

**CITY OF RICHMOND**

**REPORT TO COMMITTEE**

**TO:** Community Services Committee

**DATE:** February 8, 2000

**FROM:** Dave Semple  
Director, Parks

**FILE:** 7200-01

**RE: 2001 and 2002 BC Games for Athletes with a Disability and Games Bids in  
General**

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

1. That the City of Richmond decline the invitation from the BC Sport and Fitness Council for the Disabled to submit a bid to host the 2001 or 2002 BC Games for Athletes with a Disability.
2. That Council direct staff to host a meeting of community members to determine interest in creating an ad-hoc committee that provide a coordinated approach in applying for and hosting games in the City of Richmond.

Dave Semple  
Director, Parks

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**CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER**

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## STAFF REPORT

### ORIGIN

At the Community Services Committee meeting of October 13, 1999 the following was resolved:

***“That the report (dated September 20, 1999 from the Director, Recreation and Cultural Services), regarding the hosting of the BC Games for Athletes with a Disability, be referred to staff for discussion with the Richmond Committee on Disability.”***

Staff have consulted with the Richmond Committee on Disability on this matter, the outcome of which is the subject of this report.

### ANALYSIS

Staff met with the Richmond Committee on Disability (RCD) as per Committee direction and during discussions it became apparent that while the City needed to specifically address the invitation to bid for the 2001 or 2002 BC Games for Athletes with a Disability, it also needed to look at the larger issue of bidding for games in general.

#### Bid for BC Games for Athletes with a Disability

Research was undertaken to determine the level of interest of disabled athletes in hosting these games. During this process it became apparent that there is only a small number of Richmond athletes with disabilities who are now competing in the BC Games in general, while there are many athletes competing in other games (ie: wheelchair sports). The RCD, as well as staff, believes that it is important to determine why this is so.

In this light, and to ensure sports needs of athletes with disabilities are addressed, the RCD expressed a desire to facilitate the development of an improved structure of sports services for athletes with disabilities before entering a bid to host any games. This process will include working with City staff, Sports Council and other pertinent groups. Part of the process will be to investigate what current barriers block participation in sports by athletes with disabilities. There is also a need to establish a method of providing a representative voice for athletes with disabilities so that their needs are being addressed.

As such, the staff recommend that the City decline the invitation from the BC Sport and Fitness Council for the Disabled to submit a bid to host the 2001 or 2002 Games for Athletes with a Disability at this time, thereby allowing time to pursue this analysis.

#### Bids for Games in General

While working with the RCD on the question of whether or not to bid to host the 2001 or 2002 Games for Athletes with a Disability, the question of whether there is a interest by other groups in the community for hosting other types of games was raised. A small group was pulled together comprised of representatives from the RCD, Sports Council, Seniors Advisory Council and staff. Through a series of meetings it was determined that there is interest in the community to host future games but the group expressed a desire for a coordinated approach in bidding for these games. This would ensure that a structure to host the games is in place and a review of benefits

to the community would be completed before such bids are made. As such, the group suggested that an ad-hoc committee comprised of community members be created. This committee would be comprised of 10 –12 community members with skills and experience in the following areas: administration (focus on finance), protocol, registration, security, sports, transportation, volunteers, cultural and special events, food services, donations, and medical services. It is proposed that this group would receive invitations to bid, perform a business case analysis to determine viability of holding a particular games, present their findings to Council, and then upon approval, coordinate the process of bidding and hosting the games. Organization of the individual games themselves would have at least one representative of the group involved (ie. if Seniors Games were to be held, members of the Senior's Advisory Council would be involved in the process). Staff believe this type of approach would also ensure consistency for each games bid.

To determine if there is an interest in the community to form such a group, staff recommend that they host a meeting in which community members are invited to share their comments on this initiative. Staff will then report back to Committee with the results of this meeting.

#### FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact at this time.

#### CONCLUSION

In the process of determining whether there is an interest in the community to bid on 2001 or 2002 BC Games for Athletes with a Disability, staff (in consultation with the RCD, the Sports Council and the Seniors Advisory Council) identified two matters that require attention: the need to investigate the current structure of sports for athletes with disabilities; and, the need for a coordinated approach to invitations to bid for games in general.

As such, it is suggested that the City decline the invitation to bid on 2001 or 2002 BC Games for Athletes with a Disability, and host a meeting of community members to determine the community's interest in being involved in an ad-hoc committee to coordinate future games bids.

Dave Semple  
Director, Parks