

Motion

30 March 2006

Whereas

Richmond has several major initiatives underway, including the Canada Line, Garden City Lands the Oval and its waterfront park and the surrounding neighbourhood.

Our Town Centre is experiencing rapid change as a result of these initiatives and a strong provincial economy, which is fueling construction projects.

This provides us with an unprecedented opportunity to shape our streetscapes.

Let it be resolved;

That staff be directed to bring forward a discussion paper for a “GREAT PLACES” contest to be held annually in the City. (a discussion Backgrounder is attached)

Councillor Rob Howard

BACKGROUND (What if we built Richmond around great places)

With such a significant opportunity to shape our City's Streetscapes it seems appropriate to determine a method to more fully engage our Citizens in the creation of these spaces.

Out of this contest can come a better understanding of what the Community thinks is a "great space". This should increase significantly the success of these "great spaces" created by the City or by our residences and businesses.

During the recent Lulu lecture series a session was held entitled... "What if they built Richmond around great spaces". It was quite apparent that there have been some successes and some failures, across the continent when various groups create Public Spaces. What was usually more successful, it seemed, was when the public had a hand in creating the "great space". Public Involvement increases the opportunity for success

This may be an annual contest that would have several categories including;

- Public places
- Commercial places
- Business park/ Industrial places

These Places could also have categories related to size such as;

Small – a place for 2 people to meet

Medium – a place for 4-10 people to meet

Large – a place for 10-50 people to meet

Significant – a place for 50+ people to meet

A “great place” definition may be - a place where people want to gather.

Subsequent annual awards may also be given to those who have diligently maintained their great place.

The awards committee may have a few professionals but should have a majority of citizens, who decide upon the winners of the “great places” awards