

Community Services Committee

Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2000

Place: W.H. Anderson Committee Room
Richmond City Hall

Present: Councillor Harold Steves, Chair
Councillor Malcolm Brodie
Councillor Derek Dang

Absent: Councillor Linda Barnes
Councillor Ken Johnston

Also Present: Mayor Greg Halsey-Brandt
Councillor Lyn Greenhill

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 Community Services Committee held on Tuesday, March 14, 2000 be adopted.

CARRIED

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION

2. **OPERATING AGREEMENTS – WEST RICHMOND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION AND STEVESTON COMMUNITY SOCIETY**

(Report: Mar. 16/00; File: 1000-10-019 1000-10-040; REDMS 142409, 136014, 141227)

Vern Jacques, Manager, Arena Services, reviewed the staff report. He advised that, over the last six months, staff have clarified the generic operating agreements with three organizations: West Richmond Community Association, South Arm Community Association and Steveston Community Society. Subsequently, issues specific to each organization were evaluated and then reviewed by the City Legal department. Reference was made to the issue of the realignment of boundaries of the Thompson area.

Hans Havas, representative of the West Richmond Community Association, was in attendance and expressed his pleasure at the outcome of the review and of

the way City staff, Mike Kirk and Vern Jacques, dealt with this matter. He stated that his Association was looking forward to a long and happy relationship with the City.

In response to a query, Mr. Jacques provided an explanation of how the responsibility for the equipment had been determined. Mr. Jacques noted that staff provide assistance for special events but that there was no specific commitment in the operating agreements.

It was moved and seconded

That Council authorize the Mayor and the City Clerk to execute the attached Operating Agreements between the Steveston Community Society and the City of Richmond and the West Richmond Community Association and the City of Richmond, effective May 1, 2000.

CARRIED

3. **MODERNIZED PUBLIC PARKS AND SCHOOL GROUNDS REGULATION BYLAW NO. 6959**

(Report: Mar. 13/00; File: 8060-20-6959; REDMS 141673, 82706, 99350)

Dave Semple, Director, Parks, reviewed the staff report. He advised that staff have worked with the Council/Board Liaison Committee as well as the School District No. 38 Facilities and Buildings Committee to prepare amendments to the existing bylaw. He stated that changes recommended include ways to assist the RCMP in enforcement and the modernization of the bylaw to reflect current practices.

Mike Redpath, Coordinator, Partnership & Stewardship Programs, explained the reasons for bringing forward the clause related to park closure and stated it was hoped that this would be brought into effect by June 2000.

Staff Sgt. Willy Laurie of the RCMP, was in attendance to answer questions of the Committee members. He advised that the proposed bylaw would assist the RCMP members in providing a safer community.

Mr. Redpath advised that the existing signs located at each trailhead had not been replaced for nearly 20 years and referred to the suggestions that new signage be placed out of the regular parks maintenance budget over a period of three years. This would include the incorporation of the new city logo.

Upon questioning, Mr. Semple advised that piers were exempted from closure regulations due to the lack of vandalism at these sites. He noted that the No. 2 Road pier was monitored by the Steveston Harbour Authority and that this required to be accessed by early morning fishers.

Mr. Redpath clarified that the dyke trail system was exempt from closures.

Resident, Peter Irving, expressed concern regarding the issue of enforcement of park closures. He stated that once the ticketing process was in place, actual ticketing would not occur until the third or fourth offence. He referred to difficulties with noise in the park adjacent to his home in the early hours of the morning. He suggested that the RCMP be more aggressive in "taking back the parks".

Sgt. Laurie noted that May 1st, 2000, an RCMP bike squad would be deployed as needed to "trouble spots". He further noted that Constable Bramwell was developing a problem-oriented policing solution for these situations and was in the process of acquiring three more constables. He expressed the desire to find a solution to this problem.

Councillor Greenhill referred to the definitions listed in Part Six: Section 6.1 of the Bylaw, "Interpretation" and suggested that if dykes were to be exempted, this should be listed in the definition. Discussion ensued regarding possible modifications to the interpretation section of the bylaw.

It was moved and seconded

That the Public Parks and School Grounds Bylaw No. 6959 be forwarded to Council for first, second and third readings subject to concurrence from Richmond School District No. 38.

Prior to the question being called, staff were directed to adjust Part Three: Section 3.2.1 of Bylaw 6959, "Hours of Public Park and School Ground Closures" after consultation with the School District and before submission to Council.

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

4. **AQUATIC SERVICES REGULAR POSITIONS**

(Report: Mar.16/00; File: 1810-01; REDMS: 142397)

David McBride, Manager, Aquatic Services, reviewed the staff report. He advised that staffing needs had been evaluated and briefly highlighted the events leading up to the recommendation. He explained the request for regular positions and noted that Watermania has operated with auxiliary staff since its opening. He referenced the difficulty of working with staff with no commitment back to the City and the need for consistency to enhance overall operations.

David McLellan, General Manager, Urban Development, noted that the initial use of auxiliary staff had been a conscious decision to minimize cost over time and to gain flexibility of hours until a schedule for permanent positions could be ascertained. He further noted that the Union was willing to acknowledge the uniqueness of the Watermania facility and that a verbal understanding had resulted in the achievement of flexibility without compromising the agreement with the City.

Mr. McBride advised that the 2000 budget for staffing was slightly less than budgeted for salaries for aquatics in 1999 and clarified that there was no request for additional funding.

Staff were directed to present a revised report providing further clarification regarding the proposed regular positions for Aquatic Services.

It was moved and seconded

That 8 new regular full time positions and 12 new regular part time positions be approved by Council.

CARRIED

5. **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

David McLellan, General Manager, Urban Development, advised that the City of Richmond had been presented with an award from the Life-Saving Society for the city having the highest number of participants in the Life-Saving course. He noted that this had been the fourth consecutive year the City had received this award which is presented to cities having a population of 100,000.

Any members interested in attending the BCPRA Conference at Harrison Lake were requested to contact Kate Sparrow, Director, Cultural and Recreation Services.

Dave McBride, Manager, Aquatic Services, drew attention to the Facility Excellence Award which may be received for Watermania. He noted that this award highlights innovative or creative concepts and focuses on community access, public acceptance as well as patterns of attendance.

Dave Semple, Director, Parks, referred to wooden signage in Steveston town centre which will be replaced with banners. He commented on the number of business owners who desired to become involved in more area beautification initiatives, e.g. placement of hanging baskets.

Gordon Barstow, Manager, Operations, referred to his previously-distributed memo regarding the City's response to the CUPE strike. He noted that bookings in school facilities had been cancelled and that lawn maintenance had been halted.

ADJOURNMENT

6. It was moved and seconded
That the meeting be adjourned (4:58 p.m.).

CARRIED

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee of the Council of the City of Richmond held on Tuesday, March 28, 2000.

Councillor Harold Steves
Chair

Susan Kopeschny
Administrative Assistant