



PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES
COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP

Held Thursday July 17, 2003. 5:30 p.m.
Room 2.004
Richmond City Hall

In Attendance:

Working Group

Danielle Aldcorn
Olive Bassett
Joann Wong Biddle
Nikki Byres
Julie Halfnights
Shawkat Hasan
Jim Lamond
Michael McCoy

Bill McNulty
Vince Miele
Sharon Meredith
Bob Ransford
Greg Robertson
Linda Shirley
Jim Tanaka
Kuo Wong

Facilitator

David Roach

Recorder

Mary Lou Phillips

City Staff

Cathy Volkering Carlile
Greg Buss
Simon Johnston
Dave Semple
Kate Sparrow
Denise Tambellini-Abraham

Absent:

Harold Steves

1.0 Opening Remarks

David Roach welcomed members and advised that the primary focus of tonight's meeting was to pick up discussion that was deferred from the last meeting i.e. the community values that will help shape the quality of life services.

2.0 Record of Meeting No. 2

The Record of Meeting of the June 19, 2003 session was adopted as circulated.

3.0 Business Arising

3.1 Request to Council

Cathy Volkering Carlile reported that Council supported the extension of the CWG to May 2004. The revised Terms of Reference will be included in the next agenda package.

A few members of the CWG expressed their surprise over the additional \$75,000 that the extension would cost as stated in Cathy Volkering Carlile's report of July 2nd. Cathy explained how the Master Plan process works:

- it sets the framework for how we will manage, make decisions and supply services in the future
- it identifies what needs to happen, by whom, and when
- it identifies what resources we will required for a 10 year period

The Master Plan is a planning process and requires resources to do the work. The costs include research, analysis, financial framework, staff, community consultation and public meetings. The Master Plan will provide a framework for Council to make decisions.

3.2 Revised Work Plan

The revised work plan, reflected by the schedule that Bob Ransford developed, will be reworked and distributed to the CWG before the next meeting.

4.0 Understanding the Planning Context

4.1 Master Plan Project Scope

At this point in the meeting, Michael McCoy said he was disconcerted that staff members were not sitting at the table with the CWG. It was the consensus of the CWG to have staff members join the table and introduce themselves: Cathy Volkering Carlile (GM, Parks Recreation & Cultural Services), Kate Sparrow (Director, Recreation & Cultural Services), Dave Semple (Director, Park Operations), Greg Buss (Chief Librarian), and Simon Johnston (Producer/GM, Gateway Theatre).

5.0 Creating the Future Vision - *Integrating ideas & Shaping Direction*

5.1 Community Leaders Workshop Summary

Information from this workshop was included in agenda package.

5.2 Staff Presentation

Kate Sparrow and Dave Semple delivered a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Presentation to the Community Working Group – Thoughts to Consider"
A hard copy of the presentation was distributed to each member.

Comments from the CWG re presentation:

- makes you proud to live in Richmond
- great – seen similar things many times
- brought back to the forefront the broad scope of what’s happening in Richmond
- as a kid born and raised here it is interesting to see how the community has changed and the diversity – other places have major problems because they don’t have the same ease of integration
- I have to disagree – this didn’t happen effortlessly – parents, PAC groups, school board, and community associations worked hard to help the community integrate
- liked presentation, proud of how we have come together in Richmond
- agree about change – great slide show – excited and proud to live in Richmond cultural, ethnic

Vince Miele and Dave Semple departed the meeting at this point.

5.3 Community Values

David Roach posed the question.... What do we need to protect and preserve?

Things Richmond Values:

- ◆ Shared responsibility
- ◆ Community input
- ◆ Cultural diversity part of heritage
- ◆ Government that values community input
- ◆ Community/government relationship – working together
- ◆ Sense of caring
- ◆ Beauty – all aspects
- ◆ Visibility/accessibility of city hall staff
- ◆ Proactive planning and growth and development
- ◆ Community centres
- ◆ Volunteers (ism)
- ◆ Safety – safe community
- ◆ Accessibility and affordability
- ◆ Flat terrain
- ◆ Compactness – one city centre
- ◆ Tolerance
- ◆ Balance – i.e. rural/urban, arts/sports
- ◆ Attitude
- ◆ Pride
- ◆ Working together for common goal/vision
- ◆ Opportunities and choice
- ◆ Appealing for all
- ◆ Community driven
- ◆ Leadership from the community
- ◆ Community of communities
- ◆ “town feeling”

- ◆ diversity in all of its forms
- ◆ flexibility to stay ahead of the curve
- ◆ ART – in the “biggest sense”
- ◆ Ownership
- ◆ Neighbourhood identity (strong)
- ◆ Parks, community centres are going to become the “front porch” of tomorrow
- ◆ Understanding/acceptance
- ◆ Spiritual connection
- ◆ Importance of connection and communication
- ◆ Build on strength of community centres/successes
- ◆ Create ability to interact
- ◆ Respect past – don’t be slavish to it – build the future
- ◆ People have different front porches

Staff and consulting team will take the list of identified values and craft a vision to bring back to the CWG at the next meeting.

There was then some discussion about the “town-like” environment of Richmond; it’s geographical and planning areas; and the distinct characteristics of certain areas.

At this point Michael McCoy stated his theory – that we have lost the “front porches” of yesteryear – the days when families gathered on their front porch and watched the world go by. He thinks community centres are going to be the front porches of tomorrow – where parents and kids go to create safe and liveable neighbourhoods.

There was a general discussion of this theory with members agreeing that parks, community centres, libraries, schools, child-care centres, etc. could all be the “front porches” of the future.

Shawkat Hasan related a story about when he first came to Richmond. In Richmond he felt safe. He felt there was community coordination, cooperation and coherence with people loving each other and caring for each other, in addition to spiritual co-existence among the diverse religious population.

David Roach suggested that the major theme revolves around the letter “I”. Individuals being involved in the community integrating ideas, causing investments to be made,. Other “I” words offered by the group - interaction, informal, inviting, interesting, inclusive, and island. If we take the “I” words and find a way of making them “we” words, we create a community.

5.4 Consultant Team Perspective

The Consultant Team identified five drivers – diversity, densification, demographics, demand (for different range of programs and services), downloading (and how we respond to that).

6.0 Community Representations

None requested

7.0 Summary & Closing

Round Table:

Julie – wanted to hear consultant team perspective

Shawkat – lots of achievement

Joann - no comment

Jim T – pleased we are all on the same page

Danielle – liked the presentation

Greg R – no comment

Cathy VC – great to be here

Michael – happy - think we should have a group hug

Sharon – wonderful to look forward

Kuo – team work, cooperation can accomplish

Bill – sense, sensibility, common sense

Nikki – glad to do real work

Jim L – moving in right direction

Linda – glad we got rid of two tables

Kate – opportunities and possibilities

Simon – wonderful to participate in future

Greg B – pleased

Bob – interesting exploration of how Richmond evolved

Olive – learning that there are new way to do things that may be better - willing to learn more

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

David Roach, Facilitator

:mlp