



To: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee
From: Vern Jacques, Acting Director, Recreation and Cultural Services
Re: Heritage Status of Brighthouse Park
Date: July 7, 2008
File:

Staff Recommendation

That this report be received for information.

Vern Jacques
Acting Director, Recreation and Cultural Services
(604-247-4930)

FOR ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT USE ONLY		
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER <i>[Signature]</i>		
REVIEWED BY TAG	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>GJ</i>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
REVIEWED BY CAO <i>ACTING</i>	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>[Signature]</i>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

Staff Report

Origin

At the Council Meeting of June 25, 2007, the PRCS Facilities Strategic Plan was presented and discussion took place about Brighthouse Park as a potential site for future recreation and cultural facilities. There was some recollection of conditions attached to the use of Brighthouse Park based on the terms of its acquisition and the following resolution, R07/12-4, was adopted:

That staff examine the heritage status of Brighthouse Park and the surrounding area.

This report presents the findings of research available.

Analysis

Brighthouse Park was donated to the City in 1939 by the Richmond Agricultural Society. The only document outlining use of the land is the Land Purchase Bylaw 797. It sets out the details of the purchase which followed a referendum for the municipality to buy the property for one dollar "with a view toward making the said grounds a recreational centre..."

The Richmond Heritage Inventory (2006) lists the Brighthouse Lacrosse Box, Cenotaph, Minoru Park, Minoru Chapel and Pierrefonds Garden as significant heritage resources in or near Brighthouse Park within the City Centre area.

The two most significant resources with regard to Brighthouse Park and surrounding area are explained in further detail.

The Lacrosse Box is the only heritage resource located within Brighthouse Park itself. The Richmond Agricultural Society and the Richmond Athletic Club supplied funding for the Box, stands and flood lights. The site is currently composed of the box, lighting, bleachers and the setting, including mature chestnut trees. The primary heritage value is in its representation of the first lacrosse teams organized in Richmond, possibly as early as 1910, the fact that the City retains its role as a major centre of box lacrosse in the Province and the fact that various community organizations donated land, construction materials and necessary funding for the original Box, which opened in 1939. In 1986, the original lacrosse box was replaced by the current structure.

Minoru Park is also a significant heritage resource. The name of Minoru Race Track was changed around 1920 frequently being referred to as Brighthouse Park. This led to confusion between the two pieces of property. The heritage value of Minoru Park is due in part to its historic association to events and circumstances that have influenced the development of Richmond as a city. Originally part of Samuel Brighthouse's property, the park's history chronicles early settlement and land acquisition, aviation history, the social legacy of Minoru racetrack (including heritage trees), democratic and civic processes and the design and planning of an important city park including facilities and grounds for many community uses and events.

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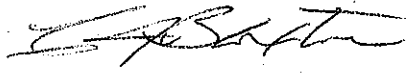
It is a diverse and layered landscape that continues to be well used and it is symbolic of the City's determination to maintain open space within a heavily built up urban area.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact to the recommendation.

Conclusion

Brighthouse Park has a continuing rich and layered history significant to Richmond's City Centre. The Lacrosse Box site, including the box, bleachers, lights and setting is the only heritage resource located within the park.



Connie Baxter
Supervisor, Richmond Museum and Heritage Services
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