



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To Parks, Recreation & Cultural Service - Jan 27, 2009

To: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee
From: Dave Semple, Director of Parks and Public Works Operations
Re: Richmond Rugby Club Facilities

Date: January 13, 2009
File: 11-7200-01/2009-Vol 01

Staff Recommendation

That the Richmond Rugby Club Facilities report (dated January 13, 2009 from the Director of Parks and Public Works Operations) be received for information.

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

FOR ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT USE ONLY			
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER	
Recreation & Culture.....	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>		
REVIEWED BY TAG	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	REVIEWED BY CAO	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>

Staff Report

Origin

At the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee meeting on June 24, 2008, Mr. Ravi Hayer – President of the Richmond Rugby Club, accompanied by Tania Donaldson, Youth Development Officer for the Club, outlined the Club's programs and their need for facilities. Discussion was held regarding the possibility of relocating the rugby program and changeroom facilities from Sea Island to King George Park. As a result of the discussion, the following referral motion was made:

“That the Richmond Rugby Club’s request be referred to staff to work with rugby groups and other stakeholders to report back on the progress, costs, and implications of the Club’s short and long-term needs”.

Analysis

The Richmond Rugby Club was founded in 1957 and has a long history of providing high quality rugby programs for the residents of Richmond. For over 25 years, the Club operated out of the Sea Island Forum and played their games and practices on the adjacent fields.

With the growth of YVR, in the late 1990's, the Club lost their changeroom and clubhouse facilities when the Sea Island Forum was demolished.

Once the Sea Island Forum was no longer available to the Club, the City provided a portable changeroom trailer which was located at the YVR fields on Sea Island.

In 2007, YVR notified the City and the Richmond Club that they would have to vacate two rugby fields at YVR due to the expansion of airport facility development. Since then, City staff has worked with the Richmond Rugby Club to identify a permanent home for rugby activities in the community.

Since the Club's June 24, 2008 presentation to Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee, staff have arranged to accommodate the Club's short term facility needs at King George Park. (Attachment 1) shows the location of the facilities allotted to the Richmond Rugby Club, which are as follows:

- Games are held on King George Park fields 1 and 3. These fields are designated for rugby use only during the Fall/Winter field allotment season. The only exception is school use.
- Practices are held one night per week on the new lit synthetic turf at King George Park and one night per week in the left field outfield area of the South West Softball diamond at King George Park.
- The changeroom trailer that was formerly located at Sea Island has been moved to a site west of the tennis courts at King George Park, and will be hooked up by February 01, 2009.

Discussion with Mr. Ravi Hayer – President of the Richmond Rugby Club indicates that the above facilities at King George Park have met the Club's short term needs as outlined in his letter (Attachment 2).

For the long term, the Club is interested in partnering with the City to build a multi-use clubhouse facility at King George Park (similar to what is being proposed by Richmond Soccer at Hugh Boyd Park). The Club will come back to Committee at a later date once they have developed a more detailed clubhouse proposal.

Financial Impacts

None at this time.

Conclusion

Since the loss of the Sea Island Forum, the City has explored a variety of site options in an attempt to find a permanent home for the sport of rugby in Richmond. The relocation from Sea Island to King George Park has provided improved game and practice facilities for the Richmond Rugby Club.

For the sport to continue to grow in the community, and to facilitate tournament hosting, the Club plans to come back to Committee at a later date with a proposal to build a multi-use rugby clubhouse in Richmond.



Eric Stepura
Manager, Sports & Community Events
(604-244-1274)

ES:mh

King George Park, Rugby Trailer Site Plan Attachment 1

CAMBIE RD



Rugby Trailer

Community Hall

New A1 Field

Field 1

SW Ball Diamond

Field 3

To the City of Richmond,

My name is Ravi Hayer, and I am the President of the Richmond Rugby Football Club (RRFC). The Rugby Club was founded in Richmond in 1957 and since has been a member of the Fraser Valley Rugby Union, British Columbia Rugby Union, and the Canada Rugby Union.

We were situated for over 25 years at Sea Island at the former Sea Island Forum, we had two complete playing fields that had proper drainage as well as a half a training pitch, complete changing facilities for all teams with showers, a meeting room with Clubhouse facilities and a deck where spectators were able to view the games from a covered view point. We were displaced in the late 1990's with the growth of YVR, we have continued with out a permanent home for many years. We are continually being moved from facility to facility, week-to-week, once the field allocations have been assigned to other sports team in Richmond.

The Richmond Rugby Club is comprised of residents of Richmond of all ages. We run three senior men's teams, an under 19, under 17, under 16, under 14, as well as our Mini Rugby program from ages 5-12. We have also run a women's program in years past, and have had to abandon it due to lack of facilities. On a volunteer basis the Richmond Rugby Club also has many Coaches in our high schools promoting the sport as well as keeping our kids active and involved. We have a large membership and following in our Community. We host one of the Province's largest Mini Rugby Jamborees with over 400 children participating. Since Rugby is a relatively expensive sport to field many schools across Canada have embraced the sport. The popularity of Rugby both Nationally and Internationally has grown and will continue to do so.

The Richmond Rugby Club needs a permanent dedicated home for Rugby. The facility would require

- Two regulation sized Rugby fields with proper drainage
- Additional training area (half field)
- A Permanent Structure with Min. 4 changing rooms, with showers and bathrooms
- Meeting Room/Class Room facilities that could facilitate 200 people
- A covered grandstand, that would allow for storage underneath
- A full operating Kitchen and concession area
- Full use of our fields for entire Rugby Season

We would like to partner with the City and create a facility that would allow the RRFC to accommodate greater participation from the community we serve with expanded programs for kids and full women's teams. We have also secured a partnership with the BCRU, and CRU, they as well are excited about the possibility of holding larger events in Richmond and also use the facility. There may be an opportunity to seek partial funding thru these partnerships as well.

We look forward to working hand in hand with the City of Richmond.

Regards,
Ravi Hayer
RRFC President
604-306-4929