



## COUNCIL/SCHOOL BOARD LIAISON COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

Date: Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2000

Time: 1:00 p.m.

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

Present: Councillor Lyn Greenhill, Chair  
Councillor Harold Steves (entered at 1:44 p.m.)  
Trustee Sandra Bourque  
Trustee Chris Evans

Also Present: Ms. K. Sparrow, Director, Recreation & Cultural Services  
Mr. Dave Semple, Director, Parks  
Mr. D. Naysmith, Manager, Facilities Planning & Construction  
Mr. H. Burke, Development Coordinator  
Mr. Ken Morris, Secretary-Treasurer  
Mr. B. Fraser, Deputy Secretary-Treasurer  
Mr. G. McLean, Manager of Facilities  
Mrs. F. Ashton, Executive Assistant

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

1. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

It was moved and seconded

***That the agenda for the meeting of Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2000, be adopted with the addition of "Public Access to the MacNeill Secondary School Site" as Item No. 4.9 to the agenda.***

**CARRIED**

2. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

It was moved and seconded

***That the minutes of the meeting of the Council/School Board Liaison Committee held on Wednesday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2000, be adopted as circulated.***

**CARRIED**

**3. BUSINESS ARISING**

None.

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

**4.1 Joint School Board/City Task Force on Safe Meeting Places for Youth**  
(City Memo: Sept. 13/00; File No.: 0100-20-SBC11) (REDMS 187353)

The Director, Recreation & Cultural Services, Kate Sparrow advised that as a result of the adoption of the resolution by Council to form the task force, she had met with Mr. Bruce Beairisto, Associate Superintendent of Schools, to discuss the proposed membership and terms of reference for the group. She stated that because of the many youth related organizations which exist in the City, it was important to define the scope of issues to be addressed. Ms. Sparrow added that a meeting was planned for September 29<sup>th</sup>, at which time School Board staff, members of the RCMP and City staff would be discussing problems related to vandalism and the degree to which it was occurring. She questioned whether the task force was only to deal with youth in trouble or those who were simply out late at night and needed a safe place to congregate, and indicated that more direction and discussion was required before the task force could be established.

Discussion then ensued among Committee members and staff on this matter. Information was provided that the School Board was concerned about the number of youth whose time schedules did not fall within normal work days and who frequented late night/early morning activities. Trustee Bourque stated that many youth, after putting in a full day at school, had part time jobs which did not end until 11:30 p.m., and who then sought some form of physical activity. She noted that many of their previous hang-outs, such as Garry Point Park, were no longer available now that City parks were closed after sunset, and in areas where they were found to be standing around and talking with their friends, they would be considered to be loitering and directed to leave. Advice was given that Board members were of the opinion that certain school sites (with a minimum of 3 regional), such as Burnett Secondary School, as well as other local facilities, should remain open late at night, to offer a safe environment to people who were out late at night. Trustee Bourque suggested that these facilities could be buildings which were part of a regular police patrol.

Trustee Evans commented that Richmond youth were not necessarily school age but also included 18 to 25 year olds. She spoke briefly about the 'Generation Leadership', a community leadership program for young adults. Trustee Evans cautioned Committee members however that the School District did not have additional funds available to operate facilities at night, and that the Board did not want to be held responsible for allowing schools to be open at night, free of charge.

Discussion continued on possible terms of reference for the task force, during which the following comments were made:

- facilities should be adequate and accessible
- the target age group would from 15 to 20 or 25 years of age
- the program should be available throughout the City
- late night events should be 'predictable' so that youth did not have to go searching for the appropriate venue
- the involvement of other City organizations related to the provision of services to youth would be the next step, following the establishment of the task force
- most youth did not have a great deal of disposable income to spend on late night activities.

In conclusion, Ms. Sparrow advised that she would take the comments of the Council/School Board Liaison Committee to the upcoming September 29<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**4.2 London/Steveston and Palmer/Garden City Parks Fieldhouses**  
(City Memo: Sept. 13/00; File No.: 2325-20-015/2325-20-025) (REDMS 187196)

The Manager, Facilities Planning & Construction, David Naysmith, used site plans to fully explain the proposed fieldhouse construction projects. He noted that the second floor would be utilized to incorporate a caretaker's suite, while the ground floor included a concession area, washrooms and storage space. Mr. Naysmith advised that staff were proposing that the outside wall of the washroom be constructed of glass blocks, which would allow natural light into the washroom area and result in a reduction of lighting expenses. In response to a question from the Chair about possible vandalism, he advised that the glass blocks proposed for use would be difficult to break.

Mr. Naysmith further advised that the caretaker's suite would be approximately 750 sq. feet in size, and would contain a storage area, lunch room, 2 bedrooms and balcony, and that the design would allow the caretaker to observe all areas of the park. He also noted that for both sites, the concession stand would face north-west and the caretaker's balcony would face in a south-westerly direction.

During the discussion which ensued, and in response to questions, the following information was provided:

- the construction period would be approximately 4 to 6 months and would not commence before January, 2001
- City staff would be working with School District staff to determine how construction access would be provided to the sites so that the safety of students would not be compromised.

Questions were raised about the proposed colour scheme for the proposed fieldhouses and whether it would be compatible with the adjacent schools, and the Chair asked that staff review the situation and provide a memo to the Committee on the proposed colours.

Secretary-Treasurer Ken Morris referred to the Palmer School/Park site and noted that there was a great deal of vandalism occurring at that school. He then used the site plan to explain how access was provided to the school. Mr. Morris advised that now that the portable classrooms had been removed from the property, plans were now being made to eliminate vehicular access to the alcove area of the school. He then questioned whether the City would expect construction access to go through that area. In response, advice was given that the matter would be reviewed, however, the opinion was expressed that the closure of this area should not prevent construction vehicles from entering the property. Further advice was also given that the safety of the students would be given top consideration, and that the construction activity would be comparable to building a single-family dwelling.

(Councillor Steves entered the meeting at 1:44 p.m.)

Discussion continued on a possible time frame for construction, and Mr. Naysmith advised that staff hoped to present a report to Council in mid-December with a recommendation on the awarding of the tender for the project.

**4.3 McNair Secondary School - Parking**  
(Memo: May 18/00; File No.: 0155-02)

Mr. Morris reviewed the proposed area to be paved around McNair Secondary School with Committee members, during which he advised that School District staff had been asked to engage the services of a consultant to undertake a traffic circulation study, and to approach the City to determine if there was agreement to pave the entire area. He noted that the School District had been receiving many complaints about the lack of parking in the area during baseball season. Mr. Morris advised that the study had been completed and subsequently sent to City Council for support. Mr. Morris continued, stating that the paving of the school property had now been completed, and the area of the former music room (portable classroom) had now been cleaned up. He advised that the School District was now wondering how to approach baseball organizations to provide funding to complete paving on the City's property.

Discussion ensued on this matter, during which confirmation was given that the City-owned property located on the north side of the school had not yet been paved, and that the School District only had sufficient funding available to pave that area where the portable classrooms had been located.

Reference was made by the Chair to the resolution adopted by Council which indicated that the School Board wished to utilize a portion of City-owned property for the expansion of parking facilities and a portion of a new vehicular entrance. With reference to the comments made about the lack of parking in the area, and City staff advised that they would review the situation. It was noted that there had been a decrease in the number of tournaments being held which could help to reduce the complaints, however, it was also noted that the School District's proposal still encroached 6 or 7 metres onto the City's property. Mr. Semple stated that the original proposal had been to retain the area as green space and

that if it became necessary, staff would then determine if the area should be used to provide additional parking.

Discussion then ensued on the intent of the resolution put forward by the School Board and subsequently adopted by the City, and as a result, the Chair directed Mr. Semple to clarify and report to the next Committee meeting on the intent of the resolution adopted by Council and the action requested by the School District.

**4.4 Hamilton Elementary School/Community Centre Construction**

(Memo: May 5/00; File No.: 2050-20-HCC)

Mr. Morris briefly reviewed the memorandum with Committee members. The Manager, Facilities, Garry McLean, advised that piles were now being driven and that construction would be completed in 2001.

**4.5a. Vandalism School/Park Sites**

(Memo: Sept. 12/00; File No.: 2325-01)

**4.5b. Vandalism Reports - 1989 to 2000**

(Memo: Sept. 12/00; File No.: 0155-02)

Mr. Morris referred to the vandalism reports, and provided information on the monetary value of incidents which had occurred at various schools. During the discussion which ensued, the hope was expressed that the City and the School District would work together to examine ways of reducing vandalism at schools and in parks, such as through observation or enforcement, not necessarily by the RCMP. Concern was expressed about the amount of vandalism occurring and the suggestion was made that the issue should be referred to the Community Services Committee of Council as it was felt that the City should play a major role in solving this problem, and that representatives of the School District be invited to attend the meeting at which the matter would be addressed.

It was noted during the discussion that a committee had been established 2 years ago to deal with the damage caused by graffiti and that efforts were being made to remove graffiti as it occurred. The suggestion was made that perhaps staff could be directed to hold a preliminary meeting to determine what types of vandalism were actually occurring, as it was possible that these acts could be 'tied to a generation cycle'. Further examples of vandalism were provided by Mr. Morris, during which he stated that the cost of vandalism included the cost of thefts which had occurred in the schools.

As a result of the discussion, the Chair asked that staff from the City and the School District discuss the issue of vandalism and report to the Community Services Committee of Council on this matter.

**4.6 School/Park Maintenance**

(City Memo: Sept. 12/00; File No.: 2300-01) (REDMS 186897)

The Manager, Parks Operations, Gord Barstow, reviewed his memorandum with the Committee. He advised that 8 hours had been required to fully inspect the City's play areas, and that assistance was required to check these areas on a daily basis.

During the discussion which ensued, Mr. Morris confirmed that all school administrators, teachers and custodians had been advised about the recent vandalism at a local play area, and were sufficiently concerned that they were checking the play areas at their schools on a regular basis. However, concern was expressed that the constant checking was time consuming, and the suggestion was made by Mr. Barstow that perhaps students could become involved in the process. Mr. Morris stated that this could be possible, however the District would have to proceed carefully because of potential liability issues which could arise. It was noted during the discussion that both the School District and City crews checked their respective playground equipment on a monthly basis. Questions were raised about whether the noon-hour supervisors could check the equipment, however, the comment was made that the issue was more of a morning problem with children who arrived at school well before classes began. It was noted that the school principals and custodians had other duties which had to be performed before the school could open which took priority over checking the playground equipment for vandalism.

The Chair referred to the littering problem which was evident throughout the City, and questioned whether the partnership program would be extended to include secondary schools. A brief discussion then ensued on this matter and on the need to educate not only the children but adults about the proper disposal of litter.

**4.7 Tomsett School Rezoning**

(Memo: Sept. 12/00; File No.: 0155-02)

Mr. Morris advised that this matter had been submitted for the information of the Committee, and that once the rezoning on the property had been completed, School District staff would proceed with the construction of the driveway.

**4.8 School District #38 - 2001/2002 Capital Budget Submission**

(Memo: Sept. 12/00; File No.: 0155-02)

Mr. Morris referred to the budget submission, and advised that the District would now be discussing future school sites during public rather than closed meetings. He added that correspondence would be sent to the City which would name 2 sites included in the 'eligible' category, and that the District would now act on Bill 35.

During the brief discussion which ensued, the Chair referred to priority 41 in the District's budget summary, which dealt with the preparation of a facility study for Sidaway Elementary School. She questioned whether this study would be to eventually replace the school with a new facility. In response, Mr. McLean advised that the study would deal with whether the building could be renovated or had to be replaced.

4.9 Public Access to the MacNeill Secondary School Site

The Chair referred to correspondence received from the School District regarding the provision of 24 hour public access to the MacNeill school/park site. Discussion ensued briefly on this matter, during which it was noted that with the reconfiguration of the school, the need for 24 hour access no longer existed. As a result of the discussion, the following **referral** motion was introduced:

It was moved and seconded

***That the matter of the removal of 24 hour public access from the MacNeill Secondary School site be referred to staff for the preparation of a report to Council recommending the dissolution of the agreement between the City and the Board of School Trustees and the return access to the Board's jurisdiction.***

CARRIED

5. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

5.1 Planning and Construction Schedules - New/Renovations

(Memo: Sept. 12/00; File No.: 0155-02)

Mr. Morris advised that the School District had now been given approval to call for tenders for the construction of MacNeill Secondary School. He stated however, that the problem now was that the District had committed to undertake certain conditions prior to obtaining a building permit, and the time needed to complete these requirements would delay the tender process. Trustee Bourque spoke further on the issue, indicating that the School Board was concerned that a provincial election, if called in the Spring of 2001, could result in a possible change in government and possibly jeopardize capital funding for the project. She advised that staff had suggested that completion of the conditions would take at least six months, and she asked if there was anything which could be done which would allow the District to proceed with the tender call, while at the same time, dealing with the City's requirements.

During the discussion which ensued, Mr. Morris stated that the District wanted the funding in order to proceed with the construction of the school, as well as to complete the City's requirements for the project. He suggested that one alternative would be for the City to delay issuing an occupancy permit until the conditions had been completed. As a result of the discussion, School District staff were advised to meet with the Manager, Building Approvals Department, Rick Bortolussi and a member of the Planning Department on this matter.

6. **PENDING ITEMS**

The Chair advised City staff to report to the next meeting of the Committee on possible solutions to deal with MacNeill Secondary School.

7. **FUTURE MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council/School Board Liaison Committee would be held at **1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2000** in the Anderson Room, Richmond City Hall.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved and seconded

***That the regular meeting of the Council/School Board Liaison Committee be adjourned (2:38 p.m.).***

**CARRIED**

Certified a true and correct copy of  
the Minutes of the Council/School  
Board Liaison Committee held on  
Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2000.

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Councillor Lyn Greenhill  
Chair

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Fran J. Ashton  
Executive Assistant