



To: Richmond City Council
From: George Duncan
Chief Administrative Officer
Re: Richmond Trade & Exhibition Centre

Date: April 17, 2002
File: -

Staff Recommendation

1. That the Garden City/Alderbridge site be endorsed as the preferred site for the proposed Trade & Exhibition Centre and that this facility at this location be endorsed as the Broadcast Centre for the 2010 Olympic Bid.
2. That the Federal Government be requested to provide the preferred site at no cost as their contribution to the establishment of a Trade & Exhibition Centre.
3. That Public Works Canada be advised that the City has an interest in the site for the Trade & Exhibition Centre use, recreational, and other possible community uses.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'George Duncan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

George Duncan
Chief Administrative Officer

Staff Report

Origin

On behalf of the community, Tourism Richmond has assumed the lead role on the initiative to develop a Trade & Exhibition Centre in Richmond, and has worked in close consultation with the City to move the vision forward.

To date, the City's primary involvement has entailed approval of the Hotel Tax which is administered by Tourism Richmond, and staff analysis of proposals put forward by Tourism Richmond through the consultants they retained to articulate the concept.

Council has considered and referred for further action, a series of staff reports, commencing from February 19, 2001, and continuing through June 2001, July 2001, and December 2001. Staff are presently working on a referral to develop a Vision for the long-term development of the preferred site, and anticipate bringing forward the report in late May or early June 2002. Tourism Richmond's preferred site is located at the southeast corner of the DFO property on Garden City Road and Alderbridge Way.

In December 2001, Mayor Brodie established a Trade & Exhibition Centre Task Force in order to assist Tourism Richmond's efforts to confirm a site for the Trade & Exhibition Centre. The Mayor's Task Force, which has representation from Tourism Richmond, has initiated discussions on acquiring the site, however, the process by which its availability will be determined is overseen by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Public Works Canada, and Canada Lands Corporation. The DFO has declared the site surplus, however, there is a 240 day assessment period commencing October 23, 2001, during which Public Works Canada determines the extent of interest of other Federal Ministries, the most notable being Indian Affairs. If at the expiry of the 240 day assessment period, the lands are not required, Canada Lands Corporation will begin a visioning exercise, the intent being to establish the highest value prior to disposal.

The City has also received a formal notification from the Federal Government that the site is surplus to the program requirements of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and they are seeking any issues or interests in the site. Although staff have been unable to locate any written commitments from federal officials for the provision of the site for recreational purposes, our understanding is that verbal commitments have been made in the past. The federal government should be advised prior to May 13, 2002 that the City would like to acquire part of the site for recreational purposes as well as to have a portion of the site provided for the Trade & Exhibition Centre. The response should also note that the City is in the process of developing a vision for the site which may identify additional community needs.

The Task Force on the Trade & Exhibition Centre felt that it would be prudent to seek political support (intervention) at the Federal level prior to the completion of the assessment exercise, and accordingly have initiated these discussions.

Further, the 2010 Olympic Winter Games Bid Corporation has designated the Richmond Trade & Exhibition Centre to serve as the Winter Games Broadcast Centre. This facility is crucial to the success of the bid, and critical deadlines by which confirmation of the approval of the facility must be received, quickly approach.

In order to assist Tourism Richmond's and the Trade & Exhibition Centre Task Force efforts to gain Federal support for the City's interest in taking ownership of the site, the 2010 Olympic Games Bid Corporation, have offered to work jointly in taking a presentation forward to the BC Caucus in Ottawa. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for early May 2002.

It will be proposed that the site be transferred to the City. The City will commit to facilitate the development of the Trade & Exhibition Centre, its eventual use for the Olympic Games (Broadcast Centre), and as well, a major recreational facility. Accordingly, it would be appropriate for Council to provide strong endorsement of the proposal to locate the Trade & Exhibition Centre at the DFO site, and ultimately, for its use by the Olympic Bid Corporation, prior to upcoming meetings with Federal officials.

Financial Impact

N/A

Conclusion

It would be prudent for Council to provide strong endorsement of the proposal to develop the Trade & Exhibition Centre at the preferred DFO site, and its eventual use as a Broadcast Centre , prior to completion of the Public Works Canada review, and hand over to the Canada Lands Corporation.



George Duncan
Chief Administrative Officer

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