

Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Committee Meeting

Introduction

For the past year the board of directors of the RTC has been corresponding with city staff and councillors about our place in Minoru Park, our desire to upgrade our facilities, and our wish to renew our lease. We would like to thank Serena Lusk and Gregg Wheeler for meeting with us and responding to our questions. We are in the process of renewing our lease and have been given assurance that the city has no plans to move us in the short or medium term.

At this point in time this is what we would like to do and why:

History

Richmond Tennis Club was formed some 60 years ago and continues to be one of, if not, the most affordable places to play tennis in the Lower Mainland.

The City of Richmond invested in the club by building the tennis courts and fencing.

Since then RTC has maintained and enhanced the tennis facilities by replacing the old clubhouse and investing in 2 bubbles over the years; the second replacing the old single skinned bubble some 25 years ago and in maintaining the courts by repaving and painting at regular intervals.

Today

As we look at RTC today, unfortunately, our appearance is not in keeping with the new up to date facilities in Minoru Park. Our rusting fencing does not match the new higher, powder coated fencing on adjacent facilities. Our clubhouse which is a modular structure (a requirement from the city at the time of construction in 2002) not only looks out of place beside our modern neighbours, the Active Living Centre and the new firehall, but needs to have an overhaul including adding kitchen facilities and meeting rooms.

As a result of the construction there has been damage; the bubble is grimy from the site loading as well as general construction, there is considerable cracking on the court surfaces, including net posts.

It is our belief that prospective members may have hesitated to join because of our appearance and the uncertainty around our future.

RTC was told by the city several years ago that we must be part of an upgrade to the lighting in Minoru Park and invest \$120, 000 in LED lighting. As a result our Capital Reserve Fund is now at an inadequate \$142, 000 which is far short of what is necessary for the replacement of our 25+ year bubble. We have made efforts to increase this amount but members have been hesitant to vote for this because of perceived uncertainty about the club's future. We have applied for additional funding from Gaming grants.

Future

We are looking to the City of Richmond to reinvest in the Richmond Tennis Club. If not, there is a good possibility within no more than 5 years the Richmond Tennis Club will be a summer club only. With the closure of Sportstown, formerly Western Indoor Tennis Club and the Town and Country Tennis Club on the other side of the tunnel there are few options for affordable tennis in Richmond.

Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Committee Meeting April 24th 4 pm

We believe there are 2 ways to go.

One, RTC needs to replace the bubble with a larger one, at the least a 4 court bubble, and radically upgrade our clubhouse, and provide sufficient parking for members and the community or,

Two, In keeping with the redesign of Minoru Park which provides excellent facilities for a wide range of sporting and fitness facilities, RTC could become the Richmond Tennis Centre, by reconfiguring of courts including the public courts, a 6 court structure or bubble could be put in place and provide facilities and programs, including pickle ball, which would be for all members of the community. A new clubhouse could provide not only change rooms, showers, etc. but meeting rooms and a catering capable kitchen.

Thanks for the opportunity to speak with you today.

RTC Delegation