



## Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee

Date: Tuesday, May 27, 2025

Place: Anderson Room  
Richmond City Hall

Present: Councillor Michael Wolfe, Chair  
Councillor Laura Gillanders  
Councillor Andy Hobbs  
Councillor Bill McNulty

Absent: Councillor Chak Au

Also Present: Councillor Carol Day (by teleconference)

Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

### MINUTES

It was moved and seconded

*That the minutes of the meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee held on April 29, 2025, be adopted as circulated.*

**CARRIED**

### DELEGATIONS

1. Kate Humble, on behalf of Parks Canada, and Tenney Homma, granddaughter of Tomekichi Homma, spoke on the addition of a plaque recognizing the National Historic Event related to Tomekichi Homma at the Japanese Fishermens' Benevolent Society (JFBS) building.

Ms. Humble noted the JFBS building is appropriate due to connections with Tomekichi Homma and with the Japanese Canadians who fundraised to help support the legal fees of Mr. Homma in the National Historic Event known as *Cunninham v. Homma*. Ms. Homma noted it has taken 13 years to locate an appropriate location for the permanent installation of the plaque, and that the installation at the JFBS building would be an honour to Mr. Homma's legacy.

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In response to queries from Committee, the delegation noted (i) the steps taken to identify a permanent location to secure the plaque, and (ii) that there has not been any discussion with Richmond School District #38 pertaining to the plaque.

Two additional letters of support were provided on table (attached to and forming part of these minutes as Schedule 1).

- 1A. Jim Tanaka spoke to his submission, including signed petitions proposing the installation of the plaque recognizing the National Historic Event related to Tomekichi Homma be installed at the Homma Elementary School. A further page of signed petitions in support was provided on-table (attached to and forming part of these minutes as Schedule 2).

In addition to the information submitted, Mr. Tanaka noted, (i) the proposed plaque installation at Homma Elementary School ensures Mr. Homma's legacy endures, (ii) it is the most appropriate, suitable and visible location to honour Mr. Homma, providing the opportunity of a brief history of Mr. Homma's achievements within a building also complimented by Japanese inspired design, and (iii) public access would be by appointment during school hours.

Discussion ensued regarding the opportunity to honour Mr. Homma in both locations (JFBX building and Homma Elementary School), with the National Historic Event plaque to be installed at the JBFS building, and to also consider a second plaque or something significant within Homma Elementary School that further honours the history of Mr. Homma and the Japanese Canadian community.

It was moved and seconded

***That the proposed location for the installation of the National Historic Event Designation Cunningham v. Tomey Homma plaque, in the front garden of the Japanese Benevolent Fishermen's Society Building, be supported in principle, and that the application process for the associated Heritage Alteration Permit required for the building, proceed.***

The question on the motion was not called as discussion ensued noting (i) the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the important landmark legal case *Cunninham v. Homma*, (ii) the importance of the JBFS heritage building that will remain in place, updated and preserved, providing a permanent location for the National Historic Event plaque, and (iii) concern expressed with respect to encouraging the public to access the school to view the historical plaque.

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The following **referral motion** was then introduced:

It was moved and seconded

*That the presentation from Jim Tanaka at the May 27, 2025 Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee meeting, regarding the proposed additional plaque recognizing the National Historical Event related to Tomekichi Homma at Homma Elementary School, be referred to the Council/School Board Liaison Committee.*

The question on the referral motion was not called as staff reported they had reached out to Richmond School District No. 38 earlier who advised they are checking if there are any guidelines or policies to be considered, and that the matter would need to be considered by the Richmond School Board.

The question on the referral motion was then called and it was **CARRIED**.

The question on the main motion was then called and it was **CARRIED**.

**PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE DIVISION**

**2. 2025-2026 ENGAGING ARTISTS IN COMMUNITY PROGRAM  
PUBLIC ART PROJECTS**

(File Ref. No. 11-7000-09-20-089) (REDMS No. 7999500)

It was moved and seconded

*That the 2025-2026 Engaging Artists in Community Program Public Art Projects, as presented in the staff report titled “2025-2026 Engaging Artists in Community Program Public Art Projects”, dated May 5, 2025, from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services, be approved.*

**CARRIED**

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**3. PROPOSED PRACTICES TO ACCELERATE BLACKBERRY MANAGEMENT IN RICHMOND**

(File Ref. No. 10-6160-07-01) (REDMS No. 7808159)

In response to queries from Committee, staff noted (i) with the proposed pilot of Option 1, staff would focus on pedestrian trails, park areas and multi-use pathways, with exact locations to be determined, (ii) approximately 10 years ago the use of sheep or goats was considered for invasive species management, however it was determined to be cost prohibitive, (iii) the effect of repeated mowing would be an effective control method, however fully eradicating blackberry is challenging because of how its seed is disbursed, (iv) developed park areas such as Railway Greenway and Garden City Lands, are good examples where blackberry is effectively being managed, having had the sites cleared, replanted with new vegetation and at that time considered to be clean and free of blackberry, and (v) the City has not used pesticides on blackberry; the use of pesticides would need Council endorsement and could only be used in areas not accessible by residents.

Cognizant of the budgetary impact, Committee noted Option 2 provides a commitment to accelerate blackberry management and achieve greater success in significantly reducing the rate of blackberry growth in multiple areas.

It was moved and seconded

*That Option 2, as outlined in the staff report titled “Proposed Practices to Accelerate Blackberry Management in Richmond”, dated May 5, 2025, from the Director, Climate and Environment and the Director, Parks Services, for the implementation of an annual blackberry management program be approved.*

**CARRIED**

**4. HUGH BOYD COMMUNITY PARK PLAYGROUND RENEWAL – ENGAGEMENT RESULTS AND NEXT STEPS**

(File Ref. No. 06-2345-20-HBOY1) (REDMS No. 8006401)

In response to queries from Committee, staff noted (i) end of life for parks playground equipment is approximately 18 years; in this case it has been 16 years since the last update to the western side of the park playground, (ii) a playground fund is brought forward as part of the capital submission every year and typically identifies one to four playgrounds from a revolving list of required equipment replacements, and (iii) the playground is open for everyone to use.

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It was moved and seconded

- (1) *That the priorities and scope as outlined in the Playground Renewal section in the staff report titled “Hugh Boyd Community Park Playground Renewal – Engagement Results and Next Steps”, dated May 5, 2025, from the Director, Park Services, be approved; and*
- (2) *That staff proceed with next steps as outlined in the staff report titled “Hugh Boyd Community Park Playground Renewal – Engagement Results and Next Steps”, dated May 5, 2025, from the Director, Park Services.*

**CARRIED**

The Chair advised an additional Item No. 4A be added to the agenda.

**4A. UPDATES ON 2026 MAJOR CITY EVENTS**

Major events scheduled for 2026 were noted, including:

- Kaiwo Maru arrival in Steveston - May, 2026;
- Steveston Maritime Festival - August, 2026; and
- FIFA World Cup (Vancouver) - June, 2026.

As part of the Manager’s Report, it was requested that staff provide status updates for the 2026 major events on a regular basis.

**5. MANAGER’S REPORT**

*(i) Doors Open – June 7-8, 2025*

Staff advised the 18th annual Doors Open Richmond takes place on Saturday, June 7 and Sunday June 8, with more than 50 sites across the city participating.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved and seconded

*That the meeting adjourn (5:14 p.m.).*

**CARRIED**

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee of the Council of the City of Richmond held on Tuesday, May 27, 2025.

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Councillor Michael Wolfe  
Chair

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Lorraine Anderson  
Legislative Services Associate

TO: MAYOR & EACH  
COUNCILLOR  
FROM: CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

Schedule 1 to the Minutes of the  
Parks, Recreation & Cultural  
Services Committee meeting of  
Richmond City Council held on  
Tuesday, May 27, 2025.

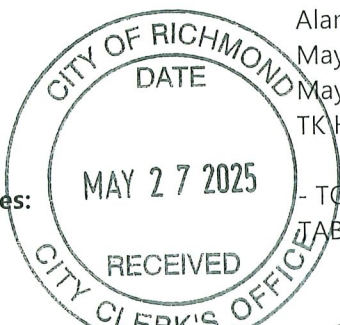
## ON TABLE ITEM

Date: May 27, 2025  
Meeting: Pres  
Item: 1

From:  
Sent:  
To:  
Subject:

Alan Sakai <asakai123@icloud.com>  
May 25, 2025 9:15 PM  
Mayor and Councillors  
TK Homma Commemorative Plaque Installation

Categories:



- TO: MAYOR & EACH COUNCILLOR / FROM: CITY CLERK'S OFFICE, - DISTRIBUTED ON  
TABLE

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**City of Richmond Security Warning:** This email was sent from an external source outside the City. Please do not click or open attachments unless you recognize the source of this email and the content is safe..

May 24, 2025

Dear Mayor and Council,

I strongly support the placement of the plaque commemorating Tomekichi "Tomey" Homma's Legal Case at the Japanese Fishermen's Benevolent Society Building (JFBSB).

- Placing the plaque at the JFBS building will serve as an educational resource to cultivate greater visibility and raise public awareness and understanding of the early Japanese settlers in a public space in the heart of historic Steveston.
- The current renewal landscape plan outside the JFBS building could incorporate the plaque, this is in progress by the City of Richmond's Culture team.
- The plaque promotes and preserves an aspect of Japanese Canadian history, heritage and contribution that can be shared with a broad audience.
- The plaque's location would be across the street where people can conveniently view the Nikkei Stories short video, Tomekichi Homma, Man of the Times on their cellphones. Information about Tomey would be centralized for those who are interested in learning more about his life.
- Tomey Homma was instrumental in fundraising and arranging support for the building of the Japanese Benevolent Fisherman's Society Building in Steveston and was the President of this society for many years. The connection to the JBS could be easily seen and enhance the story of the JBFSB and its work during a difficult era.

The plaque recognizes the historic contribution to the hard-fought, long-awaited struggle for fundamental rights of citizenship. This placement is central to the story of Tomey Homma, and the Japanese Community that he fought for.

As this commemoration belongs to all citizens it should not be encumbered by placement in a location whereby access could be restricted by competing agendas more than in a public space. An example of this would be a school where access would require special dispensation during school hours or on certain dates due to the school calendar.

Alan Sakai,  
Director Steveston Judo Club,  
Director Steveston Community Society,  
Chair of the Japanese Canadian Heritage Committee of the Steveston Community Society,  
Chair Steveston Martial Arts Centre

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## Steveston Community Society

*Serving the Community of Steveston Since 1946*

### ON TABLE ITEM

Date: May 27, 2025  
Meeting: PRCS  
Item: 1

May 26, 2025

Dear Mayor and Council:

TO: MAYOR & EACH  
COUNCILLOR  
FROM: CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

**Re: TK Homma Commemorative Plaque Installation**

The Steveston Community Society supports the placement of the plaque commemorating Tomekichi "Tomey" Homma's Legal Case at the Japanese Fishermen's Benevolent Society Building (JFBSB).

As this commemoration belongs to all citizens, it should not be encumbered by placement in a location whereby access could be restricted by competing agendas. An example of this would be a school where access would require special dispensation during school hours or on certain dates due to the school calendar.

By placing the plaque at the JFSB building, this will serve as an education resource to cultivate greater visibility and raise public awareness and understanding of the early Japanese settlers in a public space in the heart of historic Steveston.

The current renewal landscape plan outside the JFBS building that is in progress by the City of Richmond's Culture team, could incorporate the plaque that promotes and preserves an aspect of Japanese Canadian history, heritage and contribution that can be shared with a broad audience.

The plaque's location would also be across the street where people can conveniently view the Nikkei Stories short video, Tomekichi Homma, Man of the Times on their cellphones. Information about Tomey would be centralized for those who are interested in learning more about his life.

Tomey Homma was instrumental in fundraising and arranging support for the building of the Japanese Benevolent Fishman's Society Building in Steveston and was the President of this society for many years. The connection to the JBS could be easily seen and enhance the story of the JBFSB and its work during a difficult era.

The plaque recognizes the historic contribution to the hard-fought, long-awaited struggle for fundamental rights of citizenship. This placement is central to the story of Tomey Homma, and the Japanese Community that he fought for and is best placed at the JBFSB.

Yours truly,

Alan Clark  
President, Steveston Community Society

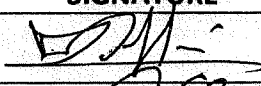

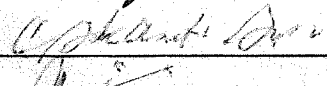

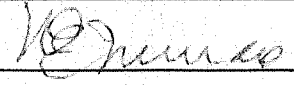
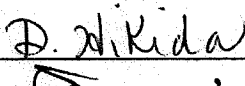
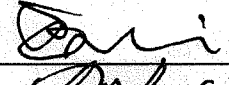
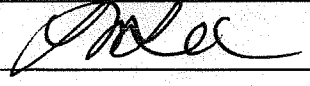
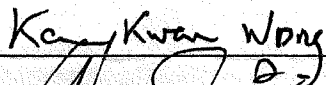
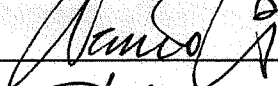
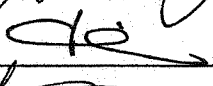
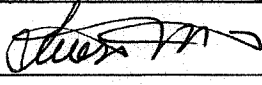
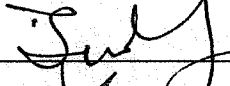
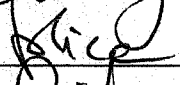
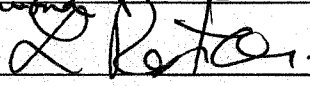
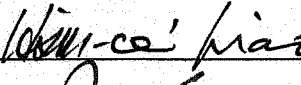


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We the undersigned, propose Homma Elementary School located at 5100 BruRichmond City Council held on  
Richmond, B.C. is the most visible, effective and significant place for the instaTuesday, May 27, 2025.  
Tomekichi "Tomey" Homma Legal Case Plaque rather than at the preserved Japanese  
Fishermen's Hospital's Administration office and Doctor's Office building located at 3811  
Moncton St. Richmond.

NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
RUFFIE Nichol	Unit 1 - 6360 LYNAS LANE RICHMOND	
RUFFIE Canille	" "	
CRYSTAL SAKAMOTO-S	4211 STEVENSON AVE RICHMOND	
PRADDEEN SINGH	" "	
Naomi Murao	4388 Garry Road	
Debra HIKIDA	5540 HACKNER CRIS. RICHMOND BC	
Kyuei Shimada	74-4151 Regent ST Road	
Lily Lee	602-7040 Granville Av	
KAM KWAN Wong	10650 Rosecroft CRS	
Winnie Li	#2106 7090 EDMUNDS ST.	
Alice KWONG	37-12331 McNEELY DR RMO V6V 2S3	
Teresa Millar	#13-3031 William's Rd Richmond V7E1H9	
Judy Chan	11-7733 Turnhill St. RICHMOND	
Bliss Chan	901-9133 Hemlock Drive Richmond	
Laura Reston	11618 Kings BRIDGE RICHMOND	
Hsin-mei Liao	5640 Camden Pl. Road	
Dan	1329/ STATION HILL	