



Schedule 2 to the Minutes of the
General Purposes Committee
meeting of Richmond City
Council held on Monday,
December 14, 2020.

Steveston Community Society

Serving the Community of Steveston Since 1946

December 14, 2020

General Purposes Committee of Council
City of Richmond

Dear Mayor and Council:

Re: City of Richmond Staff Report
Steveston Community Centre and Branch Library Replacement – Site Selection

My name is Alan Sakai and I am the current President of the Steveston Community Society (SCS) which works in collaboration with the City to oversee and support Society staff and the delivery of programs and services at the Steveston Community Centre and in the community. I am also current chair of the SCS New Building Committee which consists of SCS Board members and members of the Society. It has been a challenging year for the community and we appreciate that the Mayor and Council have ensured that important projects such as the Steveston Community Centre Building continue to be a priority.

Thank you for allowing me to make a presentation in support of the current report – Steveston Community Centre and Branch Library Replacement – Site Selection. We have worked closely with City staff and Richmond Library representatives and through the selection consulting firm have extended opportunities for the greater community to provide feedback and input into the decision making of program spaces and offerings at the new Centre. Having completed an extensive community consultation we are confident that we have selected programming that will meet the needs of the community. Following program space selection we engaged in an extensive discussion with City Staff and Library representatives regarding the siting of the building. We are pleased that we have now reached this phase of the project.

This report for the site of the new building takes into consideration the criteria that we as a committee thought was important. The SCS Committee agrees that Option 3 would be the best location for the building.

Firstly, cost containment was very important to us and I'm sure for many in the community. To provide the programs that were approved requires a sizeable budget. Option 3 allows for the lowest cost and the fewest risks that costs would rise.

Secondly, Option 3 would allow many of the current programs and services to continue as the current building will be usable in large part during the construction phase. I realize there may be unforeseen issues that arise that may affect some programs however this option seems to be the best in terms of allowing most programs to continue. I would also note that we support the recommendation of a 3 storey building with a 30,000 – 40,000 sq. ft. footprint. This option provides the necessary program synergies while minimizing the impact on the green space.

Thirdly, Option 3 would take the least amount of time to completion – at least 2 years less than the other options and perhaps up to 5 years less. Three to seven years would be a long time to offer restricted programming and alternate settings for the much needed programs and services. This would not be in the best interests of the community. It is possible that an entire generation of youngsters would miss out on use of many aspects of the community centre in Option 1 or 2. In fact, the whole community will be affected by the site selection and the time to completion.

Fourthly, Option 3 would allow for facilities such as the Net Shed – Multi-purpose building to be used. During public consultation many in the community did not want the swimming pool or the Martial Arts Centre to be affected by the construction of the new building. Option 3 would allow for continued use of these facilities. Also, as Option 3 is furthest from the Village the disruption to the day to day business activities in the Village would be mitigated.

Finally, we also support the hiring of a Senior Management position to oversee the planning and construction of the building. In this phase it would be important that there be a designated a “point” person to oversee the detailed planning and construction of the building.

The Steveston Community Society New Building Committee looks forward to having input into the concept design phase such as preferred parking options as well as the precise location and design of the building within the site selected as we would like the Steveston Community Centre and Branch Library Building to be one of the highlights of Steveston and of Richmond as a whole.



Alan Sakai
President, Steveston Community Society
On behalf of the SCS New Building Committee

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