

**Schedule 24 to the Minutes of  
the Council Meeting for  
Public Hearings held on  
Monday, July 16, 2012.**

Mayor and Councillors:

I arrived here over 45 years ago, before there were any high rise buildings in Richmond, just after the old half of Minoru Arena opened, before the Minoru Chapel relocation and Gateway Theatre. I was here before the Library Cultural Centre, and the pond and gardens in the north half of Minoru Park. Back then Gilbert Road was just a path south of Granville Ave and all roads had ditches, Richmond Centre was just 2 small malls with parking in between, and City Hall was the size of a large house. *We've adapted to many changes since.*

I learned to swim at the outdoor Minoru pool, and like generations of kids since me I played sports in Minoru Park. I sit on the local sports council and preservation and improvement of park land and local sports opportunities for all ages is very important to me.

I have a background in property management and have been involved with market housing and seniors and social housing.

*excellent*  
The Kiwanis project provides an opportunity for seniors who have lived in central Richmond as long and longer than me to age in place near where they lived and raised their kids, within walking distance of their park, mall, hospital, doctors, and friends.

It is also walking distance to their churches, the seniors centre, the library, Gateway live theatre, and near rapid transit and buses to anywhere in Richmond or Vancouver.

It is the best opportunity Richmond has to provide for its remaining pioneers.

*as a volunteer*  
I'm involved with the new ANAF seniors housing in Steveston, which provides a great option for seniors there, and central Richmond deserves this option for its seniors too. From my experience in Steveston with the new and rapidly filling ANAF seniors housing, I know that the vast majority of seniors who move into the Kiwanis housing will walk or scooter around - not add cars here. Similarly, the impact on the local schools will be small.

Additionally, Minoru Park can handle more seniors since they typically use the Minoru library, pool, track, tennis, other park areas, and live theatre when others are away at work and the facilities are under utilized. This may help these facilities bottom line.

However there will be some challenges because the City has added lots of housing downtown, and almost no new moderately priced recreation the past few decades.

There needs to be consideration of already overburdened local recreation facilities. The Seniors Centre is under sized for the current downtown population and overdue for expansion, and the lawn bowling facilities are also heavily used. Both need planning for the future. Properly planned, additional facilities can co-locate here and nearby serving seniors weekdays, and the local general population outside working hours.

Also, West Richmond Park has a seniors outdoor fitness area - but Minoru is the area with the largest seniors population very visibly filling its track walking. There is a need for a senior's fitness area, which if located near the children's playground could provide intergenerational co-play opportunities.

Seniors are the largest growing segment of the Richmond population, and it is time the City worked with the local sports community and seniors community to plan for more future seniors daytime programs. Minoru is an area where we truly can provide Sports for Life.

The Kiwanis senior's project is a great opportunity for downtown seniors to age in place, and can also be the catalyst for downtown recreation rejuvenation for all including seniors within a short walk or bus ride of almost everything in Richmond.

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