



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: General Purposes Committee

Date: June 25, 2009

From: Dave Semple
Director of Parks and Public Works
Operations

File: 11-7200-01/2009-Vol 01

Re: Richmond Food Security Society "Pocket" Farmer's Market

Staff Recommendation

That the Richmond Food Security Society be granted permission to operate a Farmers Market in the outdoor concourse of the Richmond Cultural Centre at 7700 Minoru Gate.

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

FOR ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT USE ONLY			
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER	
Business Licences	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>		
REVIEWED BY TAG	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>AK</i>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	REVIEWED BY CAO
			YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>

Staff Report

Origin

At the June 23, 2009 Parks Recreation and Cultural Services Committee meeting the following direction was given staff:

“to submit a report to the General Purpose Committee, requesting Council authority to permit the Richmond Food Security Society the use of the Richmond Cultural Centre for the purposes of a farmers market”.

This report responds to that direction.

Analysis

Last year amendments to the Business Regulation Bylaw No. 7360 were made in order to accommodate farmers markets in recognition of the importance of supporting food grown locally. The amendments to the bylaw included defining “Farmers Market” as follows:

Farmers Market means the carrying on of a business that organises a group of vendors to gather in a temporary, open-air market located outdoors for the purpose of selling to the public only the goods described in Section 2.1.30.1 (b) of this bylaw”

The goods described in Section 2.1.30.1 (b) include but are not limited to: fruit, vegetables, nuts, honey, syrups, dairy products, eggs, poultry, meat, flowers, herbs, and other products prepared for market.

In the bylaw persons wishing to operate a farmers market must obtain a business license for a farmers market. If the operation is on land which is not owned by the applicant then permission from the land owner must be documented.

The Richmond Food Security Society has applied for a farmer’s market license to operate a small “pocket” market every other Saturday from 9:00am to 3:00pm in the concourse of the Richmond Cultural Centre located at 7700 Minoru Gate, a property owned by the City of Richmond. In order for this application to be processed permission by the City of Richmond must be granted for the use of the property. City Council, by endorsing the recommendation in this report, can grant permission for the market to operate and the appropriate license to subsequently be issued.

There are similar farmers markets in the lower mainland with local farm produce being sold on municipally owned sites. The Burnaby Farmers Market operates at Burnaby City Hall, and farmers markets in Vancouver use community centres and city streets.

There are two options relating to the application by the Richmond Food Security Society for a farmers market at the Richmond Cultural Centre:

Option One: (not recommended) That the Richmond Food Security Society be denied permission to operate a Farmers Market in the outdoor concourse of the Richmond Cultural Centre at 7700 Minoru Gate.

Under this option Richmond City Council does not grant permission to the Richmond Food Security Society to operate a Farmer's Market at the Richmond Cultural Centre. This option is not recommended because there is a need for locally grown affordable produce in the City Centre Area.

Option Two (recommended): That the Richmond Food Security Society be granted permission to operate a Farmers Market in the outdoor concourse of the Richmond Cultural Centre at 7700 Minoru Gate.

Under this option the City gives permission to the Richmond Food Security Society to operate a small farmers market at the Richmond Cultural Centre with the following conditions:

1. The market will run a maximum of two Saturdays a month from July 4 until September 26, 2009.
2. The total footprint of the market will not exceed 10 feet by 10 feet, to be contained by a tent or tables.
3. All items sold at the market will be grown or prepared in Richmond.
4. All special event requirements by the Richmond Events Approval Committee Team (REACT) must be met prior to opening day.
5. Continuity of operations in 2009 is contingent upon the success of sales and public support of the occupancy.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

The Richmond Food Security Society is a not for profit organisation which is committed to food security issues in Richmond. Profits from their farmers market will go directly back into the community via the Richmond Food Bank. Granting permission for them to operate a small farmers market at the Richmond Cultural Centre will further benefit local area residents who can purchase low cost, locally grown produce.



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