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## **General Purposes Committee**

Date: Monday, June 21, 2010

Place: Anderson Room  
Richmond City Hall

Present: Mayor Malcolm D. Brodie, Chair  
Councillor Linda Barnes  
Councillor Derek Dang  
Councillor Evelina Halsey-Brandt  
Councillor Greg Halsey-Brandt  
Councillor Sue Halsey-Brandt  
Councillor Bill McNulty  
Councillor Harold Steves

Absent: Councillor Ken Johnston

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

### **AGENDA ADDITION**

It was moved and seconded  
*That the letter dated June 18, 2010 from YVR's Senior Vice President, Marketing and Business Development regarding UBCM resolutions be added to the Agenda as Item 3.*

**CARRIED**

### **MINUTES**

It was moved and seconded  
*That the minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on Monday, June 7, 2010, be adopted as circulated.*

**CARRIED**

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**PROJECT DEVELOPMENT & FACILITY MANAGEMENT  
DEPARTMENT**

**1. HAMILTON COMMUNITY CENTRE – GREEN ROOF ACCESS AND  
HORTICULTURE OPTIONS**

(File Ref. No.: 06-2050-20-HCC/Vol 01) (REDMS No. 2907944)

It was moved and seconded

*That the staff report dated May 31, 2010, entitled “Hamilton Community Centre – Green Roof Access and Horticulture Options” from the Director, Project Development be received for information.*

The question on the motion was not called as discussion ensued and in reply to queries from Committee, Greg Scott, Director, Project Development, provided the following information:

- sedums are moss-like planting materials;
- staff continue to investigate converting the Library Cultural Centre’s concrete patio roof top into a green workable garden;
- an elevator would be required for a rooftop garden at Hamilton Community Centre (HCC) as it is a public facility and wheelchair access must be provided to all areas of the building; and
- the cost for a roof garden varies based on its size and the type of irrigation utilized.

Discussion ensued and Committee questioned the need for providing elevator access to a rooftop garden if there were also a ground level garden. Mr. Scott noted that he would look into the matter.

The question on the motion was then called and it was **CARRIED**.

**COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

**2. CORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK – CLIMATE  
CHANGE STRATEGIC PROGRAM**

(File Ref. No.: 01-0370-01) (REDMS No. 2918689)

Margot Daykin, Sustainability Manager, Community Services, provided background information and in reply to queries from Committee advised the following:

- staff are reviewing resource options to move the program forward as it has been identified as a priority;
- costs associated with any additional climate change action which extend beyond current resources will be considered in future annual budget processes;

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- when looking at a potential program, staff consider the implementation of said program as well;
- at current greenhouse gas emission (GHG) levels, the City would potentially face an operational impact of over \$300,000 per year to meet its carbon neutral commitment;
- staff are exploring options for taking increased GHG reduction action and developing a local carbon offset program that would both reduce carbon offset expenditures and enable offset expenditures to be re-invested in the community;
- staff are looking at interactive ways in which the community can easily learn of the City's Corporate Sustainability Framework and its facets; and
- in 2009 the City received approximately \$100,000 from the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program and approximately \$50,000 in 2008.

Discussion ensued and Committee commented on the content of the report and noted that a copy of the report should also be forwarded to the Minister of State for Climate Action.

It was moved and seconded

- (1) *That the Corporate Climate Change Strategic Program, as presented in Attachment 1 of the report dated June 1, 2010 entitled "Corporate Sustainability Framework – Climate Change Strategic Program" be endorsed;*
- (2) *That funds from the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program be placed in a Carbon Neutral Provisional Fund and used to support greater Corporate GHG reduction actions;*
- (3) *That the Mayor send a letter to the Premier of BC with copies to the Minister of Environment and the Minister of State for Climate Action and local MLAs requesting that the Province reinstate funding for the Climate Change Showdown initiative; and*
- (4) *That a copy of this report be forwarded to the Richmond Board of Trustees and John Yap, MLA and Minister of State for Climate Action.*

**CARRIED**

### 3. **YVR'S REQUEST FOR UBCM RESOLUTIONS SUPPORT** (File Ref. No.:

The Chair referenced a letter dated June 18, 2010 from YVR's Senior Vice President Marketing and Business Development seeking Council's support for two proposed Union of British Columbia Municipalities resolutions (attached to and forming part of these Minutes as Schedule 1).

Discussion ensued and as a result the following **motions** were introduced:

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It was moved and seconded

*That the following resolution as presented in the letter dated June 18, 2010 from YVR's Senior Vice President Marketing and Business Development, entitled "Elimination of Provincial Fuel Tax on International Passenger Flights" be supported:*

*WHEREAS local airports and communities recognize and appreciate that the Province eliminated fuel taxes on international cargo operations, and that the carbon tax is not applicable to international flights;*

*AND WHEREAS other provincial jurisdictions have eliminated fuel tax on international flights, placing them in a more competitive position to significantly enhance new opportunities and gain new business;*

*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of British Columbia eliminate the fuel tax on all international passenger flights, which would cost the government approximately \$20 million annually in forfeited revenue but the growth in international travel would quickly offset this amount and generate a net increase in government's overall revenues, as well as supporting economic development in airport communities and improving BC's international connectivity, building a base for future growth.*

**CARRIED**

Opposed: Cllrs. S. Halsey-Brandt  
Steves

It was moved and seconded

*That the following resolution as presented in the letter dated June 18, 2010 from YVR's Senior Vice President Marketing and Business Development, entitled "Provincial Support for Airport Marketing Programs" be supported:*

*WHEREAS local communities across British Columbia recognize their airports are a significant economic generator but there is no systematic marketing effort for our airports;*

*AND WHEREAS recent changes in international agreements will facilitate travel from Asia and the recovering world economy will stimulate new route planning by airlines, and the World Route Development Forum held in Vancouver in September 2010 – in North America for the first time – will give the province additional profile among airlines and travel planners;*

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***THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia work with BC airports to create an air service marketing program that would generate awareness of what our province has to offer, leverage financial resources and initiate a greater sharing of information among partners to help improve BC's marketing, and increase international and transborder flights to BC. Such a program, involving the Province, BC Airports and regional economic development agencies, would include promoting British Columbia as Canada's gateway between North America and Asia for air travelers and air cargo, as well as identifying specific target markets in the US and Europe and appropriate promotional materials.***

**CARRIED**

Opposed: Cllr. Steves

## ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded

*That the meeting adjourn (4:45 p.m.).*

**CARRIED**

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee of the Council of the City of Richmond held on Monday, June 21, 2010.

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Mayor Malcolm D. Brodie  
Chair

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Hanieh Floujeh  
Acting Executive Assistant  
City Clerk's Office



Schedule 1 to the Minutes of the  
General Purposes Committee  
meeting held on Monday, June  
21, 2010.

June 18, 2010

Mayor and Members of Council  
City of Richmond  
6911 No. 3 Road  
Richmond, BC  
V6Y 2C1 Canada

Re: Requested UBCM resolutions

Dear Mayor Brodie and Council Members:

Every time an aircraft lands at Vancouver International Airport, significant economic benefits are generated, much of which accrue to the City of Richmond. Transborder and international flights are particularly important:

- a transborder flight operated by a domestic carrier generates 218 hours of employment per flight;
- an Asia-Pacific air service operated by a foreign carrier (with a local crew) generates close to 795 hours of employment per flight; over a year, a twice daily services generates 369 person years of employment.

YVR and other airports in British Columbia have traditionally marketed their airports independently, but have recently concluded it would be advantageous for airports and the Province to act collectively. We have also identified the fuel tax levied by the Province on international flights as a major disadvantage relative to competitive airports in Alaska, on the US Pacific Coast, and Alberta. As major international carriers anticipate a return to growth in travel, and will be looking to establish new routes, we believe that now is the time to address these issues. I have attached a report on this subject prepared by BC airports which addresses these questions in more detail for your information.

We would very much appreciate your support in making it clear to the Province that airport communities recognize the economic contribution made by their airports, both in terms of direct employment and the benefits resulting from increased tourism and business activities. We are joining with other BC airports to request our communities submit and support resolutions at the forthcoming UBCM session urging the Province to enter into a joint marketing program with airports, and to eliminate fuel tax on international passenger flights.

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You will find proposed draft resolutions attached to this letter for your consideration. YVR would be pleased to answer any questions that you may have about the material in the attached report and the proposed resolutions. Please contact me (insert phone #) or John Korenic (insert phone #) in that regard.

I recognize that time is tight, given the deadline for UBCM sessions is the end of June, but request your consideration of the proposed resolutions at the earliest opportunity.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Gugliotta', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tony Gugliotta  
Sr. Vice President Marketing & Business Development

Encl.

cc Andrew Nazareth, General Manager, Finance & Corporate Services, City of Richmond

**Resolution: Elimination of Provincial Fuel Tax on International Passenger Flights**

Sponsor's Name

WHEREAS local airports and communities recognize and appreciate that the Province eliminated fuel taxes on international cargo operations, and that the carbon tax is not applicable to international flights;

AND WHEREAS other provincial jurisdictions have eliminated fuel tax on international flights, placing them in a more competitive position to significantly enhance new opportunities and gain new business;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of British Columbia eliminate the fuel tax on all international passenger flights, which would cost the government approximately \$20 million annually in forfeited revenue but the growth in international travel would quickly offset this amount, and generate a net increase in government's overall revenues, as well as supporting economic development in airport communities and improving BC's international connectivity, building a base for future growth.

**Resolution: Provincial Support for Airport Marketing Programs**

Sponsor's Name

WHEREAS local communities across British Columbia recognize their airports are a significant economic generator but there is no systematic marketing effort for our airports;

AND WHEREAS recent changes in international agreements will facilitate travel from Asia and the recovering world economy will stimulate new route planning by airlines, and the World Route Development Forum held in Vancouver in September 2010 – in North America for the first time – will give the province additional profile among airlines and travel planners;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia work with BC airports to create an air service marketing program that would generate awareness of what our province has to offer, leverage financial resources and initiate a greater sharing of information among partners to help improve BC's marketing, and increase international and transborder flights to BC. Such a program, involving the Province, BC Airports and regional economic development agencies, would include promoting British Columbia as Canada's gateway between North America and Asia for air travelers and air cargo, as well as identifying specific target markets in the US and Europe and appropriate promotional materials.