



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee

To Parks, Recreation & Culture - May 29, 2007
Date: May 11, 2007

From: Dave Semple
Director of Parks and Public Works Operations

File: 11-7000-00

Re: Residency Requirements

Staff Recommendation

That Council maintain a 60/40 ratio of Richmond residents/others for any public Richmond organization wanting to book recreation or sport facilities from the City, as outlined in the City of Richmond's Policy 8701.

Dave Semple
Director of Parks and Public Works Operations
(3350)
Attach. 1

FOR ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT USE ONLY					
ROUTED TO:		CONCURRENCE		CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER	
Customer Service	Y	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N		
Parks Design, Construction & Programs	Y	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N		
Sport and Events	Y	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N		
Arenas and Aquatics	Y	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N		
Community Recreation	Y	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N		
Culture and Heritage	Y	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N		
REVIEWED BY TAG		YES	NO	REVIEWED BY CAO	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	YES	
				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
				NO	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	

Staff Report

Origin

At their regular meeting of Richmond City Council on December 11, 2006, the following resolution was adopted:

“That staff in conjunction with the Richmond Sport Council and sports groups not affiliated with the RSC, review the 60/40 ratio of Richmond residents/others involved in sport programs in the City of Richmond, as outlined in the City of Richmond’s Policy 8701”.

This report is in response to this referral.

Current Reality

The City of Richmond Policy 8701 Parks and Leisure Services – Community Involvement (Attachment 1) states that assistance may be given to: *“Any public Richmond organization with membership of at least 60% Richmond residents, or as approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission in developing and implementing its leisure services programs”.*

This ratio of 60% residency requirement has been applied for community groups wanting to book Richmond’s municipal recreation and sport facilities. The 60/40 ratio has also been applied for community groups wanting to lease City facilities in which to provide recreation, sport or cultural programs in the community. The City receives very few complaints from groups or individuals regarding its 60% residency requirement.

Analysis

Municipalities located in metropolitan areas, such as the Lower Mainland, are often challenged with what is the appropriate percentage of residents that make up community groups that are permitted to book recreation facilities, receive subsidized facility rental rates or other financial assistance from their City Councils. Scarce resources combined with increasing demands for facilities have prompted many municipalities to establish facility allocation policies that include adherence to a specified residency requirement.

Residency requirements are very difficult to verify and expensive to administer. Some municipalities collect membership rosters, but most deal with residency requirements on a complaint only basis. A review of other Lower Mainland municipalities shows a range between 50 and 80% residency requirement.

Comparison of Municipal Residency Requirements for Sport Facility Allocation

Municipality	% Residency Requirement	Comments
Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows	50%	Resident
Richmond	60%	Resident
Burnaby	60%	Live or work in the community
Coquitlam	60%	Resident
Delta	60%	Resident
Port Coquitlam	75%	Resident
North Vancouver	75%	Resident
Surrey	80%	Resident
New Westminster	None	No policy, but priority is given to NW teams
West Vancouver	None	No policy, but priority is given to WV teams
Vancouver	None	No policy. Feel that it is too difficult to administer

Comments From Richmond Sport Council

At the meeting of January 9, 2007, the Richmond Sport Council unanimously approved to support keeping Richmond's residency requirement at 60%. The group felt that youth sports are not an issue, as most youth sports organizations are comprised almost entirely of Richmond residents. However, adult groups are rarely organized based on residency. Adult groups typically form due to social or work relationships, calibre of competition, ethnic origin, and common interest or club affiliation.

General Recreation Program Registration

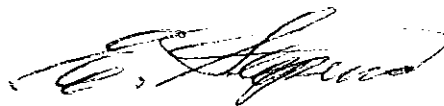
So far in 2007, 95% of registrations are Richmond residents in our registered recreation programs offered through our community centres and recreation facilities.

Financial Impact

If the City remains with the current 60/40 ratio of Richmond residents/others involved in sport programs in the City of Richmond, there will be no financial impact.

Conclusion

The City of Richmond receives very few complaints from groups or individuals regarding its current 60% residency requirement for public Richmond Organizations wanting to book recreation and sport facilities from the City. The 60/40 ratio of Richmond residents/others is in line with what most other Lower Mainland municipalities have adopted, and Richmond Sport Council has endorsed it. Changing the ratio is therefore not recommended.



Eric Stepura
 Manager, Sports & Community Events
 (1274)

Page 1 of 29	Adopted by Council: Mar. 28/78	POLICY 8701
File Ref: 7000-00	PARKS AND LEISURE SERVICES – COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT	

POLICY 8701:

It is Council policy that:

Council encourages and supports community initiative, involvement, and decision making in programs of planning, acquisition, development, operation, and maintenance of parks and leisure services in Richmond.

It is the intent of Council to:

1. Encourage other groups, organizations and individuals to provide leisure programs, facilities and services in line with community need.
2. Encourage and incorporate the involvement of volunteers in the delivery of leisure services.
3. Support the formation, nurturing, and growth of parks and leisure services groups in the development and maintenance of the parks and leisure services delivery system.

Assistance may be given to:

1. Community and neighbourhood associations and societies which include Leisure Services programs as a major part of their objectives.
2. Any public Richmond organization with membership of at least 60% Richmond residents, or as approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission in developing and implementing its leisure services programs.

The organizations, upon receiving assistance, will provide the Parks & Leisure Services Department with up-to-date records of the organization and its activities.

Encouragement and assistance may be given to the establishment of the community and neighbourhood associations and societies which include leisure services programs as a major part of their objectives. Wherever possible, neighbourhood organizations are encouraged to become affiliated with, or an integral part of, the larger community association serving the geographical area in which the neighbourhood is located. New community associations would be formed when population densities, through infilling of residential areas, create a need for a logical sub-municipal identity and the development of major community recreational facilities in a new location. Council is committed to providing facilitating and coordinating services to community groups and individuals involved in the provision of public leisure services. The Parks & Leisure Services Department accepts a leadership role in the coordination of leisure service programming and will endeavour to avoid undesirable duplication of services, or unreasonable variances in fees and charges to participants.