

RICHMOND *Arenas*

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

RICHMOND ICE CENTRE
MINORU ARENA

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November 23, 2005

City of Richmond
6911 No 3 Road
Richmond, B.C. V6Y 2C1

**Attention: Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Committee
Mr. Harold Steves, Chair**

Dear Mr. Steves:

Re: Minoru Park Vision
Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services - Master Plan

The board of directors of the Richmond Arenas Community Association reviewed and discussed the new PRCS Master Plan (Minoru Park Vision) document circulated on November 10th and the draft of the complete plan dated July 2005 that is posted on the City's website. The Board has the following questions and comments:

1. The initial reports announcing the Olympic Oval project made several references to the oval being a replacement for the aging Minoru Arenas. As you can imagine, there was great concern by all those using arena facilities that the oval was being considered as a "replacement of" instead of an "addition to" the arena facilities in Richmond.

Since that initial report, City staff and politicians have assured the board that the oval project and Minoru are not linked. The oval facilities would become an additional asset and Minoru Arenas would continue to be utilized, pending additional long-term planning.

2. The Places and Spaces section of the new PRCS Master Plan document circulated on November 10th makes no reference to Minoru Arenas in the major capital funding priorities for 2011- 2015 nor in the major parks capital plan 2005 to 2010.

It would appear that nothing is being planned for Minoru Arenas and it would seem reasonable to think that the arena would continue in its current form and function. On the map of existing site conditions and opportunities, both the aquatic centre and the arenas are pictured. On the Minoru Park Vision diagram, the arenas are, mysteriously, not pictured.

If there are no plans for Minoru Arenas in the 2005 to 2015 period, then they should be pictured in the Park Vision. If the plan is to eliminate the arenas, then this fact should be mentioned in the body of the document.

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3. In the facilities profile section in the book of attachments to the PRCS report on the website, there is a page about Arenas. On page B18, the following point is made: "Minoru Arenas built in 1965 and 1984 with upgrades in 2000; current replacement value \$11.5 million; \$600,000 in upgrades identified."

From this statement it is apparent that the arena is a valuable asset and that certain planning has been done. Why isn't this work acknowledged in the new document? Minoru Arenas are conspicuous by their absence in the new report.

4. There is an extreme need for additional arenas in the City of Richmond. The current facilities are full and are running at maximum capacity. The Board has just approved the Richmond Rockets Speed Skating Club to use Richmond Arenas for their short track speed skating program. We see tremendous potential that will build for the Olympics and is compatible with post Olympic plans for the oval. There is great excitement.

There is, however, a problem. They are requesting a modest three hours of ice per week. To provide them with this resource, we will have to compromise existing users. This could push a minor hockey team to a later time, cause an additional early morning practice or even bump an adult team entirely. It must be recognized that adults are paying approximately \$10 to \$12 per person for ice rental for the privilege of playing late night hockey. Teenagers on minor hockey teams are practicing till 11:30 at night and then getting to bed much later than that. Arena staff have prepared a report with more details about arena usage that is available upon request.

On behalf of all arena users, the Richmond Arenas Community Association would like to make a presentation to the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee as soon as possible. We would like to be heard before the PRCS report is presented to City Council. Our presentation would bring the committee up to date about our affairs, urge the committee to recommend amending the PRCS Master Plan report and Minoru Park Vision to include planning for Minoru arenas and arenas generally.

I look forward to receiving confirmation as to when we can make our presentation to Committee.

Sincerely,

Richmond Arenas Community Association



Frank Claassen, Chairman

cc: Mayor Malcolm Brodie
All City Councillors