



**PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES
COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP**

**Held Thursday, January 15, 2004, 5:30 pm
Room M 2.004
Richmond City Hall**

In Attendance:

Working Group

Danielle Aldcorn
Nicky Byres
Jim Lamond
Vince Miele
Linda Shirley
Kuo Wong

Olive Bassett
Julie Halfnights
Michael McCoy
Bill McNulty
Harold Steves

Joann Wong Bittle
Shawkat Hasan
Sharon Meredith
Bob Ransford
Jim Tanaka

Facilitator

David Roach

Recorder

Roxanne Glavina

Staff

Cathy Volkering Carlile
Greg Buss

Dave Semple
Simon Johnston

Consulting Team

Cheryl Hodgson

Absent

Greg Robertson
Kate Sparrow

1. Opening Remarks by David Roach

2. Record of Meeting No. 8

The Record of Meeting dated December 18, 2003 was approved.

3. Delegations

3.1 Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee

(See Attached)

Balwant Sanghera thanked the City and Staff for their commitment to enhancing intercultural issues in Richmond. He spoke to the growing number of immigrants in the community, citing supporting statistics.

He outlined three phases of public consultation that RIAC has undergone since its inception.

Phase 1 –Stakeholder Consultation in October 2002

Phase 2 – Public Consultation in February 2003

Phase 3 – Focus Group Sessions with residents in October / November 2003

Many issues were identified including communications, the lack of immigrants in the political system and under employment of qualified immigrants due to labour legislation.

Services provided to the community include:

- Settlement programs for new immigrants
- ESL for Adults
- Implementing programs to encourage immigrant females to learn and speak English
- Richmond Multicultural Concerns Society (RMCS)
- SUCCESS provides services for Chinese immigrants

In Mr. Sanghera's view, Community Centres do their part in socializing and educating new immigrants, as do the many diverse churches and religious and cultural centres along No. 5 Road. He hopes that Community Centres will ensure that services be available for newcomers, that they would be sensitive of cultural issues, celebrate diversity, build understanding and awareness and support and assist youth.

The CWG had the opportunity to discuss with Mr. Sanghera how best to reach out to new immigrants. The discussion also included the issue of Cultural Competency, as mandated by the Provincial Government and the Ministry for Children and Families.

3.2 The Community Arts Council of Richmond (CACR) (Hand-out included in Agenda Package)

Tony Keen, Director of CACR, introduced the history of the Council, information on the board of directors, members and user groups, as well as highlights of 2003 and plans for 2004.

Mr. Keen spoke on the finances of the CACR and it's dependence on the Gift Shop as the primary source of revenue, as well as private grants, donations and member subscriptions. As the CACR does not receive cash grants from the City, they are ineligible to receive provincial grants. The City provides space in the Cultural Centre and maintenance services.

The CWG had the opportunity to ask questions at the conclusion of the presentation.

4. New Business

Cathy Volkering Carlile distributed two discussion papers *Municipal Responsibility for Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services* and *A Framework to Address Community Needs and Enhance Customer Service*. These discussion papers will be background information for the CWG meeting on January 24th. Cathy Volkering Carlile briefly reviewed the related issues identified by the City to be discussed at the January 24 meeting.

A proposed outline for the *Executive Report* to be submitted to the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Standing Committee and to City Council was distributed. This includes content expectations and a proposed timeline for the Community Working Group.

The Agenda for January 24 was distributed; the start time was discussed and agreed on as 8:00 am in order to allow CWG members to leave early to attend scheduled Chinese New Year events.

Bill McNulty enquired as to when the CWG would discuss finances. He expressed the City Council's interest in potential costs and asked if consideration would be given to researching any new revenue streams. Staff will address.

There may be potential time conflicts for the February 19 meeting; this will be addressed at the January 24 meeting.

Greg Buss extended an invitation to the opening of the Cambie Library on January 23.

Joann Wong Bittle extended Chinese New Year greetings to the group.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm