



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee
Date: May 6, 2013

From: Mike Redpath
 Senior Manager, Parks
File: 01-0060-20--
 INBOX/Vol 01

Re: **Agreement with Richmond Food Security Society for Community Gardens Administration**

Staff Recommendation

That the City enter into a partnering agreement with the Richmond Food Security Society for the administration of community gardens that have been designated by the City on lands owned or controlled by the City on the terms and conditions set out in the report, "Agreement with Richmond Food Security Society for Community Gardens Administration," from the Senior Manager, Parks.

Mike Redpath
 Senior Manager, Parks
 (604-247-4942)

Att: 1

REPORT CONCURRENCE			
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER	
Law	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
REVIEWED BY DIRECTORS	INITIALS:	REVIEWED BY CAO	INITIALS:
	DW		

Staff Report

Origin

At the April 12, 2010, Council meeting, the following resolution was approved:

“That the City enter into an agreement with the Richmond Food Security Society for the administration of community gardens that have been designated by the City on lands owned or controlled by the City on the terms and conditions set out in the attached report.”

Further to the resolution, the City and the Richmond Food Security Society (RFSS) entered into an agreement which commenced on May 1st 2010 for a term of three years. The purpose of this report is to update Council on the agreement and recommend the City enter a new agreement with the RFSS for another three-year term.

This report responds to the following Council term goal:

8. To demonstrate leadership in sustainability through continued implementation of the City’s Sustainability Framework; and

10. Community Wellness – continue to collaborate with community organizations and agencies to optimize resources in the implementation of the City’s adopted Wellness Strategy.

Analysis

The purpose of transferring the administration of community gardens from City staff to the RFSS was three-fold:

1. The RFSS has both staff and board members who are experts in community gardens and can provide greater ‘on-the-ground’ expertise.
2. As a non-profit society, the RFSS has access to grant funding opportunities that the City does not.
3. The RFSS is interested in offering educational gardening programs in order to further its mandate, “that all people in the community, at all times, have access to nutritious, safe, personally acceptable and culturally appropriate foods, produced in ways that are environmentally sound and socially just.”

Since entering into the agreement the RFSS has achieved the following:

1. Hired an administrator to ensure timely response to garden-related issues and to develop innovative programming related to the gardens.
2. Developed an educational garden program whereby residents on the waiting list are offered space in small plots for a period of only one year where they can participate in programs to learn about gardening.
3. Obtained \$5000 in grant funding from the BC Healthy Living Alliance. This grant was used for a conference called “Bringing the Community into Community Gardens.”

4. Provided expertise to the Steveston Community Society in the establishment of its educational garden.
5. Participated in the construction of three new community garden sites – Railway Avenue, Paulik Park and Brighthouse Elementary School.
6. Delivered four community garden workshops to the public and eight community garden workshops to schools.
7. Initiated an annual community garden clean-up at all sites.

At the same time that Council resolved to enter into the agreement with the RFSS for the administration of the community gardens, it also resolved to provide the RFSS with one-time funding of \$15,000 from Council contingency. This funding was to assist the RFSS with providing educational outreach, community garden enhancements and other community garden related programming in Richmond.

The \$15,000 has been used by the RFSS for the following purposes: \$5,500 for salaries, office set-up and supplies; \$7,750 for community garden site enhancements; \$1,750 for delivering the educational plot program. No additional funds are being sought by the RFSS at this time.

Given the success of the agreement between the City and the RFSS from 2010 to 2013, staff recommend that the parties enter into a similar agreement for the period of May 2013 – April 2016 under the same basic terms as the existing agreement. Key business terms are outlined in Attachment 1. Changes proposed include the following:

1. The removal of the term related to the development of additional community garden sites. This agreement is related to the administration of community gardens and not the development of community garden sites. The development of community garden sites is the responsibility of the City and not the RFSS.
2. The addition of the community garden sites at Richmond Secondary School, Brighthouse Elementary School and Railway Avenue.
3. The removal of language related to the City's role as a Venue City for the 2010 Winter Olympic Games.

Financial Impact

None. The parks operating budget was previously adjusted to account for the decrease in revenues related to the change in community gardens administration.

Conclusion

The relationship between the City and the Richmond Food Security Society has been a successful one which has led to many improvements over the past three years. Another agreement for a three-year term will ensure this success continues.



Serena Lusk
Manager, Parks Programs
(604-233-3344)

Key Business Terms for Agreement between City of Richmond (the “City”) and Richmond Food Security Society (RFSS)

Agreement Term	Description
Duration	3 years
Services	Management of the City’s community garden program; Educational programming related to community gardening; local food production and preparation.
License Fee	\$10.00
Termination	Immediately with cause; 30 days without cause
Insurance	The RFSS is obligated to obtain and maintain comprehensive general liability insurance in the amount of \$5,000,000.
Revenue	Fees shall be established by the RFSS and approved by the City; The RFSS will retain all fees for the purposes of paying all or part of the costs of the community garden program.
Garden Rules and Regulations	All garden rules and regulations shall be established by the RFSS and approved by the City; all garden plots will be required to be pesticide free.
Reporting	The RFSS shall make an annual presentation to the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee of Council.
Garden Sites	Add: Brighthouse Elementary School community garden, Richmond Secondary School community garden and Railway Avenue community garden.
New Gardens	Remove: Any additional community garden plots and locations on public land must be approved by Council and be consistent with an approved park or open space master plan.
Olympics	Remove: All references to the Olympics