



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee
Date: April 6, 2017

From: Serena Lusk
 Senior Manager, Recreation and Sport Services
File: 11-7025-09--
 INBOX/Vol 01

Re: **Review of Local Sport Group Residency Requirement**

Staff Recommendation

That Council Policy 8701 be amended to include a requirement that Richmond Sport organizations have a membership of at least 70 per cent prior to receiving assistance from the City as described in the staff report titled "Review of Local Sport Group Residency Requirement," dated April 6, 2017, from the Senior Manager, Recreation and Sport Services.

Serena Lusk
 Senior Manager, Recreation and Sport Services
 (604-233-3344)

Att. 2

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Arts, Culture & Heritage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Community Social Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Parks Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS: 	APPROVED BY CAO

Staff Report

Origin

At the General Purposes Committee meeting held on Monday, September 19, 2016, staff received the following referral:

That the matter regarding the local sport group residency requirement amendment be referred to staff for further consultation and comment from Richmond Sports Council.

The purpose of this report is to respond to the above referral by providing information on the consultation with Richmond Sports Council and the implications of proposed amendments to Council Policy 8701.

This report supports Council's 2014-2018 Term Goal #2 A Vibrant, Active and Connected City:

2.3. Outstanding places, programs and services that support active living, wellness and a sense of belonging.

Analysis

Council Policy 8701 (Attachment 1)

Council Policy 8701, Parks and Leisure Services – Community Involvement, states that assistance may be given to “Any public Richmond organization with membership of at least 60 per cent Richmond residents, or as approved by Council in developing and implementing its community services programs.”

This policy has guided the City's relationship with community groups for decades and reached well beyond sport groups. It is foundational to the way the City delivers community services.

The objective of the 60 per cent residency requirement is to ensure that any sport organization or parks, recreation or cultural group that is provided with additional assistance to operate within Richmond is best representing the interests of Richmond residents. As with all Council policies, exceptions can be made with Council-approval.

The practice has been for staff to provide assistance to community organizations that meet the 60 per cent residency requirement in the form of a community rate and access to the use of various City-owned amenities including arenas, arts facilities, recreation centres, aquatic facilities and sports fields. This access has successfully allowed Richmond-based groups to provide opportunities to Richmond residents in an affordable manner for almost four decades.

Current Practices

The majority of cities in Metro Vancouver use a 60 per cent residency rate as the basis for providing community rates to groups including sport groups. Common practice is for municipalities to manage issues of residency requirements on a case-by-case complaints basis, as is the procedure used by City of Richmond.

There are barriers to strictly enforcing a residency requirement rate policy with user groups as determining residency of a group's participants can be time consuming and challenging especially for volunteer-run organizations. Furthermore, privacy laws protect personal information and in some instances, third parties, such as City of Richmond staff, may not have access to participants' addresses.

Outcome of Consultation with Richmond Sports Council

Staff consulted with Richmond Sports Council at its Tuesday, October 11, 2016, meeting where the chair requested that the staff report titled "Review of Local Sports Group Residency Requirements" be forwarded to members via email for discussion at its November meeting.

At the November 8, 2016, Richmond Sports Council meeting, a round-table discussion was held on the residency requirement. The members in attendance represented 18 Richmond based sports groups who regularly attend the monthly sport group meetings. Discussion focused on whether the residency requirement should remain at 60 per cent or be increased to 70 per cent. As an outcome of the meeting, the Richmond Sports Council Chair has provided a letter (Attachment 2), dated Friday, March 10, 2017, that requests that the residency requirement be increased to 70 per cent. In its letter, Richmond Sports Council identifies its rationale for requesting the increase is ensuring that Richmond residents have first access to facilities at a time when demand is increasing and have the opportunity to be active in their own community when rules related to residency from provincial sport organizations are changing.

Options for Consideration

Staff have identified three options for Council's consideration which are discussed below:

Option 1: Increase the residency requirement in Council Policy 8701 to 70 per cent for Sport Groups (RECOMMENDED)

Representing the interests of the sport community in Richmond, Sports Council has identified a need and rationale for increasing the residency requirement to 70 per cent. This recommended option proposes an amendment to Council Policy 8701 to increase the requirement only for sport groups and not for other types of groups, as there is no evidence that there is a similar need or rationale and no request has come from the community.

Staff will continue to review the residency rate of any Richmond-based sports organization on a case by case basis when the City is made aware of a potential group not meeting the residency requirement.

Option 2: Further investigation of the residency requirement in Council Policy 8701

As Council Policy 8701 is foundational across all Community Services program areas – parks, recreation, arts, culture and heritage, and community social development, staff could conduct a comprehensive review across these areas to understand the implications of changing the residency requirement. This option is not recommended as there has been no identified need or request for change.

Option 3: Status Quo

While Sports Council has identified its rationale for increasing the residency requirement for sport groups, staff is not aware of any current situation where groups are being prevented from accessing space due to groups that do not meet the current (60 per cent) residency requirement. Staff could monitor the situation and propose a change should this situation occur.

This option is not recommended as it does not recognize the advice of Sports Council and is not a proactive solution to a potential issue which has been raised by Sports Council.

Additional Consideration

Through the course of discussions about the residency requirement, the issue has been raised concerning the ability of certain groups to meet the current (60 per cent) or proposed (70 per cent) residency requirement. These concerns are generally related to sports that are new, emerging or ones which require a high level of skill or equipment and are considered 'niche'.

Council Policy 8701 currently provides for Council to make exceptions to the residency requirement to address these cases. However, in order to fully reflect Council's support for a wide variety of sport choice in Richmond, staff recommend amending Policy 8701 to allow emerging sports that have not previously been accommodated in City of Richmond funded facilities or amenities be given up to three years to meet the proposed 70 per cent residency requirement.

Additional minor changes to the policy are also being recommended to provide clarity to groups and staff in application of the policy.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

It is recommended that the residency rate be increased to 70 per cent for Richmond based sports groups and remain at 60 per cent for other Richmond based organizations. The continuous involvement of sport, as well as the diversifying list of sports available in Richmond, is a benefit to local residents. It is recommended that organizations which represent new, emerging or niche sports be allowed three years to meet the residency requirement.



Gregg Wheeler
Manager, Sport and Community Events
(604-244-1274)

- Att. 1: Council Policy 8701 - Parks and Leisure Services – Community Involvement (Recommended Amendments)
- 2: Letter from Richmond Sports Council Chair, dated Friday, March 10, 2017

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City of Richmond

Policy Manual

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Adopted by Council: Mar. 28/78

POLICY 8701

File Ref: 7000-00

COMMUNITY SERVICES – COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (Recommended Amendments)

POLICY 8701:

It is Council policy that:

Council encourages and supports community initiative, involvement, and decision making in programs related to planning, acquisition, development, operation, and maintenance of parks, recreation and sport, cultural and community social development services in Richmond.

It is the intent of Council to:

1. Encourage other groups, organizations and individuals to provide parks, recreation and sport, cultural and community social development programs, facilities and services in accordance with community need.
2. Encourage and incorporate the involvement of volunteers in the delivery of community services.
3. Support the formation, nurturing, and growth of parks, recreation and sport, cultural and community social development groups in the development and maintenance of community services delivery in Richmond.

Assistance may be given to:

1. **Richmond Community Associations/Societies** - Community ~~and neighbourhood~~ associations/societies which include Community Services programs as a major part of their objectives.
2. **Richmond Parks, Recreation, Culture and Community Social Development Organizations (non-sport)** - Any not for profit Richmond based **non-sport** organization with membership of at least 60% Richmond residents, or as approved by Council, in developing and implementing its parks, recreation, cultural and community social development programs and services.
3. **Richmond Sport Organizations** - Any Richmond-based non-profit sport organization with membership of at least 70% Richmond residents.
4. **Other Sport Organizations** – For a maximum of three years, any non-profit sport organization which meets the following criteria: (i) has not previously accessed Richmond sport amenities and facilities; and (ii) represents a sport which is not currently using Richmond sport amenities and facilities (niche or emerging sports); and (iii) is actively working towards a membership of at least 70% Richmond residents.

The organizations, upon receiving assistance, will provide the Community Services Division with up-to-date records of the organization and its activities.

Encouragement and assistance may be given to the establishment of the community and neighbourhood associations and societies which include parks, recreation and sport, cultural



and community social development programs and services as a major part of their objectives. Wherever possible, neighbourhood organizations are encouraged to become affiliated with, or an integral part of, the larger community association serving the geographical area in which the neighbourhood is located. New community associations would be formed when population densities, through infilling of residential areas, create a need for a logical sub-municipal identity and the development of major community recreational facilities in a new location.

Council is committed to providing, facilitating and coordinating parks, recreation and sport, cultural and community social development programs and services to community groups and individuals involved in the provision of parks, recreation and sport, cultural and community social development programs and services. The Community Services Division accepts a leadership role in the coordination of parks, recreation and sport, cultural and community social development programming and will endeavour to avoid undesirable duplication of services, or unreasonable variances in fees and charges to participants.

DRAFT



Richmond Sports Council

Richmond Sports Council is the collective voice of Richmond's community sports

Serena Lusk

March 10, 2017

Senior Manager, Recreation and Sports Services

Review of local Sports Group Residency Requirements

After a discussion at Richmond Sports Council on the City of Richmond local Sport Groups Residency Requirements, Richmond Sports Council would like to see the requirement increased from 60% to 70%. This would ensure that Richmond Residences come first for facility access over the last few years demand for access to first class facilities in the lower mainland are at an all Time high. Some of the Provincial Sports Organization have open boundaries now where players can move anywhere. Increasing the Residency Rate to 70% will make sure that Richmond residence, have the opportunity to be active with in their own community.

Regards

Jim Lamond

Chairman R.S.C.