



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Planning Committee **Date:** May 21, 2015
From: Cathryn Volkering Carlile **File:** 07-3070-01/2015-Vol
General Manager, Community Services 01
Re: Naming of a Child Care Facility - 10640 No. 5 Road

Staff Recommendation

That the City's child care facility being renovated at 10640 No. 5 Road be named the Gardens Children's Centre.

Cathryn Volkering Carlile
General Manager, Community Services
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REPORT CONCURRENCE	
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER 	
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS:
APPROVED BY CAO 	

Staff Report

Origin

On July 25, 2011, a rezoning was adopted (RZ-08-450659) by Council permitting Townline Gardens Inc. to construct a medium-density, mixed-use residential/commercial development. The City accepted a voluntary community amenity contribution of a 12.2 acre park and a 37 space child care facility. The developer was to provide a minimum of 4,000 square feet of finished space for the child care amenity.

In fulfillment of the above rezoning considerations, land which had been in the Agricultural Land Reserve was subdivided and transferred to the City. On March 14, 2011, a subsequent rezoning approval was granted for 10640 No. 5 Road (RZ 10-546755) which permitted an Assembly (ASY) zoning district. The zoning allowed for a portion of the site to be used for the construction of a sales centre and relocation of the Coevorden Castle to City-owned land.

On April 12, 2012, Council authorized the relocation of the child care amenity from the Gardens development lands to the City-owned site at 10640 No. 5 Road. It was decided that the sales centre and the Coevorden Castle would be converted and repurposed for a child care facility by Townline, at its sole expense.

On March 11, 2013, Council selected the Society of Richmond Children's Centres to be the operator for the future child care facility.

Analysis

Townline will be submitting a building permit application to the City in June 2015. Once the building permit is issued, renovation of the sales centre and Coevorden Castle is anticipated to take up to eight months, with opening occurring in 2016. It is appropriate for the facility to be formally named prior to opening.

With the help of the City archivist, a number of historical records and maps were reviewed to determine if there was a geographical feature that could serve as a name. The site was described in Joseph Trutch's 1859 field survey notes as covered in "prairie grasses and mucky soil". It was part of the Woodward's Slough Complex but the sloughs that flowed near the site were unnamed. There was no evidence of First Nations settlement, e.g., no middens or archeological finds.

Land ownership records showed that it was farmed by various owners and eventually assembled into a 21 acre parcel which was purchased by the Province in the 1973. The site was used to provide one of British Columbia's first community allotment gardens sponsored by the BC Agricultural Ministry. With the involvement of the Richmond Gardening Club, it provided gardening opportunities for over 300 gardeners and volunteers.

In 1979, it was purchased by John Massot who built Bota Gardens, a display garden and nursery. Bill and Lillian Vander Zalm purchased the property in 1984 and created Fantasy Gardens, a Christian-themed amusement park and botanical garden with a commercial nursery.

The Vander Zalms were instrumental in moving the Coevorden Castle from Vancouver to the Richmond site. Originally the Netherlands gave the building to the City of Vancouver as a centenary gift. It was a smaller scale replica of the original Coevorden Castle, the ancestral home of Captain Vancouver from which the City of Vancouver derives its name. It was used in Vancouver during Expo 86 and again in Richmond during the 2010 Winter Olympics to host events promoting Dutch and Canadian relations. For a time it was the private home of Premier Vander Zalm until Fantasy Gardens was sold to offshore investors. By 2007, the gardens had fallen into disrepair. A year later the acreage was purchased by Townline for a mixed-use residential/commercial development.

Based on the review of historical references, along with suggestions solicited from the Society of Richmond Children's Centres and Townline, four options were identified as possible names for the child care facility:

Option 1 (Recommended): ***Gardens Children's Centre***, is a name that evokes previous uses of the site and offers a locational reference to the adjacent residential/commercial development, known as "The Gardens".

Option 2: ***Coevorden Children's Centre***, is a name that recalls the geographic origin of one of the buildings being repurposed for the new child care facility;

Option 3: ***Coevorden Castle Children's Centre***, is a name that fully incorporates the historically significant building name of the existing replica being used to create the new child care facility; and

Option 4: ***Bloom Children's Centre***, is a name that holds the meaning "to flower" or "to flourish" and could apply to both to a garden and children's growth.

Staff considered the following questions to help narrow the selection to one recommendation: 1) Does the name relate to the history of the site; 2) Will the name help families locate the child care facility? 3) Will the name distinguish the facility from others in the Lower Mainland? 4) Will the name resonate with Richmond residents?

Bloom Children's Centre is not based on a direct historical reference but it is derived from the site's former garden use. It does not provide directional guidance that would assist families in finding the child care facility. The name is similar to one used by a child care program located in Mission, called Bloom Childcare and Fine Arts Preschool. The name is unlikely to resonate with Richmond residents as reminiscent of any specific history or experience they may have had with the new facility's location.

The Coevorden Children's Centre and the Coevorden Castle Children's Centre are both choices that speak to the historically significant building being readapted for a child care use. They honour the original name of the building that will form part of the new child care facility. They also recall the buildings origin and importance to the strong relationship that exists between Canada and the Netherlands. Both names are unique and would distinguish the facility from others in the Lower Mainland. Also, Richmond residents who recall the building as an attraction at Expo 86, Fantasy Gardens and the 2010 Winter Olympics would relate to the name.

The Gardens Children's Centre draws upon the historical uses of the site being formerly used for community allotment gardens, nurseries and display gardens. It also relates to the neighbouring development's name, "The Gardens", and will be helpful with way-finding for future users of the child care facility. There is no other facility in the Lower Mainland that uses this name. It is a name should be recognizable to Richmond residents who have known the site as a garden since the 1970s. The Gardens Children's Centre is staff's recommended name for the subject facility and is in keeping with the City's Naming Public Buildings – Parks and Places Policy 2016.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact as a result of selecting a name for this City child care facility.

Conclusion

Staff are recommending that the child care facility being renovated at 10640 No. 5 Road be named the Gardens Children's Centre.



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