



**EAST RICHMOND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
MINUTES
September 27, 2011**

Present: Balwant Sanghera, Sherry Sutherland, Paul Binning, Tom Mohammed, Dave Gosal, Marie Murtagh

City Staff: Sue Varley

City Liaison: Greg Halsey-Brandt

Regrets: Fiona Huang, Leith MacRobert

Guests: Yvonne Stich and Damon Oriente,

1. Call To Order. The meeting was called to order by Balwant Sanghera at 7:30 pm.
2. Approval of Agenda. The Agenda was approved as presented.

MOTION. To approve the agenda. Moved by Sherry and seconded by Tom. Carried.

3. Approval of Minutes. The minutes of June 28, 2011 were adopted.

MOTION. Moved by Dave and seconded by Sherry. Carried.

4. King George Park Update.

Yvonne and Damon presented a concept plan for the improvement and enhancement of King George Park. The update, overall, would be considered a 10 year plan. It would be broken down into stages, which would have cost estimates and from there priorities would be selected. It is hoped that City Council would approve this, and the Board is encouraged to attend this meeting when it takes place in mid December.

The concept of this plan has been based on many different 'pieces' of information, such as our survey results; observations of the park at different times and different days, as well as the needs that have been identified by the Association and the City.

Some of the survey results include:

- To enhance and widen the paths throughout the park so as to accommodate people walking, bicycles and strollers
- Provide a covered seating and barbeque area for spectators at the sports field
- Better picnic 'zones'; some to accommodate the larger groups, and other areas that would provide for single families
- A regeneration of the Woodlot. This could be the focus for our next Earth Day
- The design ideas for the wayfinding and signage needs to flow and work together, and it is thought that the curve in our logo might be reflected in the shapes of the signage.

- Improved and enhanced seating throughout the park....that would allow people to socialize and engage; seating would not be limited to traditional benches, and different height opportunities would be incorporated into this.

It was emphasized that this continues to be a process; with a sub-committee and continued engagement with the public throughout.

5. Unfinished Business

5.1 Sherry explained that the new chairs have now been purchased for the ERCA Hall, at a cost of approximately \$7800. The 'old' chairs are now in the process of being sold for \$5.00. If anyone knows of any person or group who may be interested in these chairs, please pass on this information to them.

5.2 ERCA Hall Renovations.

The Hall renos are now almost completed, with the exception of the door, which is expected to be completed very soon. The Program Committee had their last meeting in the 'seniors' space, and everyone was delighted with the new 'look'. All in all, they did a great job! Sherry encouraged members to have a look at the Hall, if they have not already done so.

5.3 Board Development retreat. Sherry and Sue will be meeting at some point to discuss the details of this event. Communication, Information Dispersal and Decision Making are topics that have been identified as needing some attention. In addition, there may be some time set aside for 'technology' as we now have a website, so posting the minutes on our website may be desired. The Board indicated that having the retreat some time in January/February was preferred.

6. New Business

6.1 Sherry reported that she and Marie will be attending a 'Fees and Charges Meeting' tomorrow night at the Lang Centre, followed by the Richmond Communities Meeting. These meetings will be mostly focused on how to ensure that the Associations can continue to be 'aligned' with one another in terms of wages and increases.

6.2 Year End Celebration Dinner. The Board briefly discussed different venues for this event, and it was decided that it would be better scheduled for early in 2012. Some suggestions for venues were, Country Meadows, Fraser Downs and Mayfair Lakes. Sue and Sherry will be discussing this when they next meet.

7. Committee Reports.

7.1 Treasurer's Report. Fiona was absent, so there was no report available. Sherry has (very kindly) offered to follow up.

7.2 Program Committee. Sherry did email the reports from their last meeting, which was held in the new Senior's Space.

7.3 Human Resources.

- Tom announced that they have now hired a new Youth Coordinator. His name is Allan Dunnett and seems very qualified and enthusiastic about working with us.

- Tom and Dave interviewed Nisha Dhawan as a potential Board Member. Nisha is currently a member of the Program Committee. Nisha is currently recovering from surgery, but will be invited to attend our next Board Meeting in October.

ACTION. Tom will contact Nisha and invite her to our next meeting on October 25, 2011.

Tom has submitted 3 more policies for approval.

MOTION. To approve the following policies:

- ***Weight Room #3201219***
- ***Employee Benefits #3255089***
- ***Fitness/Yoga/Pilates Instructor Responsibilities and Expectations #3183291***

Moved by Tom and seconded by Dave. Carried.

7.3 Community Development Committee. Marie reported that it has been very difficult finding a suitable time to meet, and as a result, the recent meeting was rather disjointed. In spite of this, the following items were discussed:

- We have been unsuccessful in finding some sponsorship for the fireworks, so it has been cancelled. As it has already been advertised in the Fall/Winter calendar, it is important that we get the word out well in advance to avoid disappointment and any ‘mischief or retaliation’ as a result
- It was agreed that we will go ahead with Breakfast with Santa on December 10; Earth Day on April 21 and Kids on Swap Meet on May 12
- It was wholeheartedly agreed that the summer fun events we held this summer were a great success, and that we are on the ‘right track’ as to future events
- It was clear to see that this type of event attracted our whole community, and it was nice for a change, to celebrate the things we had in common, our ‘sameness’, rather than our differences. At the first movie nights, it seemed like we had finally started to feel like a community/neighbourhood.
- The topic of Multifest was raised again, and it was thought that in the future, we might consider how we could expand our entertainment to include some additional ‘cultural’ components.
- A reminder to all that we needed to ‘start slow and then grow’ over time, and to realize that we may not have the resources (time, money, staff and volunteers) to put on large events just yet. We do not want to overextend ourselves or our volunteers.

7.4 Job Evaluation Committee. Sherry reported that the Job Evaluation Committee Members are now at a ‘crossroads’. Essentially the members have devoted countless hours over the years to developing and implementing a process by which there would be consistency among all Centres in Richmond in terms of wages for comparable Association Positions. Now that this has been more or less achieved, the next focus will be on how this alignment can continue for the future. Currently there is some

real concern as to whether or not all the Associations will approve a wage increment for September 2011. The Committee will refer this issue back to the Richmond Communities Committees. In the meantime, the ERCA have budgeted for this increment, so it will take place.

ACTION. Sherry will advise Terri Martin to proceed with this increment, which will include some retroactive monies to be paid out.

8. President's Report. Balwant indicated that he as received an invitation to attend the annual Civic Appreciation Night on Tuesday, October 25. The invitation includes is extended to include one guest, so it was suggested that Balwant attend with his wife, as we will be having our Board Meeting that same night. A note that neither Balwant nor Greg will be attending our next meeting.

Balwant reported that he has been approached about whether or not we could build a sauna, and if Multifest would return.

Greg commented that a sauna was highly undesirable due to a variety of hygienic reasons, and that in his experience, places are now removing saunas because of the problems that develop.

This issue of Multifest was raised a few months ago. At that time, the Board referred this topic to the Community Development Committee.

Marie did explain that the CDC will be looking at how some multicultural components might be incorporated into future summer fun nights, but that the CDC needs to be realistic of their resources (time, money, staff and volunteers). In addition, the CDC's plan is to continue with similar summer fun night events which were so well received by the community.

Paul Binning suggested that if there was a group that was interested in putting on a Multifest Event, they should be encouraged to submit a detailed proposal to the CDC.

9. Area Coordinator's Report. (see attached). Sue raised the topic of the City Grant Application, and the Board was supportive of this.

MOTION. That the Board support the City Grant Application for the 2012 year. Moved by Dave and seconded by Sherry. Carried.

10. Next Meeting. Tuesday, October 25, 2011

11. Important Dates to Remember:

- Breakfast with Santa – December 10/2011
- Blood Drive – December 13, 2011
- Earth Day – April 21, 2012
- Kids Only Swap Meet - May 12, 2012

12. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Marie Murtagh