



Council/School Board Liaison Committee

Date: Tuesday, May 11th, 2004

Place: Anderson Room
Richmond City Hall

Present: Councillor Evelina Halsey-Brandt, Chair
Councillor Derek Dang
School Trustee Debbie Tablotney
School Trustee Linda McPhail (9:43 a.m.)
School Trustee Sandra Bourque (9:33 a.m.)

Also Present: B. Beairsto, Superintendent of Schools, School District No. 38
(Richmond)
K. L. Morris, Secretary-Treasurer, School District No. 38 (Richmond)
G. McLean, Manager, Facilities
Director, Parks Operations, Dave Semple
K. Sparrow, Director, Recreation & Cultural Services
F. J. Ashton, Executive Assistant, City Clerk's Office

Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

1. It was moved and seconded
That the agenda for the meeting of Tuesday, May 11th, 2004, be adopted with an amendment to add as Item No. 5.2, "2010 Community Opportunity Task Force", and as Item No. 5.3, "McLennan South Park Master Plan".
CARRIED

MINUTES

2. It was moved and seconded
That the minutes of the meetings of the Council/School Board Liaison Committee held on Tuesday, March 9th, 2004 be adopted as circulated.
CARRIED

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(Trustee Sandra Bourque entered the meeting – 9:33 a.m.)

3. BUSINESS ARISING

Nothing to report.

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Artificial Turf Field at Richmond Secondary School

(School District Memo: May 5/04) (File No.: 2345-20-01)

Secretary-Treasurer Ken Morris reported that the demolition of the former Richmond High School building was now underway and should be completed within two months. He stated that because of the small size of the property, discussions had been entered into between School District and City staff about the feasibility of installing an artificial turf field (ATF) on the site to provide better usage.

Mr. Morris advised that the School District would be able to provide \$250,000 from capital project funding. He also referred to a resolution which was to be submitted to the Board of School Trustees at its May 17th, 2004 meeting, which recommended the approval of up to an additional \$500,000 to partially fund the installation of an ATF at Richmond High School. Mr. Morris also noted that City staff had expressed an interest in the City contributing to the construction of such a field. He stated that a decision was now needed on whether the City would contribute funding for the project.

The Director, Parks Operations, Dave Semple, advised that prior to any decision being made by the City, a determination was required of the scope of the work, the actual cost of installation, maintenance costs and agreements, etc. It was also noted that Council approval would be required to proceed with the project.

(School Trustee Linda McPhail entered the meeting – 9:43 a.m.)

It was noted that weather conditions would be vital to the installation of the field, and that the School District hoped to have an answer from the City by the end of June, which would provide sufficient time to plan for either the installation of a traditional sand cell field or an ATF. City staff advised that a report could be submitted to Council through the Parks & Recreation & Cultural Services Committee in time to meet the School District requirements.

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Discussion continued briefly, with it being noted that the School District did not support the installation or introduction of artificial turf fields at any other school facility, and that it was only because of the unique size of the Richmond High School property that staff were recommending that capital reserve funds which would normally be used to purchase school equipment, be allocated for the ATF project.

In concluding the discussion, Mr. Semple indicated that the report to the Parks & Recreation & Cultural Services Committee would reference today's discussion and the support given for the project.

4.2 Status Report on the Replacement of Steveston Secondary School (School District Memo: May 5/04) (File No.: 0155-02)

The Manager, Facilities, Garry McLean, used a display board to explain the design for the replacement of Steveston Secondary School. He advised during his review that the project had been approved by the Board of School Trustees and would be submitted to the Ministry of Education for approval. He further advised that (i) concerns had been expressed by two residents who lived adjacent to the school site, and (ii) only one soccer field would be lost because of the new building configuration.

Discussion ensued, during which, with reference to the fish hatchery, advice was given that the hatchery was to remain with Steveston Secondary School.

Reference was made to the timing of the project, and advice was given that the request for funding and approval of construction would be submitted to the Ministry in February or March of 2005. Further advice was given that this \$9 Million project would most likely be the last capital construction project for the School District for a number of years to come. Concern was also expressed that construction of the school would coincide with construction of venues for the 2010 Olympic Winter Games, which could have an impact on the availability of tradesmen and construction costs.

Further advice was given that City staff would be meeting with School District staff about different options which might be available for the development of a sports field on the school site, and whether consideration should be given to the installation of an artificial turf field. It was noted during the ensuing discussion that the artificial field at Richmond High School would add to the City's inventory and could accommodate some of the uses at the London/Steveston School site.

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Reference was made to resident concerns about increased traffic as a result of the new school, and advice was given that another public meeting would be scheduled for the Fall of this year, as well as a separate meeting with the two concerned property owners. The request was made that a representative of the City's Transportation Department be present at the meetings.

Questions were raised about whether the City had any concerns about London School continuing to use the baseball diamond, and advice was given that use of the diamond by the school had never been an issue. Further advice was given that the Ministry of Education had requested, as part of the feasibility study, that playing fields be included, and a copy of the joint school/park operating agreement between the City and the School District had been provided to the Ministry.

(Mr. Semple left the meeting – 9:54 a.m.)

5. INFORMATION ITEMS

5.1 School Planning and Construction Schedule

(Memo: May 5/04) (File No.: 0155-02)

Garry McLean reviewed the schedule with the Committee, during which he provided information on the status of the acquisition of properties with respect to MacNeill Secondary School to provide additional parking.

Reference was made to the two elementary schools being taken out of inventory – Rideau and Kilgour, and information was provided that these schools would be deleted from the City's summer block booking system.

Reference was made to the Kilgour school facility, and information was provided on the potential use of the building by the Francophone Authority, which was proposing to lease the site. A brief discussion took place on the need to be prepared for complaints about increased traffic from area residents, during which advice was given that School District staff would be meeting with key members of the neighbourhood.

5.2 2010 Community Opportunity Task Force

The Director, Recreation & Cultural Services, Kate Sparrow, briefly spoke about the formation of the '2010 Community Opportunity Task Force', during which she responded to questions regarding:

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- the use of community volunteers
- the objective of the Task Force
- the allocation of resources
- the appropriateness of having a representative of the School District appointed to the Committee (advice was given that a letter should be written to the General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services requesting that a member of the School District be included in the membership of the Task Force).

5.3 McLennan South Master Park Plan

The Manager, Parks – Programs, Planning & Design, Mike Redpath, reported on the status of the development of the master park plan for McLennan South. During the brief discussion which ensued, information was provided that the School District owned seven properties in the area which provided significant income to the District.

6. PENDING ITEMS

None.

7. FUTURE MEETING DATES

The next meeting of the Council/School Board Liaison Committee is scheduled to be held at 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, October 12th, 2004, in the Anderson Room.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded

That the meeting adjourn (10:07 a.m.).

CARRIED

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the meeting of the Council/School Board Liaison Committee held on Tuesday, May 11th, 2004

Councillor Evelina Halsey-Brandt
Chair

Fran J. Ashton
Executive Assistant, City Clerk's Office