



EAST RICHMOND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

50 YEARS OF COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

September 27, 2004

General Purposes Committee
Richmond City Hall
6911 No. 3 Road
Richmond V6Y 2C1

Dear Committee Members:

Re: East Richmond Healthy Community Project Update

We would like to take this opportunity to provide a brief update on the projects that we are continuing to work on as we strive together to provide a healthy community in the East Richmond area.

The support that we have received from the Mayor and Members of Council together with city staff has contributed immensely towards the goals we have set ourselves in the provision of services for the residents of our area. It has truly been a team effort in every sense of the word.

Farmers Market

On each Sunday from August 1st thru September 26th (9:00 am thru to 2:00 pm) a Farmers Market and Agricultural Festival was held in the parking lot at Cambie Community Centre. This initiative was to celebrate the agricultural identity of East Richmond by providing an opportunity for the small-scale local agricultural producer to sell his products to local residents and for them to meet the people who grow their food. Entertainment, music and activities for the children were provided to make this a truly family event which proved to be very popular. We are planning on making this an annual event.

Beautification of No. 5 Road and Cambie

To raise the identity of the neighbourhood, the City/Association shared the costs in the placement of banners in the area. Our future plans include the shopping mall becoming a village centre or a mini Ironwood and we are continuing to work with the merchants to ensure that this concept eventually becomes a reality.

Village Centre Shopping Area

East Richmond has been growing at a fast pace during the past few years. However, the availability of services has not kept pace with the growth. As a matter of fact, some services have been reduced. Take

CAMBIE COMMUNITY CENTRE

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for example, the closure of Bag and Save at Cambie and No. 5 Road. Also, the pending closure of Safeway at Lansdowne Mall will have an adverse impact on residents of East Richmond. We hope that the City will look into this matter and ensure that there is a full scale grocery store in the area.

Mitchell School

The uncertainty with regard to the sale of the school and land has given us some ideas and we are keeping our fingers crossed that any future development will give us an opportunity to work with a developer in the provision of social service agencies or housing.

Health Centre

Our partnership with the Health Department has resulted in a health centre being established in the old East Richmond Community Hall with the provision of mother, baby and youth services all fully funded by the Health Department. We are now looking into the conversion of the old board room into a counselling area, again this will be funded by the Health Department. As an Association we also participate in the East Richmond Advisory Committee of the Neighbourhood Level Primary Healthcare Organization which gives us valuable insight into the future plans for health care provision at the neighbourhood level.

RCMP Forum

A Town Hall meeting was held in May at the Cambie Community Centre and citizens brought forward concerns they had in their neighbourhoods which were mainly grow ops, security in King George Park, community policing and street racing. The evening went well and Ward Clapham took the opportunity to emphasize his commitment to community policing and introduced the RCMP officers assigned to the East Richmond area.

Gathering Place Project

This project is co-sponsored by our Association and the Public Art Project and the goal is to invite community members to help build a community identity as well as create a more vibrant and healthy community by the design and construction of an open-aired community gathering place. The facilitator was Milenko Matanovic a world-renown artist who has assisted communities all over the world in the creation of these special gathering places. An information session was held on September 30th followed by a community workshop on October 2nd which proved very successful. A strong interest was shown by the residents and we will certainly keep you informed of the next steps in this process and the outcome of the consultation.

Transport

Translink held an Open House in July at the Cambie Community Centre with regard to a community shuttle service being planned from Richmond Centre to the Crestwood Industrial Park area and south east Cambie business area. The plan developed by Coast Mountain Bus Company, Translink and the City would also provide coverage to some residential neighbourhoods next to Cambie Road. This service is scheduled to begin in December and will be a welcome addition for the residents who have expressed concerns about the lack of transportation in this part of the City.

Cambie Library

The phenomenal success of this branch is a great example of a need being addressed in the community and again, this was a team effort to bring library services into the neighbourhood. We would like to see an extension of the hours of operation to 69 hours per week instead of the current 44 hours per week. The Richmond Public Library Board are very supportive and are in the process of doing everything in their power to ensure an increase in the library opening times.

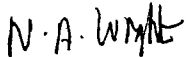
King George Park

We have a caretaker now in the park which has proven to be a real asset. We would also like to see a community garden established between the tennis courts and old community hall and we are following up on this initiative with staff.

Following the report from CHIMO Crisis Services with regard to the crime and safety in the park which is perceived by the residents to be a large concern, an initiative has been approved by the Board to "take back the park" and hold an East Richmond Lantern Festival on April 23, 2005. A procession would walk from the Rotunda along the path, past the portables to McNeely School, past the playground to the Waterpark, and then back (approximately 2km). Afterwards there would be coffee and hot chocolate available in the community centre. This initiative would just be the beginning of re-establishing the community presence in the park.

Again, many thanks for your encouragement, support and the continuing interest to you have taken in our Healthy Community project and we are confident that we will continue to work together to ensure that the residents of Richmond continue to be proud of their community.

Yours truly,



Nora Ann Wright
President



Balwant Sanghera
Vice President



City of Richmond

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September 20th, 2004
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East Richmond Community Association
4111 Jacombs Road
Richmond, BC V6V 1N7

Attention: Ms. Nora A. Wright
President

Dear Ms. Wright:

Re: East Richmond Healthy Community Project - Update

In response to your letter dated July 26th, 2004, this is to confirm that arrangements have been made for Balwant Sanghera and yourself to appear as a delegation on the above matter at the General Purposes Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, October 4th, 2004, at 4:00 p.m. in the Anderson Room, located on the 2nd floor, of Richmond City Hall. It is noted that you intend to submit a written report, and I would ask that you ensure that the report is in the City Clerk's Office no later than 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 29th, 2004.

Yours truly,

J. Richard McKenna
City Clerk

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