



Regular Council Meeting

Monday, April 8, 2013

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Council Chambers
Richmond City Hall

Present: Mayor Malcolm D. Brodie
Councillor Chak Au
Councillor Linda Barnes
Councillor Derek Dang
Councillor Evelina Halsey-Brandt
Councillor Ken Johnston
Councillor Bill McNulty
Councillor Linda McPhail
Councillor Harold Steves

Corporate Officer – David Weber

Call to Order: Mayor Brodie called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

RES NO. ITEM

MINUTES

- R13/7-1 1. It was moved and seconded
*That the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on Monday, March 25, 2013, be adopted as circulated, and
the Metro Vancouver 'Board in Brief' dated March 15, 2013 be received for information.*

CARRIED



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COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

- R13/7-2 2. It was moved and seconded
That Council resolve into Committee of the Whole to hear delegations on agenda items (7:04 p.m.).

CARRIED

3. Delegations from the floor on Agenda items:

Item No. 9 – Museum Feasibility Study Update

Greg Walker, Vice Chair, Richmond Museum Society, introduced and recognized Helmut and Hugo Eppich, Jack Wong, and Joe DaSilva for their support of the Richmond Museum Society. Mr. Walker stated how the Museum Feasibility Study embodies concepts that are in-line with the Society Board's dedication to preserving and enhancing the City of Richmond, and making it accessible to all. He noted that the Study contains ideas and concepts that are exciting, inspirational, unique and fitting for the City of Richmond which will capitalize on a new trend of cultural tourism, and urged Council to give the Study due consideration.

Item No. 9 – Museum Feasibility Study Update

Jim Wright, 8300 Osgoode Drive, spoke in support of the concept of a museum project in the City of Richmond, and shared his views on how such a project could be completed with excellence and in keeping with the City's mission. A copy of Mr. Wright's presentation is attached as **Schedule 1** and forms part of these minutes.

- R13/7-3 4. It was moved and seconded
That Committee rise and report (7:17 p.m.).

CARRIED



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CONSENT AGENDA

- R13/7-4 5. It was moved and seconded
*That Items 6 through 12 with the removal of Item No. 9 be adopted by
general consent.*

CARRIED

6. **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

That the minutes of:

- (1) *the General Purposes Committee meeting held on Tuesday, April 2, 2013; and*
- (2) *the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday, March 26, 2013;*

be received for information.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

7. **ENERGY RETROFIT PROGRAM FOR LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLD**

(File Ref. No. 10-6125-07-01) (REDMS No. 3807671 v.2)

That the strategy outlined in the staff report from the Director, Administration and Compliance, titled Energy Retrofit Program for Low-Income Households dated March 20, 2013, be endorsed.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT



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8. FEE AND ENFORCEMENT OPTIONS FOR SOIL REMOVAL AND DEPOSIT ACTIVITIES IN THE AGRICULTURAL LAND RESERVE

(File Ref. No. 12-8080-12-01) (REDMS No. 3790498 v. 29)

- (1) That the proposed enhancements to the City's permit and enforcement processes for soil management in the Agricultural Land Reserve, as presented in the staff report titled Fee and Enforcement Options for Soil Removal and Deposit Activities in the Agricultural Land Reserve from the General Manager, Law & Community Safety dated February 22, 2013, be approved in principle for the purpose of consultation;*
- (2) That the staff report be forwarded to the City's Agricultural Advisory Committee for comment; and*
- (3) That staff prepare a public consultation process which takes into consideration comments received from the Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC), and includes farmers, Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) land owners, and members of the public.*

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

9. MUSEUM FEASIBILITY STUDY UPDATE

(File Ref. No. 11-7141-01) (REDMS No. 3690866 v.9)

See page 5 for action taken on this matter.

10. HUGH MCROBERTS SECONDARY SCHOOL COMMUNITY PUBLIC ART PROJECT

(File Ref. No. 11-7000-09-20-132) (REDMS No. 3733839 v.3)

That the concept proposal for the Hugh McRoberts Secondary School Community Public Art Project by artist Jasmine Reimer as presented in the staff report from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage dated February 25, 2013, be endorsed.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT



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**11. CANADA LINE ELEVATED GUIDEWAY TERMINUS PUBLIC ART
PROJECT TERMS OF REFERENCE**

(File Ref. No. 11-7000-09-20-109) (REDMS No. 3808638 v. 3, 3801859)

- (1) *That the Canada Line Elevated Guideway Terminus Public Art Project Terms of Reference for an artist call, as outlined in the staff report dated March 7, 2013 from the Director, Arts, Culture & Heritage, be endorsed; and*
- (2) *That prior to issuance of the artist call, staff report back to Council seeking authority to modify the City Infrastructure Protocol and the Richmond Access Agreement, if needed, in order to accommodate the Canada Line Elevated Guideway Terminus Public Art Project.*

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

12. KING GEORGE PARK MASTER PLAN UPDATE

(File Ref. No. 06-2345-20-KGEO1) (REDMS No. 3813134)

That the staff report titled King George Park Master Plan Update dated March 4, 2013 from the Senior Manager, Parks be endorsed as the guide for future development of King George Park.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

**CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS REMOVED FROM THE
CONSENT AGENDA**

9 MUSEUM FEASIBILITY STUDY UPDATE

(File Ref. No. 11-7141-01) (REDMS No. 3690866 v.9)

R13/7-5

It was moved and seconded

- (1) *That the Richmond Museum Feasibility Study October 2012 update, (included as Attachment 1) to the staff report dated March 9, 2013 from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage, be received for information;*



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- (2) *That staff be directed to prepare an updated Corporate Facility Implementation Plan, outlining new and existing corporate facilities;*
- (3) *That a museum be incorporated into the updated Corporate Facility Implementation Plan; and*
- (4) *That staff investigate with the Vancouver Airport Authority if there is an opportunity for the Vancouver Airport Authority to provide land and a major donation for a destination museum in connection with their mall.*

CARRIED

OPPOSED: Cllr. Au

PUBLIC DELEGATIONS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

R13/7-6

13. It was moved and seconded

That Council resolve into Committee of the Whole to hear delegations on non-agenda items (8:20 p.m.).

CARRIED

Tony Kondaks, Vancouver resident, urged City Council not to take any action that would result in mandatory legislative language requirements on commercial signage in the City of Richmond. He provided his opinion on the possible repercussions of such legislation, noting that it could become a nationwide issue. Mr. Kondaks shared his personal experience regarding the matter as a resident of Quebec during a time of language tensions, and provided details related to the language debates in Quebec and the Canadian Constitutional crisis. In conclusion, Mr. Kondaks spoke of the connection between freedom of commercial expression and freedom of expression, and suggested that the best course of action was to take no action at all. He noted that the solution was in the marketplace, and that everyone has the right to be a bad businessman.



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- R13/7-7 14. It was moved and seconded
That Committee rise and report (8:27 p.m.).

CARRIED

BYLAWS FOR ADOPTION

- R13/7-8 It was moved and seconded
That the following bylaws be adopted:
Animal Control Regulation Bylaw No. 7932, Amendment Bylaw No. 8961
Notice of Bylaw Violation Dispute Adjudication Bylaw No. 8122,
Amendment Bylaw No. 8962
Municipal Ticket Information Authorization Bylaw No. 7321, Amendment
Bylaw No. 8966

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

- R13/7-9 It was moved and seconded
That the meeting adjourn (8:36 p.m.).

CARRIED

Certified a true and correct copy of the
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the
Council of the City of Richmond held on
Monday, April 8, 2013.

Mayor (Malcolm D. Brodie)

Corporate Officer (David Weber)

**8 April 2013 Council, Jim Wright, 8300 Osgoode Drive, re item 9,
Museum Feasibility**

I support the ongoing museum project. I aim to share ideas for doing it with excellence in keeping with the City of Richmond's mission.

You're probably familiar with a process called *appreciative inquiry*, which simply means "Build on what you do well." Let's use that process. What we've done well in recent years is the Richmond Olympic Oval.

Since the financial spin around the Oval is debatable, it's *not* relevant. We just want to continue the cycle of success.

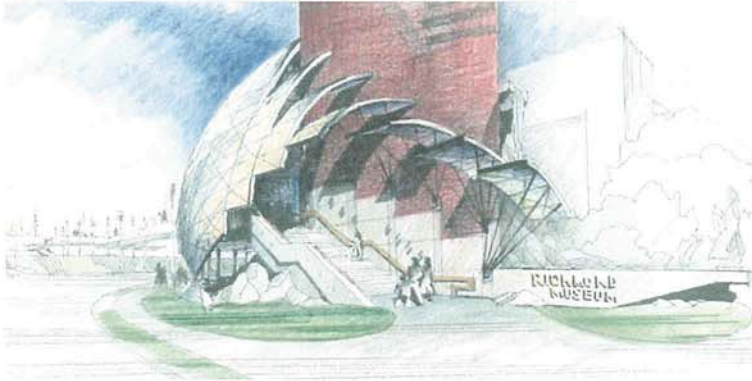
First of all, the Oval building is striking but functional, using British Columbia materials to express our values, especially with the denim pine ceiling from a forest brought down by pine beetles that has literally risen above that immense setback. In that context, it was disappointing to see the artist's sketch of the museum's signature element, an imitation of the Sydney Opera House. The intent was good, but let's aim higher, as we successfully did with the Richmond Olympic Oval.

Second, the Oval building serves its whole range of purposes at the consistent level of *excellence*. I've been there for the Olympic skating and the Winterfest celebrations and on ordinary days, and the quality level stays way up. At 9 or 9:30 in the evening, the building is still buzzing with focused happy healthy activity of many kinds. When I listened to Oval general manager John Mills describe the Olympic Museum at a council meeting, I went from skeptic to unsuspecting supporter, especially in view of the track record that he and the Oval have established. The Richmond Museum already does its thing in a top-quality way, but it somehow has to prove itself on a larger scale before the public will buy into a large-scale capital cost, which may not even be needed. (I discussed one way in my Digging Deep column in last Friday's *Richmond Review*, so I won't repeat it now, but I will attach it with my speaking notes for the recording secretary.)

Third, the Oval seems to have developed expertise in forming partnerships in which it primarily wins for Richmond and simultaneously enables its partners to win. In contrast, I and a lot of citizens that the City often seems to get the worst of its dealings with developer partners of one kind or another. In the museum resolution, there's talk of a "donation" from YVR in connection with a museum for their mall. But YVR and their mall should be a big winner from the museum. (There's a museum of flight in Langley, but no museum tells the YVR story of Grant McConachie and Russ Baker and a whole lot more that's possible.) Can the Richmond Museum be a *senior partner* with the airport and airline businesses? The basic idea in the resolution is good but let's do it with *confident strength*.

The speaker before me [Keith Liedtke, the Richmond Museum Society chair] brought in a lot about partnerships that was not in the report. I'm feeling much better about the future because of that.

Inspiring the world with Richmond's destination museum



Consultant's sketch of proposed new Richmond Museum building and photo of the Sydney Opera House in Australia.

Digging Deep Jim Wright

While browsing the *Review* online, I smiled at a sketch. At first glance it was a baby Sydney Opera House. The words said "Richmond pitches \$59-million destination museum." I thought "April Fool's joke!" I checked the date, late March, and guessed a story for April 1st had jumped the gun.

Besides the sketch, a seeming clue to a spoof was the \$59-million figure. It's famed as the price Richmond paid for the Garden City Lands. Since that won an unloved Teddy Award, a national title for civic waste, the reminder seemed odd.

The recent cries of "Waste!" at the smaller Olympic Museum plan for the Richmond Oval were dying down, so I also couldn't fathom the city stoking the embers. Why spring a more-costly museum on us? We don't covet a lifetime achievement plaque at the Teddies.

Once I realized the "destination museum" idea was not in jest, it got me thinking about the terrific mini-museum we have now. It's in a cranny of the Richmond Cultural Centre. The staff who work wonders there do deserve more room to help us save and celebrate our legacies.

"How to help?" I wondered. "Are there ways to nurture our museum's role?" As tends to happen, I turned to our central park, the Garden City Lands, which ought not to be a waste.

The park had answers, starting with its agricultural legacy. By law, Agricultural Land Reserve uses have precedence there, and the park should convey ALR values because we honour them and Harold Steves and all who've stood for such values. As a young MLA, Harold did much to found the ALR—on April 18, 1973—to conserve BC farmland and foster agriculture. Forty years later, the ALR remains a model for the world. That's great substance for exhibits.

Picturing it, I thought there could be displays in an educational building near the Lansdowne Road entrance to the lands, like the Nature House at the Richmond Nature Park or the Red Barn at the Terra Nova Sharing Farm. And there could be interpretive features on farm-road trails or in playgrounds or wherever they'd have best effect.

As it happens, by the way, anti-ALR forces chose the Garden City Lands as a battleground, and our citizens repelled them for years against all odds, so there's no better site for ALR exhibits. Also, our museum put on an excellent agricultural exhibition last year, so there's no doubt they do it well. I feel certain they'd do just as well with our other legacies too, given practical kinds of support.

A millennia-old legacy, the delta sphagnum-moss ecosystem on part of the Garden City Lands, is likely the only one in the world in a city centre. Neglect has left it in critical condition, but it's worth all the care it needs. The museum could exhibit that treasure in the context of the Richmond islands' range of wetlands.

When taken together, our various wetlands are a potential Ramsar Wetland of International Importance in the long term. The exhibit might immerse visitors in that community goal and our progress toward it.

The unique natural viewsapes from the Garden City Lands are priceless too, and no doubt the ALR uses of the lands for agriculture, recreation and conservation will enhance the views. With respectful curating, our museum staff could exhibit nature's art as far as the eye can see.

There's much more to include in the museum's roles. In time, the Department of National Defence area to the east ("DND Lands") will extend the central park if the City of Richmond learns from early mistakes with the Garden City Lands, and the armory there could house museum growth.

Our museum exists to better our community quality of life, but by then it would serve the world. One might call it a destination museum.

Note: The Richmond's Garden City Conservation blog has hundreds of relevant articles. For topics like "Ramsar Wetland of International Importance" and "DND Lands," just use the blog's search box.

Jim Wright is president of the Garden City Conservation Society.