

Community Services Committee

Date: Tuesday, April 11th, 2000

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

Present: Councillor Harold Steves, Chair
Councillor Malcolm Brodie
Councillor Linda Barnes (4:05 p.m.)
Councillor Ken Johnston

Absent: Councillor Derek Dang

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 28th, 2000 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

MAYOR GREG HALSEY-BRANDT

2. **YEAR 2000 PROGRAM – PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUES**

(Memo: Apr. 5/00; File: 5350-01; REDMS: 146492)

Supt. Ernie MacAulay, Richmond Detachment of the RCMP, briefly reviewed the 'current priorities' and 'police initiatives' contained in the report, during which he commented on specific issues, such as:

- 'Property Crimes' - Commercial Break & Enters" - strategies were being examined to target firearms because of the negative perception of the public which accompanied such use
- motor vehicle thefts - problematic (advice given that Richmond has one of the highest rates of motor vehicle thefts)

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- youth - considered to be a high priority; the RCMP were of the view that students were entitled to live and learn in a safe environment without being approached at school to participate in gang activities or to purchase illicit drugs; there was a real concern about the connection between the use of illicit drugs and criminal activities
- public perception of safety - the public did not believe that criminal activities were declining, and instead believed that crime was increasing; the comment was made that events occurring in the public areas had to be addressed in an effort to minimize this perception
- traffic safety - always a high priority and was the #1 priority of the Attorney General Department because of the major impact which traffic accidents have on the health care system.

Supt. MacAulay advised that material was being distributed to all units within the Detachment for response, to prepare a complete action plan and to develop strategies to meet the priorities outlined in the report. He added that this completed action plan and strategies would comprise part of the Detachment's overall business plan.

Discussion then ensued among Committee members and Supt. MacAulay, and in response to questions, he provided the following information:

- the 'current priorities' had not been placed in any particular order of importance as this was a preliminary document only - the comment was made that feedback from Council would be welcomed, and the suggestion was made that the report should be referred to staff for recommendations
- the City's Police Advisory Committee would be used to obtain input from the public
- the Detachment would be reviewing residential break and enters, even though this specific area had not been included in the list of current priorities
- the Detachment wished to obtain feedback from all 'stakeholders' including Council
- with respect to motorists doing 'U-turns' in the middle of intersections, an additional officer would be added to the motorcycle squad in an effort to address this problem; further advice was given that 'intersection enforcement' was generally enhanced with motorcycle patrols as many of the traffic accidents occurred in intersections.

(Reference was made during the discussion to a proposal to increase police presence in East Richmond. Advice was given that how this would be accomplished would be addressed in the overall business plan, and the comment was made that Council should also be given the opportunity to review this plan.)

It was moved and seconded

That the document entitled "Public Safety Issues – Current Priorities, Appendix A" be referred to the Chief Administrator's Office for a report to the Community Services Committee by the end of May, 2000, which would:

- (a) *rank the list of 'current priorities' and 'police initiatives' in order of importance; and*
- (b) *provide information on the distribution of the 10 additional police officers approved during previous budget discussions.*

Prior to the question being called, the Chief Administrative Officer suggested that the report be completed in time for the upcoming Council Retreat in the first week of June, as RCMP issues would be one of the topics to be addressed. He also indicated that his office would be responsible for gathering comments from Council and City staff.

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

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION

3. RCMP MONTHLY REPORT – JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2000

(Report: Mar. 31/00; File: 5375-02; REDMS: 144083)

Reference was made by Councillor Greenhill to the 'clearance rate' statistics provided for 'drugs' at 83% and 'break and enters' at 16% for residential and at 4% for business, and she questioned whether the Detachment was better at clearing 'drug' cases than 'break and enters'. A brief discussion ensued, during which Supt. MacAulay explained that 'drug' cases were self-generated as in a majority of the cases, the individual who was responsible was either known to the police or in custody after being arrested at the scene of the crime.

It was moved and seconded

That the RCMP Monthly Report for the months of January and February 2000 (attached to the report dated March 31st, 2000, from the General Manager, Finance & Corporate Services), be received for information.

CARRIED

4. RICHMOND POLICE DOG SERVICES – 1999 YEAR END REPORT

(Report: Mar. 05/00; File: 5350-01)

Supt. MacAulay briefly reviewed the report with Committee members.

It was moved and seconded

That the Richmond Police Dog Services – 1999 Year End Report (attached to the report dated March 5th, 2000, from Insp. A. R. Speevak, Operations Support Officer, Richmond Detachment), be received for information.

CARRIED

5. PARKS DEPARTMENT WORK PROGRAM 2000

(Report: Mar. 29/00; File: 2310-01; REDMS 145109, 146344, 141708)

Through the use of a PowerPoint presentation, the Director, Parks, Dave Semple, accompanied by Manager, Parks Administration & Programs reviewed his department's 2000 work program with the Committee.

In response to questions, the following information was provided:

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- with respect to the work presently being undertaken on the Terra Nova dyke, Public Works crews were rebuilding the dyke to counteract erosion which had occurred in this area; once the work was completed, Parks crews would be undertaking the clean-up; further advice was given that similar work was being completed on the dykes at the south end of No. 3 Road, No. 7 Road and No. 8 Road
- with respect to the removal of graffiti on the underside of the No. 2 Road Bridge and whether this was a 'waste of time and money', advice was given that staff had found that given time, the graffiti spread to other areas and speedy removal of the graffiti offered a deterrent to would-be artists; further advice was given that complaints had been received from members of the public walking along the dyke in this area about the graffiti under the bridge deck
- the City wild flower program was being reinstated along the south dyke.

Mayor Halsey-Brandt referred to the "Special Events List for May" and noted that the official opening of the new City Hall on May 20th, 2000 coincided with a track meet taking place at Minoru Park. He expressed concern that there might not be sufficient parking in the area to accommodate both events, and Mr. Semple advised that he would contact the track meet organizers to determine the type and size of event to be held.

It was moved and seconded

That the work program (as outlined in the report dated March 29, 2000 from the Director, Parks) titled "Parks Department Work Program 2000", be endorsed.

CARRIED

CORPORATE TEAM

6. PROCESS FOR COMMUNITY INITIATED CAPITAL PROJECT REQUESTS

(Report: Mar. 27/00; File: 0103-20-LMCD1; REDMS: 142878)

The Manager, Development Applications, Joe Erceg, reviewed the report with Committee members. Concern was expressed about the perception that community groups might see this process providing an opportunity for these organizations to submit 'wish lists' to the City. A brief discussion ensued on how this concern would be addressed, during which advice was given that the City would not actively be seeking projects from these organizations.

It was moved and seconded

That the Process for Community Initiated Capital Project Requests (as outlined in a report dated March 27th, 2000, from the Chair, Land and Capital Team), be endorsed.

CARRIED

7. **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

The Assistant Chief Public Health Inspector, Art Hamade, reported on the impact of the Federal Supreme Court ruling on the Workers' Compensation Board ban on smoking in all public facilities and how it affected Richmond facilities. He advised that the WCB ruling had been struck down because public hearings had not been held prior to initiating the smoking ban. As a result, the WCB was now holding hearings and proposed to develop new regulations as a result of any submissions which might be received. Mr. Hamade stated that the WCB hoped to have the new regulations in effect by October of this year.

Reference was made to the 'no smoking' bylaw adopted by the City of Vancouver, and questions were raised about whether Richmond Health Services would be presenting a new bylaw to Council for consideration, which was similar to the Vancouver bylaw. It was noted that Vancouver was now holding public hearings with regard to smoking rooms, and questions were raised about whether the City could take similar action when our current bylaw did not permit smoking rooms. Mr. Hamade noted that the Vancouver bylaw permitted smoking rooms, which were separate rooms not entered into by staff, prior to the Federal Supreme Court ruling.

Discussion ensued on (i) the feasibility of the City adopting a bylaw similar to the one adopted by Vancouver, and (ii) whether outdoor smoking areas totally separate from other eating areas, could be permitted. Mr. Hamade advised during the discussion that Richmond Health Services would be prepared to enforce any new regulations. The comment was also made during the discussion that the City should not wait for the introduction of the new WCB regulations. As a result, the following **referral** motion was introduced:

It was moved and seconded

That staff report to the next meeting of the Community Services Committee on the feasibility of:

- (a) adopting new 'no smoking' regulations, similar to those adopted by the City of Vancouver;***
- (b) permitting smoking rooms or totally separate outdoor smoking areas, as part of the new regulations.***

Prior to the question being called, staff were directed to liaise with the City Solicitor to determine if the City should be initiating a public process, if the City chose to pursue the option of permitting smoking rooms or outdoor smoking areas in the bylaw.

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

Mr. McLellan advised that a delegation had been expected to address the Committee this afternoon to request permission to hold a 'rave' event in a City facility on May 13th, 2000, however, this individual had not yet arrived. He stated that staff had not received a formal request from the individual concerned, or direction from Council on whether 'rave' events should be held in City-owned facilities. The comment was made by Councillor Steves that he had concerns about holding a function in a City facility and about whether the City should even become involved in such a proposal.

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Mr. McLellan presented the proposed "City Hall Opening" banner to the Committee. During the brief discussion which ensued, concern was expressed about the small size of the logo located in the top left corner of the banner. The suggestion was made that the logo either be omitted from the banner or increased in size.

ADJOURNMENT

8. It was moved and seconded
That the meeting be adjourned (5:05 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, April 11th, 2000.

Councillor Harold Steves
Chair

Fran J. Ashton
Executive Assistant