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## Council/School Board Liaison Committee

Date: Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2004  
Place: Anderson Room  
Richmond City Hall

Present: Councillor Evelina Halsey-Brandt, Chair  
Councillor Derek Dang (9:34 a.m.)  
School Trustee Debbie Tablotney  
School Trustee Linda McPhail

Absent: School Trustee Sandra Bourque

Also Present: K. L. Morris, Secretary-Treasurer, School District No. 38 (Richmond)  
(9:45 a.m.)  
G. McLean, Manager, Facilities  
Director, Parks Operations, Dave Semple  
K. Sparrow, Director, Recreation & Cultural Services  
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 9<sup>th</sup>, 2004, be adopted with an amendment to add as Item No. 4.3(a), "Parking Concerns – Elementary Zone Meets".*

**CARRIED**

### MINUTES

2. It was moved and seconded  
*That the minutes of the meetings of the Council/School Board Liaison Committee held on Tuesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2003 and on Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2004, be adopted as circulated.*

**CARRIED**

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(Councillor Dang entered the meeting – 9:34 a.m.)

## 3. BUSINESS ARISING

### 3.1 **Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services (PRCS) Master Plan** (City Memo: Mar. 3/04) (File No.: 0340-20-CSER1) (REDMS No. 1132322, 1126097)

The Director, Recreation & Cultural Services, Kate Sparrow, advised that the report was a follow-up to the Committee meeting held on January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2004. She then briefly reviewed the report, advising that City staff would like to incorporate the broad and general recommendations into the Master Plan; with prioritization taking place on an annual basis. Ms. Sparrow stated that in this way, the themes which arose as a result of the discussions could be addressed with the School District and recommendations placed in the Master Plan.

Ms. Sparrow further advised that following the completion of the consultation process with the many stakeholders, that a draft report would be submitted to Council and then most likely sent out to the public for further consultation.

Discussion ensued among Committee members on the proposed Master Plan, during which agreement was expressed about the need to set priorities. The suggestion was made that the respective staff of the City and the School District meet to determine what the priorities should be and how these priorities would fit into that organization's plans. It was noted that there were a number of issues which were outside the scope of parks and recreation which the Committee may wish to discuss.

Reference was made to the fact that both organizations were in need of revenue, and comments were made about possible partnerships, and the need to be aware of actions which might impair future revenue sources. Revenue generation opportunities were addressed, including fees and charges for the use of neighbourhood facilities and school and park sites, and the need for a revenue generating policy for joint school/park site use.

As a result of the discussion, the following motion was introduced:

It was moved and seconded

*That the Council/School Board Liaison Committee agrees with the direction taken in the "Themes for Discussion" (attached to the memorandum dated March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2004, from the Director, Recreation & Cultural Services), and that their respective staff be directed to follow up on these issues with their counterparts within the City and School District.*

**CARRIED**

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## 4. NEW BUSINESS

### 4.1 Cook School Park Site Master Plan Process

(City Memo: Mar. 2/04) (File No.: 2345-20-COOK1) (REDMS No. 1129736)

The Director, Parks Operations, Dave Semple, reviewed the material circulated with the agenda package, during which he cited the need for action to develop a master plan for the area as well as to improve the existing site. He stated that staff would be preparing a report to Council on the development of a park plan for the Cook School park site for inclusion in the 2005 park plan.

(Mr. Morris entered the meeting at 9:45 a.m.).

Discussion ensued, during which reference was made to the transient nature of the area and to the many families who lived in the area who had young children and who were unable to take them anywhere to play. Information was provided that City staff would be reviewing programming issues for the area to address the needs of the families, during which the comment was made that City and School District staff needed to explore options on how the two organizations could work together to develop the park plan; and to address issues through school programming.

Advice was given that the City staff report would address working with the School District in a coordinated approach, and would recommend the development of a master plan in conjunction with the parents; and how funding would be found to complete the project, such as through the use of Development Cost Charges and other creative funding options. Advice was given during the ensuing discussion that the Cook School principal had indicated that it would be difficult to raise funds through the community because of the low financial income of the neighbourhood. A suggestion was made that there might be an opportunity with a service club to provide financial assistance rather than considering a traditional source of funding. Reference was made to the number of developers who contributed to the densification of the City Centre, and the comment was made that the City could require that the densification be in the form of affordable housing.

The discussion concluded with advice being given that Mr. Semple would prepare a joint City/School District report to the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Committee.

The Chair directed that the matter be received for information.

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## 4.2a Update – Replacement of Steveston Secondary School – Traffic Issues

(For discussion)

## 4.2b London / Steveston High School Parks Plan Process

(City Memo: Mar. 2/04) (File No.: 2345-20-LSTE1) (REDMS No. 1130189)

Reference was made by Dave Semple to the map attached to the memorandum. In reviewing the map, he stated that it was possible that with the development of the new school, that one of the fields and a baseball diamond would be lost. However, he added that if funding became available, that it could be possible to convert the lit sand cell field to artificial turf. Mr. Semple further advised that after further research, if the opportunity did exist, that staff would be preparing a report to Council on this opportunity, to commence in 2007.

Discussion ensued, during which advice was given that School District staff were meeting later on this date to discuss field use. Information was provided that School District staff were concerned about the cost of installing an artificial turf field because of its limited use.

Further advice was given that the School District staff intended to have the planning and design of the new school completed and ready for construction in March of 2005. Concern was expressed about any impediments which might slow down the process, and which could result in the District losing the \$9 Million commitment from the Provincial Government, if an election should occur in the meantime.

Discussion continued, with it being noted that conversion of the sand cell field to an artificial turf would allow year-round use by community and school teams. Because the field was the home of the Girls Softball and Soccer Leagues, the comment was made that the opportunity could exist for a joint partnership between the City and the School Board to create an elite women's athletic program and to develop the new school based on this theme, which would provide an opportunity for higher education. The comment was made that such a proposal would support the installation of artificial turf in each of the two school areas. City staff advised that meetings would be held with School District staff to discuss if such a partnership could be achieved.

Discussion then ensued on whether there would be any opportunities to use funding to create an Olympic legacy, with advice being given that the funding was intended to promote physical activity, such as financing playground equipment, and could not be used to finance construction of a new school. The comment was made however that the Girls Softball and Girls Soccer organizations were the most active sports groups, and had the skills, knowledge and ability to obtain funding.

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Discussion then ensued on traffic issues being experienced in the area of the entrance to Charles E. London School Elementary School from Williams Road. Information was provided that a new entrance was being planned for Williams Road, but that one problem would be whether left turns into the new entrance would be feasible. Mr. McLean used a map to further explain the traffic issues.

Information was provided that (i) a public meeting was planned for March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2004, to explain the proposals for the new entrance to the school to area residents, and (ii) a traffic consultant would be hired.

In concluding the discussion, the Chair requested that the City be kept informed of the public's response to the proposed new entrance. The Chair directed that the matter be received for information.

## 4.3 **Parking Concerns – Richmond High School / Minoru Park**

(City Memo: Mar. 2/04) (File No.: 2345-20-MIN01; xr 6455-01) (REDMS No. 1130198)

Mr. Semple advised that a number of complaints had been received about the lack of parking at Minoru Park, and suggested that the ideal situation would be to create temporary parking at Richmond High and relocate the students to that area, as it was most important that the park patrons had parking stalls available at all times at the Park.

Reference was made to the survey undertaken by Garry McLean on the number of available parking stalls in the Minoru Park/Cultural Centre area, and a brief discussion ensued, during which photographs of the area were circulated to the Committee. Advice was given during the discussion that arrangements had been made to ensure that school buses were available to schools to provide transportation to students participating in sports meets at Minoru Park, rather than driving to the park in individual vehicles. Further advice was given that notices would be sent out to parents encouraging them to find other areas to park. The suggestion was also made that a traffic person be engaged to control the number of people turning into the park and to close the area when parking was no longer available, when it was full.

The Chair directed that the matter be received for information.

### 4.3a **Parking Concerns – Elementary Track Meets**

School Trustee Linda McPhail advised that she had received telephone calls from the Kajaks Sports Club that elementary school zone track meets were being cancelled because of parking problems at Minoru Park.

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In response, confirmation was provided that the Minoru track was not being closed, and that the discussions held with the Kajaks had been to ensure that there would be adequate parking for the patrons of the park during sports events. During the discussion which ensued, Secretary-Treasurer, Ken Morris asked that complaints about the lack of parking be referred to his office for review, as he had found that every time he had been at the park, many parking spaces had been available.

The Chair spoke of the need to advise the Kajaks that the City had no intention of cancelling any elementary school track meets, and it was agreed that a letter would be sent to the Kajaks on this matter.

## 4.4 City Economic Development Strategy

(For discussion)

Information was provided by Mr. Morris about the District's International Student Program, which now had almost 200 participants and would soon increase to 300 or 400. He stated that the program was an important source of revenue for the District, and he spoke of opportunities which existed for the City and the School District to promote not only the City but also public schools within the City to countries throughout the world. Mr. Morris added that the Superintendent, Bruce Beirsto, had already had meetings with City staff on this matter.

Discussion ensued among Committee members on this matter and on the City potentially twinning with another city, possibly in Korea, during which Mr. Morris commented on the similarity of Korea and Richmond, especially with respect to education.

(Dave Semple left the meeting at 10:30 a.m. and did not return.)

Mr. Morris reported that the School District had an annual profit of \$1 Million from its International Student Program, and he spoke further on the program as well as other revenue generating opportunities.

The Chair asked that School District staff keep the City informed of its progress in this matter.

## 4.5 Richmond Arts Strategy

(City Memo: Mar. 3/04) (File No.: 7000-01) (REDMS No. 1132456) (Material distributed separately.)

Ms. Sparrow advised that the strategy had been submitted for information only and suggested that the Manager, Cultural Services, Jane Fernyhough, be invited to attend the next meeting of the Committee to review the report in detail. She noted that there were a number of recommendations contained in the report which dealt with the feasibility of sharing facilities.

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During the discussion which took place, the comment was made that it was important that the School District and Board review the strategy and provide input and additional recommendations if required. A further comment was made that the document would be a valuable resource for secondary school arts teachers, and the suggestion was made that school principals be provided with copies. In response, the Chair requested that staff ensure that copies were made available to the principals.

Discussion continued, during which Ms. Sparrow spoke briefly about the development of the strategy and the steps which would next be taken to obtain public and stakeholder comments. Mr. Morris also commented on the new drama facility in Richmond High School, and information was provided on the arts programs which were in place at various schools throughout the City.

In concluding the discussion, the Chair directed that the strategy be submitted to the School District's Fine Arts Committee.

## 5. INFORMATION ITEMS

### 5.1 City Planning Update - Bill 35 Update

(Oral report)

The Acting Manager, Development Applications, Holger Burke, spoke about Bill 35 and the action which would be taken if the School District and City did not reach an agreement. Mr. Morris noted that there was not a great deal of time to consult and suggested that the two agencies meet earlier than with the formal establishment of the capital plan. He added that it had been clarified that the City wanted to be responsible for the consultation with the development community, and that one of the requirements was that School District staff meet with Urban Development staff.

A brief discussion, during which advice was given that School District staff had responded to the City on the concerns which had been raised. In turn, Mr. Burke advised that correspondence had been received from Minister Christensen, which indicated that a facilitator had been appointed.

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## 5.3 School Planning and Construction Schedule

(Memo: Mar. 02/04) (File No.: 0155-02)

Garry McLean reviewed the School Planning and Construction Schedule with the Committee. Additional information was provided on the number of trades programs being offered at secondary schools, and questions were raised about the dedication of funding to develop an auto shop. Also discussed briefly was the feasibility of creating 'magnet' schools which would offer specialized apprenticeship programs.

## 5.2 Cambie West

(Oral report)

The Manager, Policy Planning, Terry Crowe, provided information to the Committee on the development of an area plan for Cambie West, as a result of a proposal received to construct a WalMart store at the corner of Garden City Road and Alderbridge Way. He further advised that City staff wished to meet with School District staff to determine if the District had any concerns about the proposal. Mr. Crowe then spoke about possible uses for the area.

A brief discussion ensued, during which information was provided on the boundaries of the Cambie West area. Mr. Crowe added that City staff would be meeting shortly with School District staff, and that staff were hopeful that the area plan would be approved by December of 2004.

In concluding the discussion, the Chair advised that School District staff would be included in future discussions regarding the development of the plan.

## 6. PENDING ITEMS

None.

## 7. FUTURE MEETING DATES

A brief discussion ensued among Committee members and staff on the feasibility of changing the time of the Committee meetings to another date or time. However, it was agreed that the meeting date would remain unchanged.

The next meeting of the Council/School Board Liaison Committee is scheduled to be held at **9:30 a.m., Tuesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2004, in the Anderson Room.**

8.



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## ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded

*That the meeting adjourn (10:55 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 9<sup>th</sup>, 2004

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Councillor Harold Steves  
Chair

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