



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: General Purposes Committee **Date:** September 1, 2016
From: Serena Lusk **File:** 11-7375-01/2016-Vol
Senior Manager, Recreation and Sport Services 01
Re: Review of Local Sport Group Residency Requirements

Staff Recommendation

That Council Policy 8701, Parks and Leisure Services – Community Involvement, be amended as identified in Attachment 3 of the staff report titled, “Review of Local Sport Group Residency Requirement,” dated September 1, 2016, from the Senior Manager, Recreation and Sports Services.

Serena

Serena Lusk
Senior Manager, Recreation and Sport Services
(604-233-3344)

Att. 3

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER <i>[Signature]</i>	
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS: DW
APPROVED BY CAO <i>[Signature]</i>	

Staff Report

Origin

At the Closed Council meeting held on Monday, July 27, 2015, staff received the following referral:

That staff analyse local sport group residency requirements and report back.

The purpose of this report is to respond to the referral with a review and analysis of current practices related to local sport group residency requirements.

This report supports Council's 2014-2018 Term Goal #2 A Vibrant, Active and Connected City:

Continue the development and implementation of an excellent and accessible system of programs, services, and public spaces that reflect Richmond's demographics, rich heritage, diverse needs, and unique opportunities, and that facilitate active, caring, and connected communities.

2.2. Effective social service networks.

2.3. Outstanding places, programs and services that support active living, wellness and a sense of belonging.

Analysis

Background

Policy 8701, Parks and Leisure Services – Community Involvement, states that assistance may be given to “Any public Richmond organization with membership of at least 60 per cent Richmond residents, or as approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission in developing and implementing its leisure services programs” (Attachment 1).

Policy 8701 was passed by Council in March of 1978. This policy has successfully provided Council, staff and the community with direction on supporting and encouraging local groups to provide recreational opportunities to the community for over 35 years.

The objective of the 60 per cent residency requirement is to ensure that any sport organization or group that is provided with additional assistance to operate within Richmond is best representing the interests of Richmond residents.

The practice has been for staff to provide assistance to community organizations that meet the 60 per cent residency requirement in the form of a community rate and access to the use of various City-owned recreational amenities including arenas, aquatic facilities and sports fields. This access and rate has successfully allowed Richmond based groups to provide sport and recreational opportunities to Richmond residents in an affordable manner for almost four decades.

Best Practices

A survey of neighbouring municipalities has shown that, while all do provide a subsidized community rate based on residency requirements, the requirement varies across municipalities (illustrated in Table 1 below).

Table 1: Comparison of residency requirements for local sport groups

Municipality	% Residency Requirement for Local Sport Groups
Burnaby	60%
Coquitlam	60%
Delta	80%
Maple Ridge	50%
New Westminster	60%
North Vancouver	75%
Richmond	60%
Surrey	60%
Vancouver	95%

Staff from neighbouring municipalities reported that their residency requirement is enforced on a complaint basis only as it is both time consuming and cost prohibitive for both the sport organization and municipal staff to administer. Enforcement follows the same practice in Richmond.

Richmond Sports Council has previously been consulted on the 60 per cent residency requirement and voted unanimously in favour of maintaining this requirement for local sport organizations operating in Richmond.

A number of Provincial Sport Organizations including BC Soccer, BC Baseball, Hockey BC and Lacrosse BC, do have residency requirements whereby participants must play with a local sport organization within the municipality that they reside. The residency requirement for these Provincial Sport Organizations results in approximately 99 per cent of participants playing within the municipality that they reside.

While there are Provincial Sport Organizations who do not have a residency requirement and allow individuals to join sport organizations operating out of neighbouring municipalities, participants tend to play sports within their home municipality. This practice can be attributed to a number of factors, including: community ties such as friendships, schoolmates and carpooling; long standing affiliations with specific organizations; and the reality that distances related to driving to weekly practices and games are time prohibitive for most.

Staff also reviewed participation levels for various recreation and sports programs offered at City of Richmond facilities including pools, arenas and community centres. Results of this review show that of the 61,151 registered program participants in 2015, approximately 95 per cent had a Richmond address.

The analysis of residency requirements of many Provincial Sport Organizations, recreation registration statistics that demonstrate that City programming is serving the needs of predominantly Richmond residents, anecdotal evidence that suggest that families are more likely to participate in their own community, combined with Richmond Sports Council's previous unanimous support, gives staff confidence that the 60 per cent residency requirement for providing operating assistance is appropriate.

Other Considerations

Staff are aware that sport participation within the lower mainland is evolving, and that, at times, individuals competing at the higher level of sport do cross municipal boundaries to be part of regional teams and/or follow specific coaches. Despite this trend, the number of participants who join high performance teams or clubs outside of their municipality of residence tends to be low compared to the number of individuals taking part in community based sports teams and clubs that engage participants as young as preschool years of age.

Since the policy was implemented in 1978, Richmond residents have had the opportunity to access a wide range of community sports. However, there are some sports that tend to be regional in nature for different reasons. Richmond's residency requirement may limit these types of sports from accessing facilities in Richmond. As such, there may be times when Council may be asked to consider exceptions to the policy, should requests of this nature arise.

Updating of Policy 8701

In response to reviewing Policy 8701, minor housekeeping edits were made to the policy so that the Council policy better reflects the current environment and practices. Attachment 2 is a comparison of the current policy including recommended updated language. Attachment 3 is the recommended version of the updated policy.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

The current 60 per cent residency rate should be maintained as it provides Richmond based organizations an affordable sport amenity rate that ensures Richmond residents have the opportunity to participate in a wide range of sports and be active within their community. The residency rate is also in alignment with most neighbouring municipalities and has been previously supported by Richmond Sports Council. Staff will continue to monitor the residency requirement and will pursue any issues that are brought forward regarding teams or groups not meeting the residency requirement.

September 1, 2016

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Gregg Wheeler
Manager, Sport and Community Events
(604-244-1274)

- Att. 1: Policy 8701 - Parks and Leisure Services – Community Involvement
- 2: Policy 8701 - Community Services – Community Involvement (Comparison of Current to Recommended Amendments)
 - 3: Policy 8701 - Community Services – Community Involvement (Recommended Amendments)



City of Richmond

Policy Manual

Page 1 of 1	Adopted by Council: Mar. 28/78	POLICY 8701
File Ref: 7000-00	PARKS AND LEISURE SERVICES – COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT	

POLICY 8701:

It is Council policy that:

Council encourages and supports community initiative, involvement, and decision making in programs of planning, acquisition, development, operation, and maintenance of parks and leisure services in Richmond.

It is the intent of Council to:

1. Encourage other groups, organizations and individuals to provide leisure programs, facilities and services in line with community need.
2. Encourage and incorporate the involvement of volunteers in the delivery of leisure services.
3. Support the formation, nurturing, and growth of parks and leisure services groups in the development and maintenance of the parks and leisure services delivery system.

Assistance may be given to:

1. Community and neighbourhood associations and societies which include Leisure Services programs as a major part of their objectives.
2. Any public Richmond organization with membership of at least 60% Richmond residents, or as approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission in developing and implementing its leisure services programs.

The organizations, upon receiving assistance, will provide the Parks & Leisure Services Department with up-to-date records of the organization and its activities.

Encouragement and assistance may be given to the establishment of the community and neighbourhood associations and societies which include leisure services programs as a major part of their objectives. Wherever possible, neighbourhood organizations are encouraged to become affiliated with, or an integral part of, the larger community association serving the geographical area in which the neighbourhood is located. New community associations would be formed when population densities, through infilling of residential areas, create a need for a logical sub-municipal identity and the development of major community recreational facilities in a new location.

Council is committed to providing facilitating and coordinating services to community groups and individuals involved in the provision of public leisure services. The Parks & Leisure Services Department accepts a leadership role in the coordination of leisure service programming and will endeavour to avoid undesirable duplication of services, or unreasonable variances in fees and charges to participants.



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Adopted by Council: Mar. 28/78

POLICY 8701

File Ref: 7000-00

COMMUNITY SERVICES PARKS AND LEISURE SERVICES – COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (Comparison of Current to Recommended Amendments)

POLICY 8701:

It is Council policy that:

Council encourages and supports community initiative, involvement, and decision making in programs of related to planning, acquisition, development, operation, and maintenance of parks, recreation and cultural ~~and leisure~~ services in Richmond.

It is the intent of Council to:

1. Encourage other groups, organizations and individuals to provide leisure-parks, recreation and cultural programs, facilities and services in line-accordance with community need.
2. Encourage and incorporate the involvement of volunteers in the delivery of leisure community services.
3. Support the formation, nurturing, and growth of parks, recreation and cultural ~~and leisure~~ services groups in the development and maintenance of the ~~parks and leisure~~ community services delivery system in Richmond.

Assistance may be given to:

1. Community and neighbourhood associations and societies which include Leisure Community Services programs as a major part of their objectives.
2. Any public Richmond organization with membership of at least 60% Richmond residents, or as approved by ~~the Parks and Recreation Commission Council~~ in developing and implementing its leisure-parks, recreation and cultural services programs.

The organizations, upon receiving assistance, will provide the Parks & Leisure Community Services Department-Division with up-to-date records of the organization and its activities upon request.

Encouragement and assistance may be given to the establishment of the community and neighbourhood associations and societies which include leisure-parks, recreation and cultural services programs as a major part of their objectives. Wherever possible, neighbourhood organizations are encouraged to become affiliated with, or an integral part of, the larger community association serving the geographical area in which the neighbourhood is located. New community associations ~~would~~ may be formed when population densities, through infilling of residential areas, create a need for a logical sub-municipal identity and the development of major community recreational facilities in a new location.

Council is committed to providing, facilitating and coordinating parks, recreation and cultural services to community groups and individuals involved in the provision of public-leisure-parks, recreation and cultural services. ~~The Parks & Leisure Services Department- The Community Services Division~~ GP-13 accepts a leadership role in the coordination of leisure-service-parks,



| recreation and cultural programming and will endeavour to avoid undesirable duplication of services, or unreasonable variances in fees and charges to participants.

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Adopted by Council: Mar. 28/78

POLICY 8701

File Ref: 7000-00

COMMUNITY SERVICES – COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (Recommended Amendments)

POLICY 8701:

It is Council policy that:

Council encourages and supports community initiative, involvement, and decision making in programs related to planning, acquisition, development, operation, and maintenance of parks, recreation and cultural services in Richmond.

It is the intent of Council to:

1. Encourage other groups, organizations and individuals to provide parks, recreation and cultural programs, facilities and services in accordance with community need.
2. Encourage and incorporate the involvement of volunteers in the delivery of community services.
3. Support the formation, nurturing, and growth of parks, recreation and cultural services groups in the development and maintenance of the community services delivery in Richmond.

Assistance may be given to:

1. Community and neighbourhood associations and societies which include Community Services programs as a major part of their objectives.
2. Any public Richmond organization with membership of at least 60% Richmond residents, or as approved by Council in developing and implementing parks, recreation and cultural services programs.

The organizations, upon receiving assistance, will provide the Community Services Division with up-to-date records of the organization and its activities upon request.

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Council is committed to providing, facilitating and coordinating parks, recreation and cultural services to community groups and individuals involved in the provision of parks, recreation and cultural services. The Community Services Division accepts a leadership role in the coordination of parks, recreation and cultural programming and will endeavour to avoid undesirable duplication of services, or unreasonable variances in fees and charges to participants.

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