



Council/School Board Liaison Committee

Date: Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Place: Anderson Room
Richmond City Hall

Present: Councillor Linda Barnes, Chair
Councillor Greg Halsey-Brandt
School Trustee Donna Sargent
School Trustee Debbie Tablotney

Also Present: School Trustee Carol Day

Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

AGENDA

It was moved and seconded
That the Council/School Board Liaison Committee agenda for the meeting of Wednesday, January 27, 2010, be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

MINUTES

It was moved and seconded
That the minutes of the meeting of the Council/School Board Liaison Committee held on Wednesday, November 18, 2009, be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

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STANDING ITEMS

1. JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT / CITY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

None.

2. PROGRAMS

None.

3. 2010 OLYMPIC & PARALYMPIC GAMES

(b) *Memorandum from the Director, Transportation, City of Richmond, on the Olympic Transportation Plan*

(File Ref. No.: 11-7400-30-OZONE1-01/Vol 01) (REDMS No. 2799970)

Victor Wei, Director, Transportation, referred to his memorandum dated January 13, 2010, and advised the following information:

- beginning Monday, February 1st, there will not be any public parking in existing parking lots on City Hall property, i.e., the lower two-hour surface lot and upper 30-minutes surface lot;
- public parking will be made available to those having business at City Hall along the north lane of Granville Avenue; and
- the City Hall parkade will primarily be utilized by staff and there will be designated reversed stalls for staff carpooling.

Ken Morris, Secretary Treasurer, noted that some regular School Board business will either be steered away from the office or will be deferred temporarily. Mr. Morris also commented that the School Board is encouraging their staff to carpool or take transit.

Mr. Wei thanked the School Board and its staff for their work organizing the Park and Ride lots at various schools and noted that all that is left to be done is to advise the public. He also advised that there will be way-finding signage at the various Park and Ride lots, directing the public to the nearest bus stop.

Mr. Wei commented on way-finding signage in and around the City Centre and highlighted that these signs direct people to the Oval, the O Zone, and the Canada Line stations. In addition, these signs state the distance and approximate walking times to these destinations.

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Discussion ensued and Committee expressed safety concerns with people utilizing the temporary City Hall parking along Granville Avenue as a pick up and drop off area. Committee also commented on traffic concerns at the various school sites that will be utilized for Park and Ride operations and it was emphasized that the lots should not be used for Park and Ride purposes until 4 p.m.

In response to the Committees concerns, Mr. Wei advised that (i) the City has contract traffic personnel to redirect any unauthorized traffic to the City Hall precinct; (ii) Transportation has allocated adequate staff parking, 30-minutes stalls for quick business, and a designated courier stall along Granville Avenue; (iii) traffic personnel will not be available at the temporary Park and Ride lots; (iv) should early users of the Park and Ride lots become problematic, volunteers or traffic personnel can be redirected to monitor these lots. Mr. Wei further stated that should any designated Park and Ride school encounter problems due to early arrivals, he be contacted immediately.

Eric Thorleifson, Manager of Facilities, further commented on safety issues at the various Park and Ride lots and advised that many schools have existing traffic problems. He also noted that the sole access to the City Hall / School Board precinct may be problematic for the three-week period.

Mr. Morris noted that many City groups utilize school gyms after hours and perhaps those rentals could be temporarily redirected in an effort to keep traffic at its lowest.

(a) *Update on the School Board's involvement with the O Zone*

Gary Young, Director, Legacy and Integration, was pleased speak of the 3000 student choir and highlighted that uniforms have been made possible due to an amazing donation. Mr. Young thanked the School Board for their efforts in organizing the choir.

In reply to a query from Committee, Mr. Young advised that the City's Communication team has prepared various forms of media to advertise the O Zone. He noted that the immediate days leading up to the launch of the O Zone are the most ideal in terms of notifying the public.

School Trustees thanked the City and its staff for their support and organization of the 3000 student choir.

Mr. Young also advised that the Torch Relay route will be made public in the very near future should the School Board wish to further engage students.

4. **SCHOOL PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE**

(RSD – Eric Thorleifson)

Eric Thorleifson, Manager of Facilities, reviewed the school planning and construction schedule.

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BUSINESS ARISING & NEW BUSINESS

6. SNOW GEESE FESTIVAL

Mr. Morris provided background information and advised that the School Board has been responding to lawn and carpet issues at various school sites due to the snow geese. He commented on funds spent on replacing carpeting in schools and the RCMP's direction to keep school fields open and unconcealed.

Dave Semple, General Manager, Parks and Recreation, advised that there is a staff report forthcoming regarding snow geese and it will speak on how to mitigate the situation. Mr. Semple noted that this is a growing problem, not only for Richmond but for many other lower mainland municipalities. He also advised that the snow geese pose a severe hazard to airport operations.

Discussion ensued and the following was noted:

- dog clubs could be invited to walk at snow geese overrun fields in an effort to scare the birds away; and
- a long term strategy addressing snow geese should be considered, i.e., how to manage open space, and make the fields uninviting to the birds.

Committee requested that the future snow geese report be forwarded to this Committee for information.

5. FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN

Nancy Brennan, Assistant Superintendent, provided background information and referred to her memorandum dated January 4, 2010. She advised that registrations are currently being collected in an effort to ensure the maximum number of Full Day Kindergarten (FDK) spaces is not exceeded. Ms. Brennan was confident that the upcoming FDK will not displace any daycares. She spoke of a recent report to the Ministry of Education and noted that seventeen modular learning centres have been identified for use to accommodate FDK.

Mr. Morris advised that modular learning centres have four times the cost of a portable, at \$200,000 each. He noted that they are larger than portables and therefore, often create citing issues for the School Board. Mr. Morris stated that the School Board will need to work closely with City staff to address these citing issues.

Also, Mr. Morris commented on recently closed schools and whether those schools would be reopened to accommodate FDK or whether the program would be accommodated by expanding currently active schools.

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Ms. Brennan remarked that only nine closed schools across the province have been identified as possibly being reopened. She also spoke of a FDK Committee with a broad range of representation and noted that the Committee intends to communicate with local daycares.

School Trustee Tablotney left the meeting (10:13 a.m.) and returned (10:17 a.m.).

In response to a comment regarding the City's role in childcare, the Chair advised that it is out of City Council's mandate and purview, however, Vancouver Coastal Health has very useful information for parents.

6. SCHOOL BOARD 2009-2010 AND 2010-2011 OPERATING BUDGET

Mr. Morris highlighted that the School Board will receive a Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) rebate in order to mitigate the cost of the imminent HST. He spoke of two upcoming School Board Budget public meetings and advised that a grant announcement is anticipated in March 2010. Mr. Morris also noted that it is very likely that there be a significant financial shortfall, however it is common for School Boards to have such discrepancies.

Trustees thanked City Council for its support in lobbying the Provincial government for HST rebates.

Discussion ensued and it was noted that Council's input regarding Budget Issues Analysis (BIA) would be valuable, therefore, BIAs would be forwarded to Council.

8. HAMILTON COMMUNITY CENTRE EXPANSION

Mr. Morris advised that a preliminary agreement has been drafted with the help of Elizabeth Ayers, Manager, Community Recreation Services. He noted that the School Board has a resolution that once the agreement is nearly finalized, that there be a joint announcement.

The Chair requested that staff provide the following staff reports to the School Board for information:

- Enhanced Sustainability Initiative – Proposed Corporate Sustainability Framework
- Proposed Youth Park at Burnett Thompson Community Park
- Richmond Community Wellness Strategy
- Richmond Sport For Life Strategy 2010-2015
- 2010 – 2014 Sport Hosting Strategy and Implementation Plan and Sport Hosting Task Force Terms of Reference

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NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING DATE

Wednesday, March 17, 2010 (tentative date) at 9:00 a.m. in the Anderson Room

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded
That the meeting adjourn (10:36 p.m.).

CARRIED

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the meeting of the City of Richmond Council/School Board Liaison Committee held on Wednesday, January 27, 2010.

Councillor Linda Barnes
Chair

Hanieh Floujeh
Acting Executive Assistant
City Clerk's Office