



PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES  
COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP

Held Wednesday November 19, 2003, 5:30 p.m.  
Council Chambers  
Richmond City Hall

**In Attendance:**

Working Group

Danielle Aldcorn  
Olive Bassett  
Nicky Byres  
Julie Halfnights  
Shawkat Hassan  
Jim Lamond  
Michael McCoy  
Bill McNulty

Sharon Meredith  
Vince Miele  
Greg Robertson  
Linda Shirley  
Harold Steves  
Jim Tanaka  
Kuo Wong

Facilitator

David Roach

Recorder

Mary Lou Phillips

Staff

Cathy Volkering Carlile  
Greg Buss  
Dave Semple  
Kate Sparrow

**Absent:**

Joann Wong Bittle  
Bob Ransford

**1. Opening Remarks**

David Roach welcomed the group and gave a brief intro. The members of the CWG introduced themselves to the assembled group of community presenters.

## 2. Stakeholder Presentations

**Minoru Seniors Society**          Jacob Braun, representing the Board of Directors (handout distributed)

Mr. Braun described the activities provided by Minoru Seniors Centre and how important they are to seniors in helping them to live productive, healthy lives and socialize with their peers.

- the importance of volunteers at the centre
- main concern is that several of the programs are booked to capacity.
- limited room for new programs. Daytime activities are booked solid.
- Society wants to be able to accommodate seniors who want to join.
- when asked about the increasing numbers of seniors in scooters, Mr. Braun stated there would be a space problem if there were a convergence of “scooter” people.

**Community Centres Association**          Nora Wright, George Atkinson - PowerPoint presentation  
(included in agenda package)

- liaison between the Community Centres and Minoru Seniors Centre varies from association to association.
- opportunity for volunteers improvement program to partner with volunteer Richmond
- Association financials are checked over by a C.A. at the end of the year.
- the most drastic result if the city were to take over would be no financial backing. The Community Associations would lose their sense of identity and ability to react to community needs.
- centres do not coordinate programs with the School Board; the School Board needs priority for their programs.

**Health & Wellness**          Diane Bissenden Community Health Nurse, Richmond Health Department  
(handout attached)

- serve people of all ages who live, work and play in Richmond, in government and private facilities, homes, schools, daycare, parks, etc.
- services are the responsibility of the whole community, government, places of worship, etc
- vision statement reflects goals of many health organizations in Richmond
- goals cannot be accomplished in isolation – must be in partnership, must strengthen existing partnership and develop new ones
- accessibility is an issue - more people are looking for help with health issues
- large component is volunteers; use volunteers for rotunda, clinics, childminding for prenatal classes
- When specific problems are identified, the school team of nurses work with families at community centres and child health clinics.

**Disability**          James Sullivan, Executive Director Richmond Disability Centre

- presented a report. with no questions arising from his presentation.

**Arts** Barbara Williams on behalf of Richmond Arts Strategy Committee (hard copy provided and distributed).

- the main concern of the arts strategy committee is a lack of performance space/stages.
- Gateway Theatre is often fully booked and the cost prohibits smaller groups from using the facility.
- space is available in the schools but the costs are pretty high.

**Richmond Sports Council** Bill Donaldson, Roger Barnes, Cheryl Dunham - PowerPoint presentation (hard copy provided and distributed).

- discussion about paying user fees to utilize a field, raising funds to establish a facility and amenities.
- want a centrally located outdoor sports facility, capable of hosting large-scale tournaments. Would attract economic benefits.
- Fundraising is difficult but the Sports Council had previously discussed the possibility of holding a raffle, similar to the hospital raffles.

**Environment** Lori Bartley, Nature Park (hard copy of presentation provided and distributed)

- Advisory Committee advises council on environment as it relates to development in the city, not with parks, recreation & cultural services or community groups.
- apart from the nature park, no other environmental group has a direct link.
- no specific program for planting native plants along the trails, this will be considered in Terra Nova natural area.
- City just completed planting native species on the Westminster Hwy Boulevard outside the Nature Park.

**RACA** Frank Claassen - RACA, Crichy Clarke - Richmond Ringette Assn.

- contrary to newspaper reports of declining hockey registration, enrolment is up
- the lease renewal hasn't been addressed by the City or RACA and is a concern

**RCSAC** Brian Wardley (PowerPoint presentation – hard copy included in agenda package)

- RSCAC is an umbrella organization, supporting the work of agencies delivering social services in Richmond.
- provide a variety of services, linking with groups as well as thousands of individual clients every year.

**Youth** Karen Adamson, South Arm Community Association (copy of presentation is attached)

- Karen spoke about the outcome of a focus group meeting with West Richmond, Cambie, South Arm and RADAT.
- Night Shift occurs at most of the major centres, generally on Friday nights. It is late evening programming that tries to bring in musical events. Night Shift coordinators work specifically on developing programs to bring kids in off the streets – provide safe, structured environment.
- Developing community partnerships with business to bridge financial constraints – can see partnering with retail organizations to devise partnership that is mutually beneficial
- To be effective, input and feedback must come from youth. Programs need to be generated by youth. There is a very strong relationship with youth group, coordinator and committee.
- There are issues on coordination and ability to move beyond the centre to ensure needs are met outside of the community centre.

**Aquatics** Rosemary Mundigel, Judy Pettifer - Aquatic Services Board (presentation included in agenda package)

- Addressed the concern that a number of classes are showing a wait list, suggesting expansion/replacement of current facilities at Steveston and Minoru.
- desire for another competitive swimming pool as well as recreational.
- during the building of Watermania, the competitive user groups contributed funds to enhance the competitive part of the pool.

**Heritage** Bob Mukai, President Richmond Museum Society (presentation attached)

- addressed the Museum Society's concerns that we are not doing enough to maintain, preserve and showcase our heritage.
- working on attracting school age children through curriculum but volunteers can only do so much – they need professionally trained staff to help.
- suggestion to approach seniors to talk to kids. Writing stories would also be a way to preserve heritage.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

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David Roach, Chair