that once the recommendations are operationalized and piloted in the community, specific 'clarification' will be gained regarding the recommendations and that the City of Richmond will have an inclusive and comprehensive Parks and Recreation Service Delivery Model which will service all the citizens of Richmond into the future.

CWG – Committee Meeting – January 25, 2005

Thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight.

As a member of the CWG I heard many delegations speak on a wide range of issues as well as hearing from my colleagues around the table. What was clear to me was that while not all aspects of Parks, Recreation and Cultural services were in need of drastic change, that there were several areas that were not working well, were not sufficiently accountable for the public monies invested in them and were not maximally efficient in their service delivery. Furthermore, it was obvious to me that City Staff were willing to engage with community interests in the areas where change was needed to facilitate a change process which accommodated a wide continuum of needs.

My own area of interest, preschool and school age child care is a great example of an area where change is needed. Families across Richmond are not receiving similar services for similar costs, some programs cannot access funds for even basic equipment and community centres compete greatly for staff causing high staff turnover which undermines the quality of services across the city. Programs being run in city owned facilities should deliver services which are similar, if not in content, then in quality. This is not happening.

Finally, we discussed at length at the CWG the desperate need for volunteers and their important commitment to the life of our City. If there is an attempt to disregard the work done over 17 months by this volunteer group called to serve by our elected politicians, it will be a blow to the future service of dedicated citizens and I for one would be offended given the time I gave to this process.

I urge you to have faith in the community process which you asked for, to weigh carefully the work that was done, to have faith in your City staff and make the changes necessary to make Richmond the most liveable city in Canada.

Thank you.

Nicky Byres

Schedule 6 to the Minutes of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday, January 25th, 2005.

MAYOR & EACH COUNCILLOR A/CITY CLERK

0340-20-ESERI

MayorandCouncillors

From: MayorandCouncillors
Sent: Wednesday, 19 January 2005 12:22 PM
To: 'Elizabeth Specht'
Subject: RE: Comment on the CWG Recommendations

pc: GM - Parks, Rec. + Culture) via email
Director, Rec. + Culture)
for info.

Dear Ms. Specht,

This is to acknowledge and thank you for your comments in connection with the Community Working Group Recommendations which are scheduled to come before the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee on January 25, 2005. A copy of your message has been forwarded to the Mayor, each Councillor and to City staff for information.

Thank you for taking the time to make Council aware of your views.

Yours truly,

David Weber

PHOTOCOPIED ^{MD}
JAN 19 2005
& DISTRIBUTED

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Manager, Legislative Services
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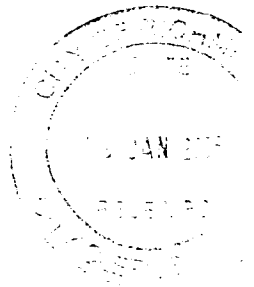
-----Original Message-----

From: Elizabeth Specht [mailto:especht@volunteerrichmond.ca]
Sent: Tuesday, 18 January 2005 10:47 AM
To: derek@derekdang.com
Cc: MayorandCouncillors; Carlile, Cathryn; Sparrow, Kate; Michael McCoy; muffet
Subject: Comment on the CWG Recommendations

Derek - as a follow up to our discussion at the RCSAC meeting, I am forwarding comments to be shared at the PRC/Council meeting being held to discuss the Community Working Group recommendations. I regret that I cannot be there in person, as I will be out of the country until January 27th.

Thank you in advance for sharing the following:

I am pleased to have this opportunity to comment on the Community Working Group Recommendations for the Master Plan and the Renewal of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Delivery System.



First, I would like to thank the members of the Community Working Group for their commitment to the process and for the hours invested in this work.

I would also like to recognize Council for the foresight to initiate a process to facilitate change that will remain inclusive of community involvement.

I recognize that what has been put forward is a set of principles that will be used to guide the continuation of the process, and Volunteer Richmond Information Services commits to participating in the on-going process.

As an agency, we are pleased to be in a position as a knowledge base for volunteerism and a skilled asset for community involvement. In addition to that, we are pleased to see that the City remains committed to an asset building model for community development.

The CWG recommendations provide an unprecedented opportunity for the City to utilize, partner with, and capitalize on the asset strong organizations that make up the Richmond Community.

Specifically, Appendix 10, Implementation Strategy #14 speaks to the development of a comprehensive volunteer strategy and to increase the City's investment in volunteer management. I am declaring today Volunteer Richmond's readiness and willingness to commit resources, knowledge and skills to work in partnership with the City to realize this recommendation. It would be our hope and recommendation that the City would invest in the assets of the community to actualize this work instead of creating a whole new independent structure within itself.

In closing, Volunteer Richmond recognizes the complexity of any process and once again applauds all who have, in good faith, worked towards this document coming forward.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Specht
Executive Director
Volunteer Richmond Information Services