



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee
From: Dave Semple
 Director of Parks and Public Works Operations
Re: **Smoke Free Outdoor Sport Facilities and Playgrounds**

Date: March 17, 2009
File: 11-7200-01/2009-Vol 01

Staff Recommendation

1. Public Health Protection Bylaw No. 6989, Amendment Bylaw No. 8481 be introduced and given first, second and third reading.
2. All affiliated community organizations be informed that a condition of use of the City's outdoor sport facilities will include their cooperation in promoting and monitoring the Smoke Free program.
3. Funding for signage (\$25,000) for the Smoke Free program be derived from Parks General Development projects.
4. Richmond School District No. 38 be informed by letter of the foregoing recommendations.

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

Att. 2

FOR ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT USE ONLY					
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER			
Olympic Business Office	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>				
Community Bylaws	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>				
Community Recreation	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>				
Law	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>				
Budgets	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"/>		
		ACTING			

Staff Report

Origin

Further to a letter dated October 21, 2008 from the Richmond Sports Council (Attachment 2), the following resolution was carried at the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee meeting of October 28, 2008:

“That staff report back, including a bylaw amendment if necessary, on the implications of prohibiting smoking at all indoor and outdoor sports facilities.”

This report is in response to the above referral.

The October 21, 2008 letter to Council from the Richmond Sports Council proposed a prohibition on smoking in all indoor and outdoor sports facilities in Richmond.

Indoor sport facilities are addressed in the amendments to the Public Health Protection Bylaw No. 6989, Amendment Bylaw No. 8360 that came into effect on November 30, 2008, which read, in part:

6.1.1 “A person must not smoke in a building; other than:

- a dwelling unit;
- a hotel or motel room or suite designated for smoking by an operator, or
- enclosed premises;
 - that are not open to the public; and
 - where the only occupants of the building are the owner or owners of the business carried on in the building;

Currently the only City regulations that prohibit smoking at Richmond’s outdoor sports facilities are amendments to Bylaw No. 6989 which came into effect on July 23, 2007 under Amendment Bylaw No. 8254 to prohibit smoking on and around artificial turf fields, which reads:

6.3.1 “No person shall light a cigarette, cigar, pipe or other smoking equipment, smoke or use tobacco in any manner, on or within twenty-five (25) metres of an area of public land described in Schedule B, which is attached and forms part of this bylaw.”

Currently there are no City regulations restricting smoking at Richmond’s outdoor sports facilities such as natural turf fields, tennis courts, running tracks, outdoor pools or playgrounds.

School District No. 38 has a policy that prohibits smoking on School Board owned and leased property and in School Board vehicles, therefore they already meet the proposed amendments to the provincial Tobacco Control Act. School District No. 38 Policy 402.11 reads:

“It is the Board's duty to take reasonable measures to ensure the safety and health of employees and students while they are on Board-owned and leased property and in Board vehicles, and to safeguard the Board's property from fire hazards. For these

reasons, the Board prohibits anyone from smoking on Board-owned and leased property and in Board vehicles”.

Analysis

Complaints have been received from coaches, parents and spectators concerned about young athletes and other park visitors being exposed to second hand smoke in outdoor settings such as playing fields and playgrounds.

An Ipsos Reid survey of Vancouver residents conducted for the Canadian Cancer Society in February 2008 indicated that 76% of British Columbians would support a ban on smoking at sports fields, and 75% would support a ban on smoking at parks and playgrounds.

Richmond Sport Council members voted unanimously to support a ban on smoking in all indoor and outdoor sports facilities in Richmond.

Staff have researched various methods of dealing with smoking concerns at City owned outdoor sports facilities and playgrounds in Richmond and recommend amending the current Public Health Protection Bylaw No. 6989 to include a regulation prohibiting smoking on or within twenty-five (25) metres of all outdoor sport facilities and playgrounds within the City's parks.

Two options for seeking the public's compliance with this proposed amendment include:

1. Enforcement (Not Recommended)

The regulations under the City's Public Health Protection Bylaw No. 6989 are enforced under a contract with Vancouver Coastal Health through the offices of Richmond Health Services. As the majority of activity on the City's outdoor sports facilities occurs on evenings and weekends when enforcement personnel are not on duty, additional bylaw enforcement staff would be required to monitor and enforce the new smoking restrictions at Richmond Parks. The cost to provide year round enforcement at Richmond's Parks on weeknights and weekends is estimated at \$100,000 per year. Due to the high cost, this option is not recommended.

2. Public Education (Recommended)

This recommended option is promotional and awareness based. Enforcement will have to be primarily self-policing by community members or sports organisations. If on-site enforcement is required to deal with extreme cases, there is currently authority in the Municipal Ticket Information Bylaw No. 7321 for tickets to be issued by Bylaw Enforcement Officers, Medical Health Officers and Richmond RCMP officers to persons smoking where prohibited. However, a funding source will need to be identified to provide any enforcement services beyond what currently exists.

The City would take action now to discourage tobacco users from smoking in specific public areas on or within a twenty-five (25) metre radius of all City owned outdoor sport facilities and playgrounds within the City's parks.

The public will be notified about this smoking ban through a number of methods including:

- press releases
- information on the City's web site
- letters to community organizations
- signage as part of the City's Smoke Free Outdoor Sport Facilities and Playgrounds campaign.

Signs that notify people of the smoking ban will be installed at the entrances to the City's outdoor sports facilities and playgrounds. Approximately 300 aluminium signs (30cm x 45cm) with "Smoking prohibited on or within twenty-five (25) metres of outdoor sports facilities and playgrounds" messages are needed to communicate this new smoking ban at outdoor City sports facilities and parks at an estimated cost of \$25,000.

As a condition of use, all community groups who are allotted outdoor sports facilities will be expected to act in accordance with the bylaw, and participate in promoting this new public health awareness campaign. User agreements will have a statement outlining the smoke free regulations, and solicit the expectation that they notify their participants and spectators of the program.

Some benefits of prohibiting smoking at all outdoor sport facilities and playgrounds within the City's parks are:

- Reduce health risks associated with second hand smoke to our park users.
- Protect our athletes from exposure to second hand smoke and negative lifestyle role models.
- Protect spectators and park visitors from involuntary exposure to second hand smoke as well as provide a smoke free environment to enjoy events or watch children at play.
- Clearly demonstrate Council's willingness to protect community residents and visitors from the harmful effects of second hand smoke.

Staff is also recommending that the School District No. 38 be informed of this action.

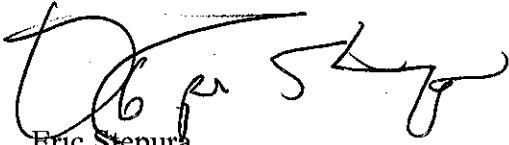
Following third reading of attached amendment Bylaw, staff will deposit the Bylaw with the Minister of Community Development and consult with the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority. These actions are required by the provincial Public Health Bylaws Regulation to be completed before adoption of the Bylaw.

Financial Impact

The cost to make and install these signs is estimated at \$25,000. Funding for these signs will be accommodated through the Parks General Development fund.

Conclusion

Richmond City Council has been a leader on public policy towards reducing the harmful effects of tobacco use in Richmond. Staff recommends the adoption of the proposed amendments to the City's Public Health Protection Bylaw No. 6989 in an effort to encourage healthy lifestyle choices and to further our goal to be the best city in North America to raise children and youth.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric Stepura', written in a cursive style.

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



City of Richmond

Bylaw 8481

**Public Health Protection Bylaw No. 6989,
Amendment Bylaw No. 8481**

The Council of the City of Richmond enacts as follows:

1. The Public Health Protection Bylaw No. 6989, as amended, is further amended at Subdivision Six by deleting Part 6.3 and substituting the following:

PART 6.3: OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITY REGULATIONS

6.3.1 No person shall light a cigarette, cigar, pipe or other smoking equipment, **smoke** or use tobacco in any other manner, on or within twenty-five (25) metres of any **outdoor sport facility** or **playground**.

2. The Public Health Protection Bylaw No. 6989, as amended, is further amended at Subdivision Eight by adding the following definitions, in alphabetical sequence:

OUTDOOR SPORT FACILITY means City owned natural and synthetic turf sports fields, ball diamonds, stadiums, track and field facilities, lawn bowling greens, golf courses, horseshoe pitching pits, lacrosse boxes, tennis courts and outdoor swimming pools.

PLAYGROUND means City owned playground equipment, including the surrounding playground safety surfacing.

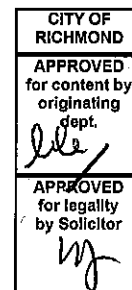
3. The Public Health Protection Bylaw No. 6989, as amended, is further amended by repealing Schedule B.
4. This Bylaw is cited as “ **Public Health Protection Bylaw No. 6989, Amendment Bylaw No. 8481**”.

FIRST READING

SECOND READING

THIRD READING

ADOPTED



MAYOR

CORPORATE OFFICER



Richmond Sports Council

Submission at
Parks, Rec & Culture -
Oct 28, 2008

c/o 7620 No. 2 Rd, Richmond V7C 3L9 604-272-4309

October 21st, 2008

His Worship Mayor Malcolm Brodie, Mayor of the City of Richmond, and Council
Richmond City Hall,
6911 #3 Road
Richmond BC V6Y 2C1

Dear Mayor Brodie and Council,

At the October 21st 2008 meeting of the Richmond Sports Council, the membership passed the following resolution:

"Richmond Sports Council recommends that City Council adopt a 'Tobacco Free' policy for all indoor and outdoor sports facilities."

This follows discussion between Vancouver Coastal Health and Sports Council. It is seen as an important educational initiative to help protect the health of all, and especially children.

Such a proposal often raises the question of adherence and enforcement. We expect that signage and publicity would lead to respect for such a city policy and be effectively self-policing. A number of sports associations have already adopted tobacco free policies at the facilities they use and these are largely respected. While it is not practical for our coaches or executives to act as enforcement officers, we fully expect there would be widespread respect for and adherence to such a policy.

Yours sincerely,

Roger Barnes
Vice-Chair
Richmond Sports Council

c.c. Richmond City Councillors, Dave Semple, Eric Stepura, Jim Lamond