



Council/School Board Liaison Committee

- Date: Tuesday, March 21st, 2006
- Place: Anderson Room
Richmond City Hall
- Present: Councillor Derek Dang, Chair
School Trustee Linda McPhail
School Trustee Donna Sargent
School Trustee Sandra Bourque
- Absent: Councillor Evelina Halsey-Brandt
- Also Present: B. Beairsto, Superintendent of Schools, School District No. 38 (Richmond)
K. L. Morris, Secretary-Treasurer, School District No. 38 (Richmond)
K. Sparrow, Director, Recreation & Cultural Services
D. Semple, Director, Parks Operations (9:54 a.m.)
F. J. Ashton, Executive Assistant, City Clerk's Office
- Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

1. It was moved and seconded
That the agenda for the meeting of Tuesday, March 21st, 2006, be adopted with an amendment to add under "Business Arising", "Update on Joint Meeting of Council and the School Board".

CARRIED

MINUTES

2. It was moved and seconded
That the minutes of the meeting of the Council/School Board Liaison Committee held on Tuesday, January 17th, 2006, be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

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3. BUSINESS ARISING

3.1 Update – Joint Council/School Board Meeting

A question was raised about the timing of a joint meeting between City Council and the Richmond School Board, and information was provided that a specific date had not yet been set. A request was made during the discussion that a date prior to the end of June be targeted for the meeting.

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1 School Site/East Richmond Health Community Initiatives

(School District Letter: Feb. 20/06)

Secretary-Treasurer Ken Morris referred to correspondence received from the President and Vice President of the East Richmond Community Association (ERCA) regarding the Association's need for increased access to the Cambie Secondary School. He then spoke about the joint use agreement which was in place, noting that at the time of the last review of the agreement, the Association was using Cambie Secondary School for over 3,000 hours of programming and that in turn, the school received only 300 hours of program time in the community centre. Concern was expressed that Cambie School now had no program hours in the community centre, and additionally, that school space was being sublet to an organization called 'Air Attack' for profit to the community association.

In concluding his review of the School District's concerns, Mr. Morris spoke about the importance of the School Board receiving this information and asked that a meeting be convened between the School District and ERCA as stipulated in the joint use operating agreement to determine the status of the current operating arrangements.

Reference was also made to a request of ERCA that in the event that the Mitchell School site was sold to a developer, that the Association be given the opportunity to work with that person to fulfill the wishes of the neighbourhood for the provision of social service agencies in the area. Information was provided that ERCA had been advised that the School Board had passed a resolution that at the appropriate time, the Board would consider selling the corner lot.

Discussion ensued, with agreement being given about the need for a meeting at least once every year to review the operating arrangement for the community association and the school facility. Reference was made to "Air Attack" and information was provided that this was a program operated and funded by the community association, and which targeted youth in the Cambie area. Further advice was given that the program operators were employees of the community association.

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Reference was then made to the block booking arrangement between the City and the School Board regarding the use of school gymnasiums for evening programs, and the comment was made that it was District's understanding that it was a City employee who was in the building and took responsibility for the actions of the participants. Advice was given that the District would be concerned if these individuals were volunteers and the employees of an outside organization. Information was provided in response that in most cases a City employee would not be responsible for the programs held in school facilities, and that most joint use partnerships were with the community associations which operated the programs in the schools.

Further comments were made that ERCA had taken on a strong advocacy role and had approached Council about the purchase of property in the area and the need for more services in the Cambie area.

Reference was made to the annual Career Options Fair sponsored by the School District, and concern was voiced about the on-going problems which the District encountered with ERCA about using the third gymnasium at Cambie Secondary for this event, because of the number of association activities which already took place in this facility.

The discussion concluded with a final comment being made that the weight room in the community centre was to have been made available to the students in the school and that had never happened. The request was made that this issue also be addressed as a concern of the school.

Mr. Morris indicated that he would contact Kate Sparrow about possible meeting dates for the joint meeting.

4.2 Traffic Safety Awareness Week –March 6-10, 2006

(City report: Jan. 30/06; File No.: 10-6450-09-01) (REDMS No. 1746853) (For information.)

There was no discussion on this matter, as it was noted that the report had been provided for information only.

5. INFORMATION / STANDING ITEMS

5.1 Planning (RSD/COR)

Reference was made to the Provincial program to provide better access to schools, and advice was given that the School District had obtained funding from the UBCM to undertake a series of sessions with various agencies, including Vancouver Coastal Health, and the RCMP, for the purpose of developing a plan to improve school access and joint school/city programs.

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Information was then provided about the meetings which had been held over the past two months to examine various joint program initiatives; as well as about a joint meeting to discuss planning in the City Centre to ensure that planning was up to date and all opportunities had been explored. Further information was provided that City staff were currently preparing an access policy to reduce access limitations for the City's less fortunate residents, and were working on an initiative to "get Richmond moving" through increased physical activity. The comment was made that City and School District staff were finding many opportunities to learn what each organization was going to implement additional programs.

Discussion continued briefly, with the efforts of the City and School District to work cooperatively together being applauded. A question was raised about the availability of minutes of the meetings as it was felt that it would be good for Councillors and Trustees alike to be aware of the number of joint projects which were being undertaken. Advice was given that information would be provided in the agenda package for the next Council/School Board Liaison Committee meeting.

5.2 2010 – City's Olympic Planning Committee (COR)

The Director, Recreation & Cultural Services, Kate Sparrow, referred to a report entitled "Community Program Update" which dealt with proposed uses of the Olympic Oval following the conclusion of the 2010 Winter Games, and indicated that she would provide the School District with a copy of the report.

(Dave Semple entered the meeting – 9:54 a.m.)

Ms. Sparrow advised that the report provided an overview of a proposed post-Games programs and types of activities which could take place in the Oval facility. She noted that one-third of the facility would be devoted to high performance sport and the remaining two-thirds to community sport and wellness activities. Ms. Sparrow added that because the legacy program will not be implemented until after the conclusion of the Olympic Games, consultation with the School District and other organizations and agencies would not occur until the date of the Games was closer to becoming a reality.

The Chair added that the Oval Stakeholders Advisory Committee would also become more active as the Games drew nearer, and commented that a representative of the School Board should become a member of the Stakeholders Advisory Committee. The Chair remarked that the School Board should have representation on the programming committee as programming for post-Olympics was beginning. As a follow up, he indicated that he would speak to the Chair of Programming (Cheryl Taunton) and facilitate this.

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The Chair then commented on the results of the geotechnical report in relation to the recent newspaper articles which had been printed about the instability of the soil at the Oval site. Discussion then ensued among Committee members and staff on the soil stability issues.

Discussion also took place on the need to include the School District and Board in all discussions relating to preparations and planning for the 2010 Winter Games.

Advice was given during the discussion that once the City's role was more defined, information on that role would be presented to the Council/School Board Liaison Committee. Comments were also made about how the Ministry of Education might respond to the need for programming and the suggestion was made that a majority of the programming might come through municipalities. Discussion then ensued on the action which the School District could take to meet with the Vancouver and Whistler School Boards to develop suitable programming, and the need for time to make this happen. Reference was made to a number of meetings, such as the regular meetings held with Secretary-Treasurers, and regional School Trustees meetings, and comments were made that these meetings would provide a good forum to raise the many issues which had to be addressed relating to the 2010 Winter Games.

In concluding the discussion, School Trustee Donna Sargent indicated that she would contact the Chair of the Oval Stakeholders Advisory Committee about appointing a representative of the School Board to the Committee.

5.3 Land Committee

Mr. Morris advised that City and School District staff had been meeting on a wide variety of issues, and commented briefly on the process which had been initiated to deal with proposed Official Community Plan amendments. He added that the next meeting of the Land Committee would take place in mid-April.

6. PENDING ITEMS

None.

7. FUTURE MEETING DATE

The next meeting of the Council/School Board Liaison Committee is scheduled to be held at **9:30 a.m., Tuesday, May 9th, 2006**, in the Anderson Room, Richmond City Hall.

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ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded

That the meeting adjourn (10:14 a.m.).

CARRIED

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the meeting of the Council/School Board Liaison Committee held on Tuesday, March 21st, 2006.

Councillor Derek Dang
Chair

Fran J. Ashton
Executive Assistant, City Clerk's Office