



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee
From: Kate Sparrow
Director, Recreation & Cultural Services
Re: **Community Services in East Richmond**
Date: November 12, 2002
File: 4057-01

Staff Recommendation

That this report updating progress on the request from the East Richmond Community Association for the provision of community services in East Richmond be received for information.

K Sparrow

Kate Sparrow
Director, Recreation & Cultural Services

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ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Community Safety	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>[Signature]</i>
Parks Department.....	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	
Policy Planning	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	

Staff Report

Origin

On June 24th, 2002, the East Richmond Community Association approached Council to request City support for the provision of community services in East Richmond. As a result, Council directed staff to:

- ❑ Determine if there are City-owned properties in the area which might be suitable for such facilities,
- ❑ Discuss with the School District, the feasibility of utilizing space within local area schools for the facilities,
- ❑ Approach the owners of the 370 businesses in the East Richmond area about offering their support to the community in which they operated,
- ❑ Determine where there was space available for a multipurpose facility, both for the short and long term,
- ❑ With respect to the proposed health centre, consider the inclusion of a youth drop in facility as part of the health centre.

In response, this report provides Council an update on the initiatives being undertaken in conjunction with the East Richmond Community Association to respond to need for the provision of community services and related community development work in East Richmond.

Finding of Fact

East Richmond Healthy Community Development Project

The East Richmond Community Association has allocated funds to hire a community development coordinator to set into action the development of a Healthy Community Strategy for East Richmond that will:

- ❑ Assess and identify the community needs and priorities,
- ❑ Identify potential private and non-profit funding sources, including the local business community, to assist in the development and delivery of programs and services within the community.
- ❑ Promote community identity, sense of place and belonging,
- ❑ Develop coordinated, cost-effective programs and services to meet key local needs, and their delivery within the community.
- ❑ Increase resident and business interest to volunteer in community programs, services and activities.

The organizations involved in the Healthy Community Development Project include: Richmond Health Services, Richmond School Board, Richmond RCMP, Richmond Library, Touchstone Family Services, Family Services of Greater Vancouver, Richmond Family Place, Richmond Youth Service Agency, Richmond Child Development Board, Chimo, and the East Richmond Community Association.

Discussions with CHIMO Crisis Services will take place soon to determine whether they are interested in partnering in the Health Community Development Project to pilot a three-year community crisis management program.

It is expected that the community development coordinator will begin work in January, 2003, with the Healthy Community Development Strategy being completed by Spring, 2003 for presentation and discussion with Council.

Community Services

City staff have completed a review of City-owned properties in the East Richmond Community. With the exception of the East Richmond Community Hall, there are no comparable City owned buildings or facilities that could provide community-based programs and services. In 2003, discussions with the School District will be pursued to determine the feasibility and availability of utilizing space within local area schools for community use purposes.

On an interim basis, the East Richmond Community Association has agreed to permit programs in the East Richmond Hall where space permits the delivery of health and other community services at the East Richmond Hall. The first program to be delivered in 2003 will be the health clinic services. Discussions are underway to identify and develop other community-based services (e.g. community policing) that will help to create a neighbourhood centre setting at the Hall. It is anticipated that there will be some improvements to the washrooms required at the Hall to ensure maximum use of the facility.

East Richmond Library

The Richmond Library Board is putting forward through the 2003 Capital Budget Process a proposal to establish a community library in the nearby commercial centre at Cambie Road and No. 5 Road. The Library Board has already sought and received a firm commitment from the Friends of the Library to financially support the project up to \$20,000 in year one plus an ongoing annual commitment and the East Richmond Community Association has indicated that it is prepared to make a financial contribution to the start-up costs.

Currently the Library is offering its extremely popular teen tutoring program out of the East Richmond Community Hall. Response to this program has been overwhelming with over 80 students looking for tutoring assistance. Unfortunately, with the limited facilities available only 35 students could be accommodated initially and the others will have to wait for 2003 before the program can be expanded to include them.

King George Park

Discussions among City and the community (i.e. Block Watch, East Richmond Community Centre, RCMP, Cambie Secondary School, Parks Department, and a local strata council from a nearby town house complex) has led to the following initiatives to improve safety around the King George Park and initiatives are:

- ❑ The landscape in the southeast corner of the park has been reorganized to reduce "hiding spots" within the plantings. Some trees/shrubs were removed, others relocated, pruned and/or trimmed.
- ❑ A post/chain barrier was placed at all entrances of the park, so that the park can be closed should a major issue ever arise. These barriers are in place every evening, and removed in the morning, by Block Watch members from the adjacent condominium. This action was

taken to prevent late evening "parties" from occurring in this parking lot (thus disturbing nearby residents), especially on Fridays and Saturdays.

- ❑ Signs were placed in these areas, advising people that the park was closed between the hours of 11pm-5am.
- ❑ The School District will consider installing lights on the portables located within the parking lot. Apparently lots of problems occur around these buildings. No word yet if any action has been taken.
- ❑ Cambie Community Centre staff worked closely with RCMP to ensure that plans were in place for Halloween to prevent any issues at King George Park.

Old Mitchell School

On June 10th, City Council endorsed the following recommendations of the Richmond Heritage:

1. That the City advise the School District that the City has been unsuccessful in finding an economically sustainable adaptive re-use for the old Mitchell School building;
2. That the School District be encouraged to properly document the building prior to demolition and make the documentation available to the Richmond Archives; and that the City pursue funding on behalf of the School District to further document the building prior to demolition;".
3. That, in considering re-development plans for the site, the School Board and City encourage the developer to incorporate at least one of the oldest portions of the structure, the original 1906 portion of the building and/or the 1922 portion, into new development plans and the City explore the possibility of offering incentives to encourage this.

Financial Impact

The East Richmond Community Association has dedicated funds in the amount of \$50,000 for a part time community development coordinator for one year to undertake the development of the Healthy Community Development Project and begin its implementation. It is expected that additional funds will be sought as part of the East Richmond Healthy Community Development Project. City staff support for this project are covered under the existing Recreation and Cultural Services budget.

Conclusion

The timing is right for the City and the community to initiate a joint healthy community development project in East Richmond. The project will begin the steps toward understanding the unique community characteristics of East Richmond, and the values and aspirations of its residents. The project will also help to mobilize and empower the community and its citizens to promote and foster a sense of community health and well being as well as supporting the development of a range of locally based community services.



Steve J. Baker

For Area Coordinator Leisure Services (Cambie & Hamilton)

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