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**Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee  
Electronic Meeting**

**Council Chambers, City Hall  
6911 No. 3 Road**

**Wednesday, October 19, 2022**

**Immediately following the Public Works & Transportation Committee**

Pg. #      ITEM

**MINUTES**

**PRCS-3**      *Motion to adopt the **minutes** of the meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee held on September 27, 2022.*



**NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING DATE**

November 29, 2022, (tentative date) at 4:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

**COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION**

- 1. MINORU CENTRE FOR ACTIVE LIVING UPDATE**  
(File Ref. No. 11-7000-01) (REDMS No. 6985049)

**PRCS-8**

**See Page PRCS-8 for full report**

*Designated Speaker: John Woolgar*

**Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee Agenda – Wednesday, October  
19, 2022**

Pg. #      ITEM

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

*That the staff report titled “Minoru Centre for Active Living Update,” dated September 21, 2022, from the General Manager, Community Services, be received for information.*

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**2. GARDEN CITY LANDS PROJECT UPDATE**

(File Ref. No. 06-2345-20-GCIT1) (REDMS No. 6981142)

**PRCS-18**

**See Page PRCS-18 for full report**

*Designated Speaker: Alex Kurnicki*

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

*That the staff report titled “Garden City Lands Project Update,” dated September 23, 2022, from the Director, Park Services be received for information.*

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**3. MANAGER’S REPORT**

**ADJOURNMENT**

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## Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee

Date: Tuesday, September 27, 2022

Place: Council Chambers  
Richmond City Hall

Present: Councillor Harold Steves, Chair  
Councillor Michael Wolfe (by teleconference)  
Councillor Chak Au  
Councillor Bill McNulty  
Councillor Linda McPhail (by teleconference)

Also Present: Councillor Carol Day  
Councillor Alexa Loo

Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

### MINUTES

It was moved and seconded

*That the minutes of the meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee held on July 20, 2022, be adopted as circulated.*

**CARRIED**

### COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION

1. **RICHMOND ANIMAL SHELTER PUBLIC ART CONCEPT PROPOSAL**

(File Ref. No. 11-7000-09-20-284) (REDMS No. 6955681)

It was moved and seconded

*That the Richmond Animal Shelter Public Art Concept Proposal, as presented in the report titled "Richmond Animal Shelter Public Art Concept Proposal" from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services, dated August 29, 2022, be endorsed.*

**CARRIED**

**Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Committee**  
**Tuesday, September 27, 2022**

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2. **COMMUNITY SERVICES – SUMMER PROGRAMS UPDATE 2022**  
(File Ref. No. 11-7000-01) (REDMS No. 6971724)

In response to queries from the Committee, staff advised (i) a very positive response to all program offerings throughout the summer with participation levels increasing to approximately 65% of the 2019 (pre pandemic) levels, on track to return to 100% barring any unforeseen circumstances, and (ii) single day camp visits is an area of programming being considered which may provide an attractive option for some families, e.g. more parents working from home, etc.

It was moved and seconded

*That the staff report titled, “Community Services – Summer Programs Update 2022,” dated September 6, 2022, from the Director, Recreation and Sport Services, be received for information.*

**CARRIED**

3. **INSTRUCTOR/LIFEGUARD RECRUITMENT INITIATIVES**  
(File Ref. No. 11-7000-01) (REDMS No. 6956753)

A brief discussion ensued with respect to the extreme shortage of lifeguards throughout the summer within the entire region, noting the necessity to encourage participation in the lifeguard program and provide support for certification, where possible, in order to fill the lifeguard component needed for swimming programming.

In response to queries from the Committee, staff noted (i) 300 lifeguards is the typical contingent to operate all pools and currently have approximately 200 lifeguards, with another 25 at the onboarding stage, and have the capacity to hire the new 15 positions provided by this initiative, (ii) staff will provide information on the opportunity to the network of social services, (iii) a 25% discount for recertification is offered through the current union Collective Agreement, (iv) the instructor positions will be available in all swimming pools, offering and providing swimming instruction right along side the regular instructor lifeguards, and in some cases these are staff or individuals that are not interested in being a lifeguard, but maybe want to teach children to swim because they are passionate about that, (v) funding for the initiative is accommodated through the existing budget, and (vi) the majority of lifeguard positions are auxiliary or part time.

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It was moved and seconded

- (1) *That a subsidy program for lifeguard training courses be developed on a trial basis as outlined in the staff report titled "Instructor/Lifeguard Recruitment Initiatives," dated September 2, 2022, from the Director, Recreation and Sport Services; and*
- (2) *That \$33,750 be allocated from the Council Contingency account for the lifeguard subsidy program as outlined in the staff report titled "Instructor/Lifeguard Recruitment Initiatives," dated September 2, 2022, from the Director, Recreation and Sport Services.*

**CARRIED**

**COUNCILLOR HAROLD STEVES**

**4. STEVESTON NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE: "FISHERIES MUSEUM OF THE PACIFIC"**

(File Ref. No.)

Councillor Steves provided an overview and background information for the detailed recommendations outlined in his report. It was noted the on table correspondence from Bud Sakamoto is an addendum to Part 2 of the report, providing significant historical information and suggestions for the site; beneficial for various funding opportunities.

In response to questions from the Committee, staff noted (i) advancing the planning work on the Phoenix Gill Net Loft, the Japanese Duplex, and the First Nations Bunkhouse in the months ahead will help to advance some of the ideas contained in the report, (ii) Staff will be looking at issuing an RFP for the Britannia Shipyards master plan, either Q4-2022 or Q1-2023, which will address the plantings as well as all other relevant matters during the master plan process, (iii) staff have been collaborating with Engineering regarding the referral on the Terra Nova Slough, which includes dike works, compensation planting and various funding initiatives, with tentative dike works planning to start in 2025 based on funding, and construction in 2027, and (iv) a comprehensive report on the outstanding referrals will be provided in due course.

It was moved and seconded

- (1) *That Council approve the naming of the Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site and related historic buildings and waterfront as the "Fisheries Museum of the Pacific at the Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site", and applications be made to Federal and Provincial Governments for major funding to complete the site, as recommended in the report Steveston National Historic Site: Fisheries Museum of the Pacific, dated September 27, 2022;*

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- (2) *That Council approve Part 2 of the report in principal, pending summation of public input and further staff input, so funding applications can be made immediately;*
- (3) *That trees, shrubs and plants at Britannia Shipyards that are not native to BC be removed and replaced with species native to the Steveston area. Species native to other parts of Richmond can remain, but the trail to Trites Road should also be planted with local native species; and*
- (4) *That trees, shrubs, and plants native to our local marine habitat should be planted along Terra Nova Slough. Combined with an Estuarium and First Nations environmental interpretation centre at Britannia Shipyards, Terra Nova Slough can provide educational, environmental and habitat compensation benefits as well as habitat for Chum Salmon fry.*

**CARRIED**

**5. MANAGER'S REPORT**

**(i) Watermania**

Staff noted Watermania closed for its annual shut down on September 6<sup>th</sup> and will be reopening on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, with lots of routine regular maintenance performed (e.g. tiling, painting, carpentry, etc.), and also some additional work this year by replacing the splash pool filtration system and a large section of the pool deck. There will be communication with the public about the reopening, including social media, within facilities and on City websites.

**(ii) No. 3 Road Bark Park**

Many members of the community and dog park users were in attendance for the park naming event on September 24<sup>th</sup> to officially rename the No. 3 and Dike Roads dog park to the "No. 3 Rd. Bark Park".

In addition to the recent dike and park upgrades, staff further noted there is an ongoing public engagement exercise about tree planting planned for the park through the "Let's Talk Richmond" survey (September 6<sup>th</sup> - October 2<sup>nd</sup>), which included an on-site drop-in information session where staff were available to answer questions and provide information about the site. Upon the conclusion of the public engagement process, staff will review results to determine next steps, such as organizing a community tree planting event in the fall.

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**(iii) Culture Days**

Culture Days weekend was a great success, with 1500+ in attendance over the weekend enjoying the Richmond Library, Cultural Centre and the Minoru Plaza, with lots of great events, energy and enthusiasm from the community and all the groups that participated. Culture Days continues until October 16<sup>th</sup>, with approximately 50 events and activities happening throughout Richmond, a full listing of which is available on the City's website.

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved and seconded  
*That the meeting adjourn (4:44 p.m.).*

**CARRIED**

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee of the Council of the City of Richmond held on Tuesday, September 27, 2022.

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Councillor Harold Steves  
Chair

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Lorraine Anderson  
Legislative Services Associate



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

**To:** Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services  
Committee

**From:** Elizabeth Ayers  
General Manager, Community Services

**Re:** **Minoru Centre for Active Living Update**

**Date:** September 21, 2022

**File:** 11-7000-01/2022-Vol  
01

### Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled "Minoru Centre for Active Living Update," dated September 21, 2022, from the General Manager, Community Services, be received for information.

*Elizabeth Ayers.*

Elizabeth Ayers  
General Manager, Community Services

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER	
<i>Elizabeth Ayers.</i>	
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS: <i>MA</i>
APPROVED BY CAO	
<i>[Signature]</i>	



## **Staff Report**

### **Origin**

The purpose of the report is to provide Council with an update on the programs, operations and activities at the Minoru Centre for Active Living.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Strategy #4 An Active and Thriving Richmond:

*An active and thriving community characterized by diverse social and wellness programs, services and spaces that foster health and well-being for all.*

*4.1 Robust, affordable, and accessible sport, recreation, wellness and social programs for people of all ages and abilities.*

*4.2 Ensure infrastructure meets changing community needs, current trends and best practices.*

This report supports the following focus areas from the City of Richmond Recreation and Sport Strategy 2019-2024:

*Foster Area #1: Awareness and Understanding – Richmond residents understand the opportunities and benefits of participation in recreation and sport.*

*Foster Area #6: Community Capacity-Building – Collaborations, partnerships and volunteerism are strengthened to expand the reach and impact of recreation and sport in Richmond.*

This report supports the following focus areas from the Wellness Strategy 2018-2023:

*Foster Area #1: Foster healthy, active and involved lifestyles for all Richmond residents with an emphasis on physical activity, healthy eating and mental wellness.*

*Focus Area #3: Enhance equitable access to amenities, services and programs within and among neighbourhoods.*

### **Background**

The Minoru Centre for Active Living is a multipurpose complex that features state of the art aquatic, fitness, seniors, and sport centres. Together, these facilities create the opportunity for unparalleled synergies and innovation in program delivery.

The following original Guiding Principles for the facility were intended to provide overall direction in the program development, design, construction methodology and eventual operations.

1. Be Exceptional
2. Be Sustainable
3. Be Accessible
4. Be “A Centre of Excellence” for Active Living and Wellness
5. Be Synergistic
6. Be Connected

These principles still guide the facility operations today in program design, delivery and customer service.

### Facility Openings

On March 11, 2019, the Seniors Centre at Minoru Centre for Active Living proudly opened its doors and showcased to the public its age friendly and accessible design as well as doubled the programming space from the former Minoru Place Activity Centre. The new Seniors Centre includes a lounge, full-service cafeteria and a range of activity rooms, including an arts studio, woodworking shop, billiards room, multipurpose rooms and a dedicated entrance and lobby. The response from the community was immediate and the Minoru Seniors Society membership grew from 2300 to 4300 members in the first year of operation.

On January 1, 2020, the Fitness Centre at Minoru Centre for Active Living opened to the public. This space includes 8,500 square feet with high end cardio, strength, functional training and stretching equipment to meet the needs of the Richmond community. With a much expanded exercise area and a huge increase in equipment options and programs, Fitness services brought new opportunities and new clientele to the Minoru Precinct.

On September 21, 2020 the Aquatic Centre at Minoru Centre for Active Living opened in the midst of the pandemic to the eager families and swim enthusiasts of Richmond. This destination space includes 60% more bodies of water to exercise, train, and play, including a lazy river, 2-25metre laps pools, the largest hot tub in Canada and the first municipal cold plunge pool in the country.

### Pandemic

The pandemic interrupted the operations of various parts of the building with closures, however, it's important to note that, as with many City facilities, Minoru Centre for Active Living played an important role in the community during the pandemic. Swimming pools and fitness facilities were some of the first facilities to be reopened and quickly became a safe place for residents to gather, explore some leisure activities and connect, at a distance, with others. Pandemic health restrictions evolved on a regular basis and included registered visits, reduced capacity limits and enhanced cleaning protocols. These temporary restrictions were generally well received by the public as the facility became an important lifeline for their health and well being. The Minoru Seniors Society maintained Cafeteria operations with the Meals to Go program which provided a

means to keep seniors supplied with nutritious meals in a time of potential isolation, change and uncertainty. While it took a while for older adult programs to be fully restored, the Senior Centre offered a variety of online programs and services, eventually reopening with restrictions in September 2021.

## **Analysis**

### Current Operations

#### *Seniors Programs and Services*

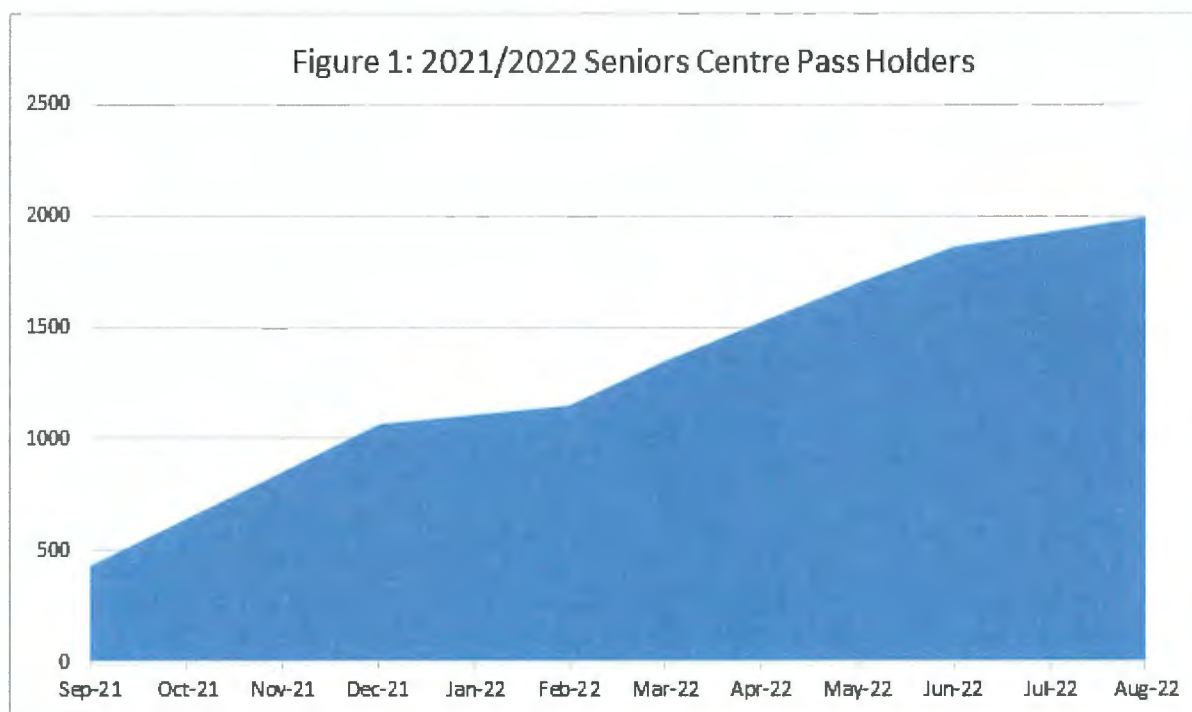
In response to a growing and diverse seniors population, the Seniors Centre at the Minoru Centre for Active Living provides Richmond seniors with new and existing programs and services that are delivered by the Minoru Seniors Society (MSS).

With the new and expanded spaces at Minoru Centre for Active Living, seniors programs and service offerings have increased by 73%. These have built off the strong foundation from Minoru Place Activity Centre and grown with intentionality to meet identified needs in the areas of health and wellness, arts, dance, general interest, out-trips, and language programs. Senior engagement and empowerment continue to be priorities with regular consultation amongst the seniors population and from the MSS Program Committee to ensure programs offered are aligned with community needs.

Inclusion and belonging is a key component of wellbeing for seniors and as such, the Minoru Seniors Facility Pass drop-in activity programs continue to be an important element of the services offered. There are 37 unique facility pass activities in total, including the Multicultural Dance Group, Carpet Bowling, Minoru Strummer Ukulele Group and Hanging with the Guys. These groups meet throughout the week and enable members to socialize and connect while participating in meaningful activities at a very low cost.

Since the programs in the Seniors Centre were fully restored in September of 2021, Seniors facility pass holders have gradually started returning to the Centre. It is expected that this trend will continue with increased marketing and promotions, including the recent Public Open House that saw over 800 seniors attend the Seniors Centre to take a tour or participate in the many free programs offered that day.

Please see Figure 1 that shows the number of Seniors Centre pass holders for the period September 2021 to August 2022 and Table 1 for a tabulation of the 2022 Seniors Centre program participation numbers.

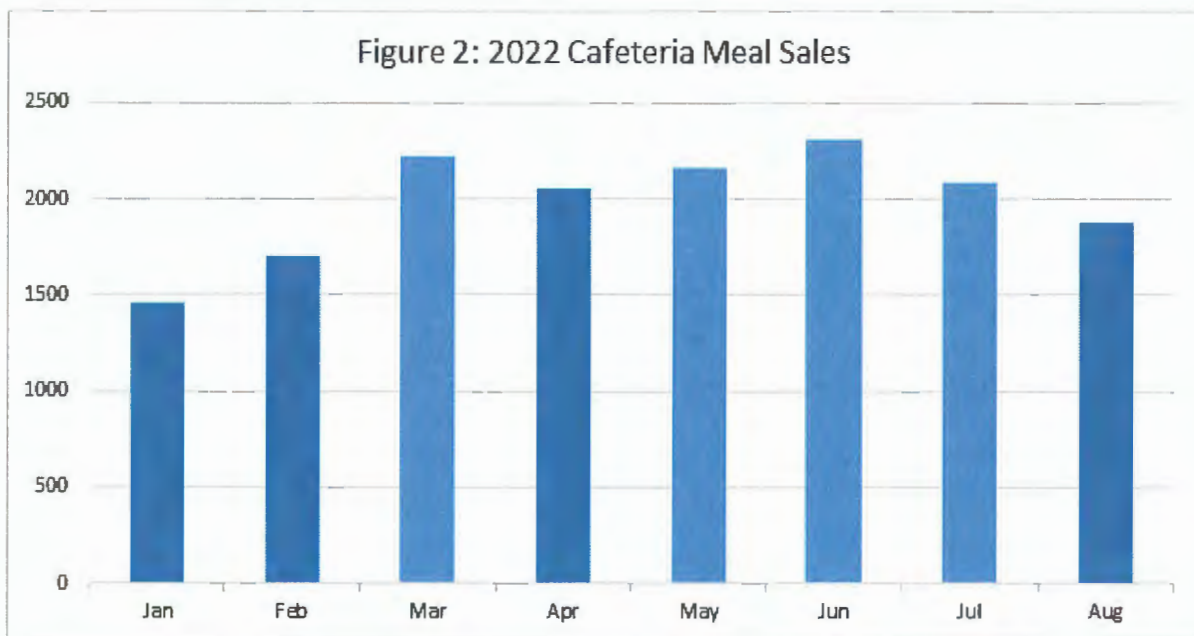


<b>Table 1: 2022 Seniors Centre Program Participation</b>			
	<b>Number of Programs Offered</b>	<b>Number of Participants Registered</b>	<b>Number of Pass Scans</b>
Winter 2022 (3 months)	47	438	4168
Spring 2022 (3 months)	49	623	8323
Summer 2022 (2 months)	37	489	5786

#### *Food Programs and Services*

Minoru Seniors Society (MSS) operates two food service locations at Minoru Centre for Active Living, including a cafeteria in the Seniors Centre and bistro in the Aquatics/Fitness Lobby. This allows MSS members and the community to enjoy healthy and convenient meals and snacks at an affordable price point.

Please see Figure 2 that outlines the number of cafeteria meal sales for the period January, 2022 to August 2022. This includes entrees, sandwiches and soup.



### *Fitness Programs and Services*

Minoru Centre for Active Living has drop-in group fitness, yoga and cyclefit classes, guided fitness orientations, personal and group fitness training and a full complement of registered program opportunities including classes targeting the prevention and management of various chronic diseases. The equipment and layout is designed to be age-friendly and inclusive for community based participation. 130 drop in fitness classes are offered each week including over 25 classes that are targeted specifically to the older adult population. The fitness offerings at Minoru Centre for Active Living reflect Richmond's diverse community and capitalize on synergies with Aquatic and Senior Services, to best serve the Richmond community in their active living and wellness pursuits.

### *Aquatic Programs and Services*

The community has embraced the new Aquatic Centre and the variety of features, quickly becoming one of the premier Aquatic Centres in Lower Mainland and British Columbia. The core programs and services offered in aquatics include swimming lessons for all ages, leisure/recreational swimming, aquatic fitness classes and length swimming.

Lane swimming is one of the best forms of exercise and is available from 6:00am to 10:00pm, seven (7) days a week for a total of 128 hours. Aquafit classes to build endurance and strengthen muscles and bones are offered 16 times per week with the majority of participants over 55 years of age. Learning how to swim is a vital life skill for Richmond residents and Minoru Centre for Active Living provides instruction and water safety to almost 1300 children each week.



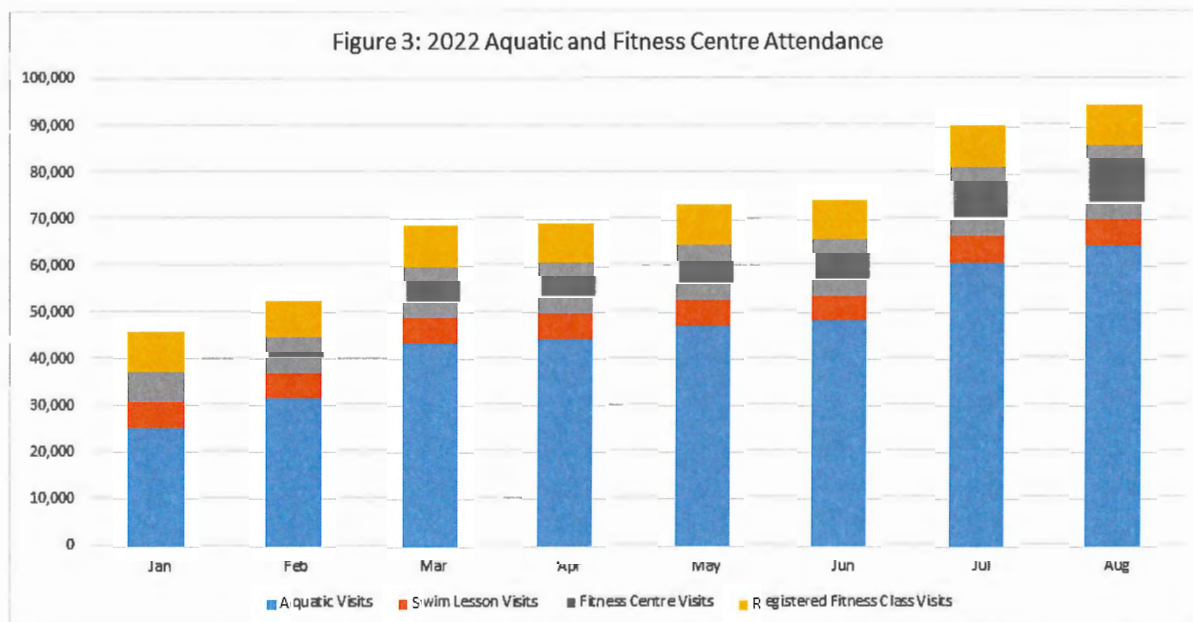
The “spa” features of the facility including the hot tubs, saunas, steam room and cold plunge pool have been well received and are some of the heaviest used areas of the facility. Along with the tremendous amount of health benefits from swimming, aquatic centres have important social benefits as they provide an important place to connect, belong and feel a sense community.

### *Event Centre Programs and Services*

The Event Centre provides a hub for Richmond’s sport and event community to host tournaments or events, and offer coaching and other support programs for their clubs. For example, in November 2021, Richmond Lacrosse held their annual field lacrosse tournament which hosted over 500 athletes from across the lower mainland and British Columbia and, in March 2022, the Event Centre supported the Vancouver Whitecaps and their national player identification camp with over 300 players from across the country.

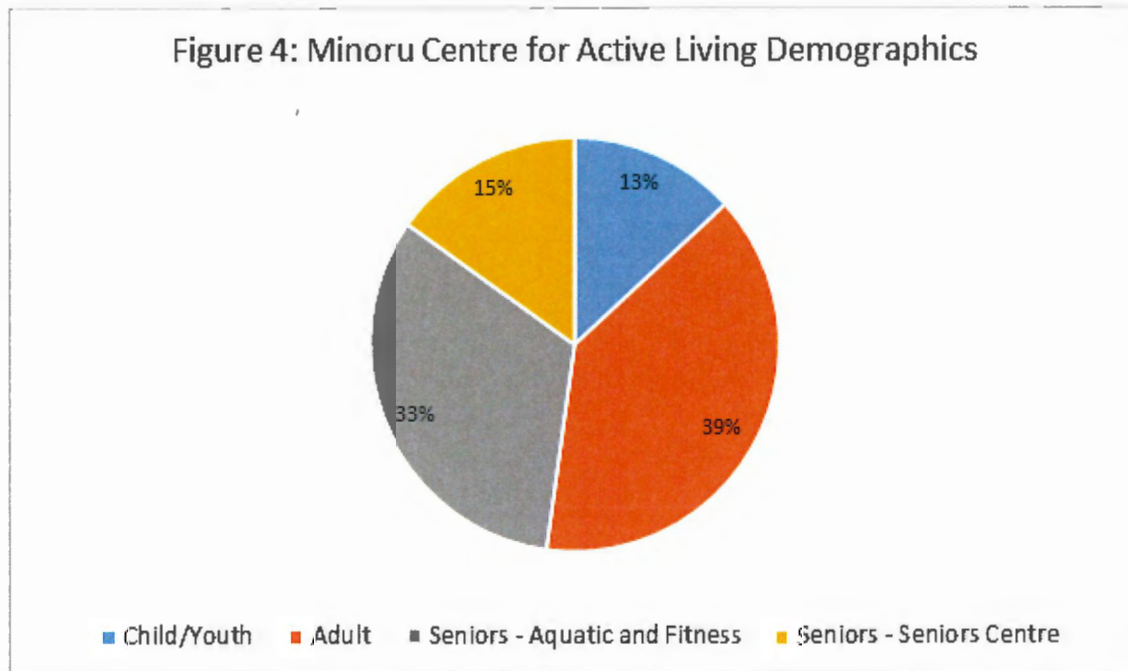
### 2022 Participation and Demographics

For the period January thru June 2022, an average of 2,100 individuals came through the doors each day in the aquatic and fitness centres and in July and August this number grew to almost 3,000 individuals visiting the pool and fitness centre daily, for a total of 185,000 visits. The average summer daily attendance of almost 3,000 is more than double the attendance at the former Minoru Aquatic Centre. Please see Figure 3 that details the monthly attendance at the Aquatic and Fitness Centre for the period January 2022 to August 2022.



Reflecting the vision for the facility, the Minoru Centre for Active Living serves a diverse population including individuals from newborn infants to the oldest senior at 109 years of age.

Please see Figure 4 below that shows the demographics of the more than 2650 visits per day to the Minoru Centre for Active Living in 2022.



#### Community Involvement and Engagement

The Minoru Centre for Active Living operates with input from several community partners and stakeholder groups. These include the Minoru Seniors Society who operate the programs in the Seniors Centre and the Richmond Fitness and Wellness Association who, until recently, employed the fitness staff. The Aquatic Advisory Committee who provide guidance and advice on the programs and service delivery in the swimming pools and the Richmond Sports Council who play a pivotal role in ensuring the sports community is connected to the facility. All of these groups have representatives on the Minoru Centre for Active Living Program Committee that ensure the original guiding principles of the facility are honoured while providing input, advice and feedback on the use, programming and services provided at the Minoru Centre for Active Living. As representatives of the community as a whole, the Committee is expected to make recommendations to ensure comprehensive and efficient service to the community and maximized facility use to serve the needs of all intended uses and users.

#### Awards

The Minoru Centre for Active Living has quickly been recognized for its excellence in design and program delivery with the receipt of the following awards:

- 2021 Architecture Prize for Accessibility from the International Olympic Committee, International Paralympic Committee, and International Association for Sports and

Leisure Facilities. This award aims to increase the accessibility of all sports and leisure facilities and architectural structures worldwide so everyone has an opportunity to practice and view sport freely and without barriers.

- 2022 Bill Woycik Outstanding Facility Award from the Recreation Facilities Association of British Columbia (RFABC) for Minoru Centre for Active Living. The award recognizes new recreation, sport or leisure facility that meets a demonstrated community need through innovations in design, energy management, operations, revenue generation and services.
- 2022 Athletic Business Facilities of Merit Award. This award recognizes innovative athletic, fitness and recreation facilities from across North America with excellent community value, design, relationship of building to site and features.

### Community Impact

Reflecting the original guiding principles, Minoru Centre for Active Living is an exceptional facility with program offerings and attendance that continues to grow to support the active living and wellness needs of the Richmond community. The facility, programs and services offered further a number of Council's Strategic Goals as well as the Recreation and Sport Strategy and Wellness Strategy.

The Aquatic Centre provides opportunities for all ages and abilities to be active, learn valuable skills, play and connect. The Fitness Centre invites youth, adults and seniors to be more physically active, prevent and manage health conditions, and improve mental wellbeing. The Seniors Centre facilitates and serves Richmond's older adult population in pursuing diverse interests and hobbies, creating social connections, enjoying nutritious food and improving overall wellbeing. The Event Centre connects the sports community to the facility, supporting opportunities for lifelong participation in sport and physical activity, skill development, and social connections. Reflecting the original guiding principles, Minoru Centre is truly a hub of activity and social connection for all ages and has become "A Centre of Excellence" for active living and wellness in Richmond.

One grateful patron stated:

*"Just walking into the building for me, along the plaza and by the beautiful sculpture makes me aware that I am truly entering a facility that will support my active living. The generous lobby provides for easy access, and the choices of change "rooms" and dressing and showering spaces gives me lots of choices whether by myself or bringing my 2-year-old granddaughter. Entering the swimming hall, is always inspiring for me. The abundance of natural light that floods the space from the floor to ceiling windows, the skylights and clerestory windows always connect me with my water activities to what's happening outside, be it raining or brilliant blue skies and the sun streaming in. This is how one should feel when they are coming to swim, a connection with the water and with nature outside."*



A member of the Minoru Seniors Society shared the following:

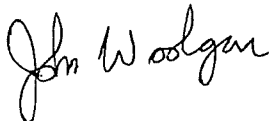
*"I was fast and furious before my retirement. I was really burnt out. I retired and I had nothing to do, so I came to the seniors centre. I thought OK, I can do something, I can spend my time here. Now being a volunteer here, I learned a lot of things....The Seniors Centre is a home away from home."*

### **Financial Impact**

None.

### **Conclusion**

The Minoru Centre for Active Living is a centre of excellence for active living and wellness for residents of all ages and abilities. The expanded programs and service offerings are providing opportunities for individuals to be healthy, active and connected to their community, while supporting the achievement of the City's Wellness Strategy vision of "Richmond... active, caring, connected, healthy and thriving."



John Woolgar  
Manager, Aquatics and Community Wellness  
(604-238-8041)



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

**To:** Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services  
Committee

**Date:** September 23, 2022

**From:** Todd Gross  
Director, Parks Services

**File:** 06-2345-20-GCIT1/Vol  
01

**Re:** Garden City Lands Project Update

### Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled "Garden City Lands Project Update," dated September 23, 2022, from the Director, Park Services be received for information.

Todd Gross  
Director, Parks Services  
(604-247-4942)

Att. 1

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER	
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS:
APPROVED BY CAO	

## **Staff Report**

### **Origin**

The purpose of this report is to provide project updates on activities on the Garden City Lands (the Lands) to follow-up on the staff report titled “Garden City Lands Project Update,” dated September 8, 2021 where staff committed to providing regular project updates to Council.

### **Analysis**

#### Project Activities

The following is a summary of current activities related to this project:

#### *Planting*

Planting proceeded in winter and early spring 2022 in the planting zones along the perimeter path adjacent to the frontage along Alderbridge Way and No. 4 Road. While staff planted the majority of the plant material, trees and shrubs were also planted by volunteers participating in successful Earth Week activities at the Lands.

The second phase of the perimeter path planting project (along Westminster Highway and Garden City Road) is scheduled for fall 2022 and winter 2023 once soil meeting Agricultural Land (AL) standards (that is, soils determined by Provincial environmental standards to be suitable for food production) has been placed. In keeping with the future agriculturally focused activities planned for the western half of the site, some non-native, fruit bearing trees will be planted along the Garden City Road frontage as a demonstration for residents of flowering and fruit bearing trees which support beneficial insects, pollinators and birds in the home landscape. Final species selection will be dependent on nursery stock availability.

#### *Community Gardens*

After Council officially opened the Community Gardens this past spring, residents occupied all 200 plots and based on reports from Urban Bounty, the City’s community partner operating the community gardens, it has been a successful first season. Urban Bounty observed that gardener led initiatives such as picnics, painting and art gatherings naturally evolved over the summer.

#### *Sphagnum Moss Relocation*

In spring 2022, KPU staff, in cooperation with volunteers from the Garden City Conservation Society (GCCS), began transplanting sphagnum moss from an area identified for preservation and relocation to areas of the bog east of the central Dike Farm Road (Attachment 1). The project, led by GCCS, was supported by funding from the City’s Environmental Enhancement Program and staff from the KPU Sustainable Agriculture Farm Program who provided technical, mechanical and scientific support. Phase 1 of the project was completed this spring with phase 2 expected to be completed this fall once the rainy season commences. Once the transplanting has been completed, KPU staff (as the project’s advisors) will advise City staff that backfilling with imported soil material may proceed.

### *Soil Remediation*

Throughout summer 2022, extensive testing via bore holes and monitoring wells has been conducted on the site. Based on the results from this initial testing phase, it was determined that the soil in the proposed planting beds in the perimeter path median along the Westminster Highway and Garden City Road frontages must be removed as these soils do not meet provincial standards for AL soils (Attachment 1). The impacted soil will be relocated to a regulated soil facility. To date, these are the only soils identified by the City's Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP) which do not meet AL soil standards. Once removed from the site, additional testing of the excavated areas will be required to ensure standards are met. Once soil testing is completed, the soil meeting AL standards can be imported in preparation for future planting, which is expected to proceed in late 2022 and early 2023. Depending on the test results and methods of remediation required, staff still expect the site-wide contaminated soils study to be completed within the three year time period initially identified.

### *Soil Placement*

Several deposits of soil have occurred on the Lands in 2022 in accordance with applicable provincial standards, City bylaws and industry best management practices. These included the placement of soils sourced from two Richmond farm sites and a third from a City-owned site currently under construction. All three sites were extensively tested and approved by the City's QEP prior to importation.

At present, a contractor is completing the physical screening of previously imported material to remove inorganic and other debris prior to it being spread. The expected completion date for this work is this fall prior to the rain events typically associated with this time of year. Staff are also expecting another importation of soil this fall.

All of these aforementioned soil placement activities are occurring on the portion of the site occupied by the KPU's north field area (Attachment 1).

Staff continue to seek and identify appropriate soil source sites in Richmond, as approved by Council. The City has received approval from the ALC to place soil in the area that the City has leased to KPU for its teaching and research farm. Staff will ensure that soil test results are received and meet provincial contaminated sites standards prior to the importation of any soil material into the site in order to secure soil with the best quality are received for agricultural purposes. Soil placement results in revenue for the City as per the Soil Fee Bylaw.

### *Agricultural Land Commission Presentation and Site Visit*

On September 22<sup>nd</sup>, the City hosted Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) staff and two members of the South Coast Panel (the approving body reviewing all Non-Farm Use Applications submitted to the ALC) in support of the City's pending Comprehensive Non-Farm Use Application for the Lands. The meeting involved an in-person presentation providing supplementary information about the City's proposal for the site, as contained in the Application. Staff then conducted a site-tour which included an inspection of the community gardens, the

perimeter path and Kwantlen Polytechnic University's (KPU) farm activities. The ALC is currently evaluating the City's Application and staff expect a determination by the end of 2022.

*Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) Farm Area*

With the planned soil deposits and final grading of the north field (Attachment 1), KPU will be preparing the site for agricultural production in 2023. Site preparation includes installing drainage infrastructure and planting cover crops. KPU continues with planning and design of the proposed barn structure to support farming and educational activities on the Lands for which they have secured provincial funding.

**Financial Impact**

None.

**Conclusion**

Staff will continue to develop the Garden City Lands and provide periodic updates to Council as requested as work proceeds.



Alexander Kurnicki  
Manager, Park Programs  
(604-276-4099)

Att. 1: Garden City Lands Site Plan Fall 2022



# Garden City Lands Site Plan Fall 2022

## LEGEND

- SITE PROPERTY LINE
  - LOT LINE
  - PROPOSED PLANTING AREA WITH SOIL EXCAVATION FOR OFF-SITE DISPOSAL
  - PROPOSED PLANTING AREA WITH SOIL REUSE ON THE SITE
- SCALE IN METRES  
0 50 100 150 200 250  
1:5000

