

Notes Regarding a 2016 Richmond BC Summer Games Bid

Schedule 2 to the Minutes of the
Parks, Recreation and Cultural
Services Committee meeting held on
Tuesday, July 24, 2012.

City of Richmond staff do not currently recommend the 2016 BC Summer Games bid. The 2009 BC Seniors Games bid was not initially supported by Richmond staff either.

School District 38 and the City of Richmond Council supported our successful bid. Despite our games being held at the bottom of the 2009 recession, and though our sponsorships were sought after the locally held 2010 Olympics and the 2009 FireFighters Games had a years head start fundraising, we were still able to collect sufficient sponsorships for our 2009 BC Seniors Games to be financially successful.

The 2009 Richmond BC Seniors Games had over 3800 competitors, the most ever, in 29 sports, the most ever offered, and showcased Richmond and the new Olympic Oval and offered an opportunity to work out its bugs and train volunteers a year before the Olympics. The BC Summer Games have 1000 less athletes in ¼ less sports.

Many of the Richmond staff concerns provided about competing bid opportunities are for events in periods well away from this bid, and these Games can be held across Richmond without requiring use of the Olympic Oval. The 2016 BC Summer Games will not conflict with potential Tall Ships bids for 2014 or 2017.

Additionally, the City review assumes transportation cost of moving participants, coaches, and officials, when typically they can be can be stationed at schools at and near the sports venues chosen, and meals moved to them much more easily. This will significantly lower transportation costs from those quoted by staff.

Our 2009 Games bid and Games used only Richmond hotels. The BC Summer Games occurs at a period of higher hotel occupancy but athletes are housed in schools. The local hotels and restaurants receive their benefit from athletes parents visits. Since the 2009 Games, the River Rock and the Westin Wall Centre have opened almost 400 additional rooms, and should we fill all the local hotels we could expand to nearby hotels in south Vancouver and Delta. We also offered local Bed & Breakfasts in 2009, and created a 100 unit RV Park for the 2009 Games which we could provide again.

The 2009 BC Seniors Games bid and games developed a strong Games bid package of information for future Games which now only requires minor updating of new resources for this 2016 Summer Games bid. With Richmond Staff input, Sports Council can easily complete an excellent 2016 BC Summer Games bid within the next month in time for Richmond approval and submission.

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