




City of Richmond


Report to Committee

To: General Purposes Committee **Date:** March 10, 2009
From: Dave Semple **File:** 03-1000-18-052/Vol 01
 Director of Parks and Public Works
 Operations
Re: **ActNow BC Seniors' Community Park Agreement**

Staff Recommendation

That the General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services be authorized to negotiate and execute the ActNow BC Seniors' Community Park Agreement (the "Agreement") and any related agreements or documentation to give effect to the Agreement.


 Dave Semple
 Director of Parks and Public Works Operations
 (604-233-3350)

FOR ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT USE ONLY					
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE		CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER		
Law.....	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>				
Risk Management.....	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>				
REVIEWED BY TAG	YES	NO	REVIEWED BY CAO	YES	NO
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>MS</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>MS</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Staff Report

Origin

On July 18th 2008, the City of Richmond received notification from the Province of British Columbia (Attachment 1) indicating it had been selected as one of 18 locations for an ActNow BC Seniors' Community Park. The City responded by providing the Province a letter (Attachment 2) confirming the site at Hugh Boyd Park as an ideal location for this initiative as it was already working closely with West Richmond Community Association on improvements to the Park based on the recently updated Hugh Boyd Park Master Plan. The City also provided implementation plan to the Province. (Attachment 3)

On March 4th 2009, the City received an ActNow BC Seniors' Community Park Agreement (the "Agreement") from the Province to facilitate the transfer of up to \$100,000 to support the ActNow BC Seniors' Community Park. The deadline for returning the executed Agreement to the Province is March 13th although staff have confirmed a deadline extension to March 24th in order to allow Council to consider the Agreement.

Analysis

The contribution of the Province to the development of an ActNow BC Seniors' Community Park at Hugh Boyd Park has allowed the City and West Richmond Community Centre to work together to create an environment. This is consistent with the vision approved by Council in the May 2008 document, "Older Adults Service Plan: Active and Healthy Living in Richmond," to make "Richmond a community where engaging and valuing older adults is a paramount value to developing personal health and active living."

The Seniors' Park is now almost complete and, with its adjacency to a new children's play area, will contribute to the principles of the service plan which include the following:

- encourage inclusion that ensures accessibility and intercultural and intergenerational interactions
- coordinate services that collaborate with partners, volunteers and older adults
- create comfortable environments that are welcoming, safe, responsive and empowering

ActNow BC Seniors' Community Park Agreement

The Agreement provides for the transfer of up to \$100,000 to support the purchase, shipping and installation for a seniors' community park. Key terms include:

1. The Park must be completed by April 30th 2009.
2. The City must be solely responsible for all aspects of the Seniors Community Park including planning, design, construction, operation, maintenance, worker and public safety, completion and ownership of the Seniors' Community Park and the equipment within the Park.
3. The City will retain title to and ownership of the equipment and the Park.

5. The City will provide recognition to the Province for the funding and install, at the Province's cost, a signage acknowledging the funding provided by the Province.
6. The City will provide an indemnity to the Province and its ministers, officers, servants, employees and agents for the purchase, installation and use of the equipment.
7. The City, in its insurance policy, will name the Province as an additional insured for the purchase, installation and use of the equipment.

Financial Impact

There is a positive financial impact of up to \$100,000 for the City.

Conclusion

Executing the Agreement with the Province will complete the ActNow BC Seniors' Community Park initiative and provide the mechanism for the City to receive the necessary funding in support of this important community asset.



Serena Lusk
Manager, Parks - Planning & Design
(604-233-3344)

SL:sl



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His Worship Mayor Malcolm Brodie
 City of Richmond
 6911 No. 3 Road
 Richmond, BC V6Y 2C1

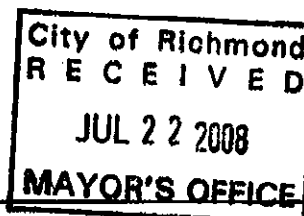
Dear Mayor Brodie:

In the 2008 Speech from the Throne, the Province of British Columbia (Province) committed to "establish ActNow BC Seniors' Community Parks throughout the province...designed especially for seniors to help them stay mobile, physically active and healthy." These parks will provide specialized outdoor recreational equipment to encourage older people to engage in physical activity, and will also foster increased social interaction through the inclusion of other amenities such as community gardens and walking paths.

Together with my colleague, Honourable Blair Lekstrom, Minister of Community Development, I am pleased to inform you that the City of Richmond has been selected as one of the initial 18 locations in British Columbia for an ActNow BC Seniors' Community Park, based on your preliminary indication of interest and location of the park in your community.

The Province is undertaking a central procurement of the recreational equipment for these parks through a Corporate Supply Arrangement (CSA), and will provide funding to your municipality to purchase, ship and install the equipment and signage through this CSA. Your municipality will be required to provide the land, site preparation and other amenities, and to take responsibility for ongoing user training and maintenance of the facility. As well, your municipality is asked to partner with a local seniors' organization on this project to encourage community involvement and participation.

A written Agreement between the Province and the City of Richmond will be used to transfer funds. The Agreement will include a provision indemnifying the Province from liability in the event of an injury occurring at the park. In addition, as a condition of the Province releasing funds, your municipality will be required to add the Province as an additional insured on the insurance policy covering the new park.



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I would like to confirm, as soon as possible, your interest in partnering with the Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport on the development of an ActNow BC Seniors' Community Park in the City of Richmond. Please respond by July 25, 2008 to Anne Horan, Executive Director, Seniors' and Women's Partnerships Branch, Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport, via email at: Anne.Horan@gov.bc.ca.

Once you have confirmed your interest, the Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport will require a completed ActNow BC Seniors' Community Park Implementation Plan from you by August 15, 2008. (See Appendix A for a complete description of the components of an ActNow BC Seniors' Community Park Implementation Plan). Following the acceptance of your Implementation Plan, your municipality will be invited to enter into a written Agreement with the Province for the development of an ActNow BC Seniors' Community Park.

This is an exciting opportunity to promote a healthy, active lifestyle among seniors in your community, and I look forward to working with you on this innovative project.

Sincerely,



Mary Polak
Minister

Enclosure

pc: Honourable Blair Lekstrom
Minister of Community Development

Ms. Jamie Esko
Park Planner
Parks Department

Ms. Anne Horan
Executive Director
Seniors' and Women's Partnerships Branch



City of RICHMOND

6911 No. 3 Road
 Richmond, B.C. V6Y 2C1
 Telephone: (604) 276-4123
 Fax No: (604) 276-4333

FILE

MALCOLM BRODIE
 MAYOR

July 25, 2008

Ms. Anne Horan, Executive Director
 Seniors' and Women's Partnerships Branch
 Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport
 PO Box 9067 Stn Prov Govt
 Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Ms. Horan:

I am very pleased that Richmond has been selected as one of the communities to receive an ActNow BC Seniors' Community Park. The City of Richmond is committed to the principles of ActNow BC and prides itself in being an inclusive community. The City works closely with seniors and community organizations serving seniors to ensure that the City and it's partners consistently meet their needs.

In May 2008, Council approved the 'Older Adults Service Plan: Active and Healthy Living in Richmond' with the vision of making 'Richmond a community where engaging and valuing older adults is a paramount value to developing personal health and active living'. The Service Plan embraces three key principles to shape the service delivery to older adults:

- encourage inclusion that ensures accessibility, and intercultural and intergenerational interactions,
- coordinate services that collaborate with partners, volunteers and older adults,
- create comfortable environments that are welcoming, safe, responsive and empowering.

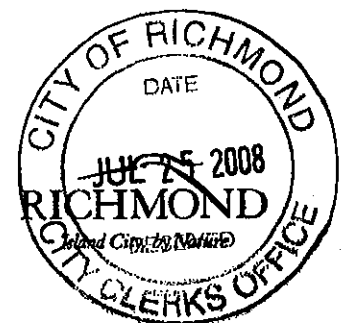
After reviewing the goals of the Implementation Plan for the Seniors' Community Parks, I feel confident that the City of Richmond will be able to meet them and will benefit from the addition of such an innovative amenity in our community. City staff who are specialists in Older Adults programs and partners, such as the Minoru Seniors' Centre, will work together to develop an Implementation Plan, as described in Appendix A, for your review by August 15, 2008.

Thank-you for considering Richmond as a partner in this ActNow BC initiative. It is an opportunity for the City to advance it's vision to be the most appealing, livable and well-managed community in Canada.

Yours truly,

Malcolm D. Brodie
 Mayor

pc: Hon. Mary Polak, Minister of Healthy Living and Sport



HUGH BOYD PARK

ActNow BC Seniors' Community Park Implementation Plan

Goals

1. Advance the ActNow BC principles of increasing physical activity and reducing obesity

Linkages with physical activity initiatives in corporate documents

In May 2008, Council approved the “*Older Adults Service Plan: Active and Healthy Living in Richmond*” with the vision of making ‘Richmond a community where engaging and valuing older adults is a paramount value to developing personal health and active living’. The Service Plan embraces three key principles to shape the service delivery to older adults:

- Encourage inclusion that ensures accessibility, and intercultural and intergenerational interactions,
- Coordinate services that collaborate with partners, volunteers and older adults,
- Create comfortable environments that are welcoming, safe, responsive and empowering.

Further Strategies adopted by Council that strongly support and promote increasing physical activity include the 2010 Trails Strategy, 2006 Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Master Plan, and the Official Community Plan.

Provides for multi-use activities that encourage age-appropriateness

As a registered Active Community, the City is engaged in a variety of projects aimed at motivating individuals who work, live and play in Richmond towards a healthier lifestyle, particularly seniors, youth, children and the inactive. Through support from the BCRPA and UBCM, the city has initiated a free walking program and is currently engaged in creating signage, age friendly walking route assessments, and free walking guidebooks.

Further Active Living promotions focus on how to fit physical activity into one’s daily life to improve health outcomes. This includes walking instead of driving, taking part in shorter activities to build total daily output of energy, and enhancing opportunities for social interaction.

The West Richmond Community Association’s Fitness Coordinator (associated with the community centre located on Hugh Boyd Park) offers a variety of activities for the older adult population. These activities include Strength Training, Nordic Walking, Ease Into Fitness, and Personal Training. All of the listed programs would benefit from a Circuit located in the Hugh Boyd Park. One of the main goals of fitness is to make people self sufficient, and having a circuit that is accessible makes this goal achievable.

Proximity to public transportation routes, sidewalks and/or walking paths.

A major concept in the recently updated Hugh Boyd Master Plan is to promote connections with the neighbourhood by improving the pathway system and places to rest within the park, and by providing signage that promotes local walking paths and the regional greenways on the West Dyke only a 15 minute walk from the Park. *Please see attached map.*

2. Build age-friendly and disability-friendly communities

Extent to which community is working towards guidelines outlined in Age Friendly and Measuring Up guides.

Using the Checklist of Essential features of age-friendly cities, we are ensuring that progress towards the goal of an age-friendly Richmond is being pursued and achieved. The number of green spaces with outdoor seating and safe, paved walkways make Richmond an enjoyable pedestrian community. A broad range of health promotion, volunteer and information opportunities, including access to computers and the internet are available citywide to meet the needs of the diverse population with in the 'Seniors' age range.

New initiatives are currently being developed by Seniors Services staff along with community partners, to meet the growing demands for seniors services in Richmond. Examples include:

- a complete age-friendly community assessment, together with the age-friendly implementation team from UVic.
- Lifetime Learning with the Richmond Public Library
- development of Seniors Friendly communications
- innovative exercise programs like Better Backs and Balance, and Nordic Walking/Core Yoga for Seniors.

Scooter/walker friendly, and consistent with community plans/strategies for seniors and persons with disabilities.

The City actively works with and consults with a variety of stakeholder groups including the Richmond Committee on Disability, Richmond Centre for Disability, and the Richmond Senior's Advisory Council. A number of recent corporate and departmental strategies/plans support seniors and persons with disabilities.

The City of Richmond is working toward improving accessibility and inclusiveness for people with disabilities and others through capital construction projects, Council adopted policies and through the support of community groups.

Examples of recent initiatives would include:

- Richmond signing on to the 10 x 10 Challenge initiated by the provincial government.
- Funding the Richmond Centre for Disability for a community accessibility project. This initiative involves accessibility audits of our hotels, recreation facilities, tourist locations, restaurants etc, and encourage businesses to make changes to improve accessibility for the community. It also involves public education/ awareness and sensitivity training.
- Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS) program. Installation of APS features (audible and vibro-tactile indicators) at all new signalized intersections.
- Working with Translink to improve the level of service of HandyDart services in Richmond. Currently, all conventional public transit buses operating in Richmond are accessible.
- Working with the RCD to identify priority locations for upgrades to existing bus stops for transit users who use mobility devices such as wheelchairs and scooters.
- The Hugh Boyd Park Plan includes a new playground that is accessible to all. This includes both children with disabilities, as well as caregivers with disabilities.

Improves opportunities for social connections.

As part of the Hugh Boyd Master Plan:

- Gathering Places will be built where people can relax and socialise. Park benches and rest stops will be built in with shaded areas and picnic tables. This unprogrammed space will increase opportunities for informal intercultural mixing.
- Existing City of Richmond Senior Services and City wellness programs will be coordinated to feature and use the new park space.
- The adjacent space in the plaza has been designed to incorporate multicultural festivals and celebrations that can be hosted by a variety of cultural groups.
- Having an older adult circuit in close proximity will assist with creating an intergenerational area.

3. Inclusive communities

Identifies cultural needs of community, and activities related to the park which could promote social, cultural and intergenerational activities.

Hugh Boyd Park has been designed and programmed with the needs of all cultural communities in mind. Opportunities and space will be built into the park for seniors from all cultural communities to express themselves and exercise in ways that they find appropriate. Richmond currently has many outdoor exercise classes that are aimed at the Asian community- for example Tai Chi classes and traditional low impact exercise that are suitable for seniors. The park will be sited in an area where all cultural communities have ease of access and a sense of ownership.

The City will seek advice from Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee (RIAC) to make sure that all cultural needs are being met. RIAC is the City Council appointed advisory committee on intercultural issues.

Seniors and also Youth programmers at West Richmond Community Association will work with City Senior Services staff, fitness and diversity staff to promote intercultural programming.

The Seniors Park will be physically located in an area in close location to a children play area, soccer fields and golf facilities. This will mean that whole families and intergenerational groups will be able to use the area at the same time. It will also allow for the programming of intergenerational activities.

Programming space will be available for cultural celebration and performance, many of which will be aimed at an intergenerational audience.

An outdoor park with unlimited access would help residents living in low-income or with fixed incomes to access fitness equipment without cost thus removing the financial barrier.

Multi-cultural lens

Over 64% of Richmond are from a visible minority. This is roughly a population of 112,000 out of a total population of 174,000 (data from Census Canada 2006) This gives Richmond the highest number of immigrants of any community in British Columbia. The plan will be drafted in direct relation to these demographics. It will also be related to the fact that 8% of Richmond

residents have no conversational English skills. This group is largely concentrated in the Richmond Older Adult community. The Park will feature:

- Universal, symbol based signage and key information translated into main community languages.
- Informal gathering spaces created to allow and aid intercultural dialogue.
- Performance space area for multicultural programming of arts and cultural activity.
- Public/community art that reflects the multicultural nature of the Richmond community and assists with the creating of community ownership of the Park.
- Programming and partnership with community based cultural organisations that serve immigrant and multicultural seniors groups and have existing seniors programs, to encourage these groups to make maximum use of the park space.

Consultation and collaboration with Aboriginal groups, as appropriate.

The City of Richmond has a small but active and connected Aboriginal Community. The City works closely with and has supported the development of 'The Pathways Advisory Committee' and the associated 'Pathways Aboriginal Centre' For the first time Richmond's very diverse aboriginal community has its own cultural centre. This will allow the City to directly access and seek the views of Aboriginal families and Aboriginal Elders to make sure the park reflects their needs and interests.

4. Community organization, involvement and commitment

Partnering with community groups who provide senior/disability services.

The City of Richmond, as well as partnering with Community Associations, has demonstrated a commitment to serving seniors city wide through Seniors Services staff and five Seniors Coordinators. Seniors Services is also developing innovative programming to improve opportunities for social connections, such as the UBCM funded pilot project Decreasing Barriers, Increasing Wellness aimed at engaging frail and isolated seniors. The 8 monthly seniors wellness clinics, wide variety of city-wide special events such as Vasaki, Seniors Week and Activate! provide opportunities for Seniors to connect with each other and their community. West Richmond Community Association has a Seniors Co-ordinator on staff who works closely with the seniors in the neighbourhood in providing multiple activities and will be responsible for programming the new fitness circuit.

Links to other recreational opportunities, such as playgrounds, sports fields, or recreational centres.

This Seniors' fitness circuit is part of a larger complex of sports and wellness amenities in the Park. Hugh Boyd Park Master Plan Vision is "to be the outdoor centre of excellence in sports and wellness in Richmond". *Please see the attached plans.*

5. Provincial and local government partnership

Communities to demonstrate a financial and/or in-kind commitment for development of the park, including : the land, site preparation, and other amenities.

The City of Richmond and the Richmond School District own land within Hugh Boyd Park and have recently approved the new Hugh Boyd Master Plan that includes a Senior's fitness circuit. The City has committed funding, \$350,000, in the 2008 Parks Capital Budget Program to allow for site preparation for the circuit as well as pathways, internal and neighbourhood way-finding signage, seating opportunities, tree planting and improvements to the adjacent children's play area to make it universally accessible. The rest of the Park Master Plan will be implemented over the next 5 years with a new field-house and washroom complex and improved parking. The West Richmond Community Association is providing \$135,000 towards park development and the children's accessible play area.

Resources available to provide training and support to seniors, and park maintenance.

The City of Richmond and partnering Community Associations have demonstrated a commitment to serving seniors city wide through the Seniors Services staff and the five Seniors Coordinators. West Richmond Community Centre is one of the community centres with a dedicated Seniors Coordinator on staff. As the only seniors fitness circuit in Richmond, we anticipate that other staff will promote programs in this park and will work with seniors from all over the city.

6. Risk Management

The City will enter into an Agreement with the Province and meet the requirements established by the Province for this goal.

7. Installation Completion

Location of the Park

Hugh Boyd Community Park, 9200 Number 1 Road, Richmond B.C. *Please see attached maps for more detailed information*

Completed Installation Date

The City is available to begin site preparation upon receipt of this funding and would anticipate completion October 2008.