

RICHMOND SPORTS COUNCIL
January 13, 2009 at 7 pm
Richmond City Hall
Meeting Room M.2.004

Present: Jim Lamond (Chair), Roger Barnes, Paul Alexander, Pat Weatherill
Bill Alexander, Annie Watson, Penny Talbot, Linda Leaming,
Aiman El Ramley, Fred Pawluk, Serj Sangara, Roy Lightfoot,
Bob Jackson, Don Fisher, Jack Hamilton, Terry Kehoe, Jeff Lightfoot,
Gary Rosval, Donna Marsland, Ivan Wong, Don Fennell, Michael Lok,
Jim Kojima, Eric Stepura, Paul Morizawa, Councillor Bill McNulty

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm.

Guests; John Mills, Neonila Lilova, Sean Davies

1. Approval of minutes dated December 9, 2008 (Pat Weatherill/Serj Sangara)
Carried.
2. Business arising from minutes – Nil.
3. John Mills – General Manager, Richmond Olympic Oval – John stated that he was excited at the opportunity to be General Manager as it is one of the finest sports facilities in the world for high performance athletes and where everyone can achieve their personal best. The Oval will be closed at the end of February for 3 weeks and again on December 1st for 4 months for the Olympics with refitting of the Oval being completed by late May or early June 2010. Sustainability will be a challenge in the future and fiscal responsibility is foremost.

Question and Answer period followed:

Will there be opportunities for baseball and softball practice? JM – need to look at the Conversion Plan for options and flexibility and would like to accommodate as many sports as possible. Should Sports Council have thoughts about the Conversion Plan, I would like to hear from you.

Gym access to the schools has been cut by 70% by the School Board for Softball is the Oval an option? JM – not sure this would fit in at present but would be prepared to look at it.

In baseball practice a space would be required 10ft x 60 ft for Batting Cages. JM – target is the height, would need to be looked at.

What is the completion time for the Conversion Plan? JM – less than two months. Building will be returned on April 1st after Olympics and will not necessarily be closed.

What is going inside the 200 metre track? JM – there have been lots of suggestions but nothing has been decided. *Is gymnastics being considered?*

What will be the availability for community use and how will the cost be determined for user groups? JM – there will be competitive rate but rates have not yet been determined. Interim rates at present for what is available.

Community groups from Richmond, would rates be different for Richmond groups as opposed to outside groups i.e. would Richmond group/ residents get a different rate than others? JM – this has not been discussed as yet but will take this suggestion under advisement.

Rod and Gun Club – would there be an area for Archery course and Air Gun range i.e. 40 ft each required? JM – suggested that a Wish List from Sports Council be submitted together with the suggestion of preferential rates for Richmond residents.

The issue of preferred rates and higher priority for Richmond residents/groups was stressed as this was very important to the community i.e. first three priorities would be 1.) discounted rates, 2.) access, 3.) transparency of decision making for the public.

Status of Sports Wall of Fame? A registration desk for Sports Council and staffed by Sports Council. A proposal has been submitted to Gerry DeCicco and nothing further had been heard. JM – will follow up with Gerry.

Any openings during the next 3 months for members of Sports Council groups to use the Oval from 4 pm to 9 pm? JM – please contact 778-296-1400 for information on availability.

When will the rates be decided i.e. timeframe? JM – it depends on the sport. Post games by May 2009.

Can a Sports Council meeting be arranged at the Oval? JM – would like to arrange in future.

No further questions - many thanks to John Mills for his attendance, John left the meeting at 7:30 pm.

Neonila Lilova – Economic Development Manager introduced by Roger Barnes. Neonila provided a brief overview of the history of the Tourism and Sports Tourism strategy and the involvement of Sports Council. An outline of the Sports

Hosting strategy was circulated for review by members and Neonila invited questions and feedback following her review of the key highlights. The proposed strategy would be going forward to General Purposes Committee on January 19, 2009. The strategy would cover the period 2009-2014 and would be for sports hosting and not sports tourism. It would be an opportunity to develop capacity and pursue and attract larger sports events to Richmond i.e. regional, national and international. There would be a Sports Hosting office established within the City (possibly at the Oval).

The Chair expressed his displeasure at Sports Council not having the opportunity to review the final document before going forward to Council for endorsement. considering that Sports Council had spent time working on this document. Neonila explained that there is potential funding from the hotel room tax from Tourism Richmond and timelines were critical. Again, Chair expressed frustration at the process and lack of consultation.

Motion:

That a letter be sent to the Mayor and Council in regard to the Sports Hosting Strategy and requesting Sports Council input prior to the final submission to Council.

Moved: Jim Kojima, Seconded: Ivan Wong, Carried. Unanimous.

Eric to arrange a meeting of the Sports Council sub committee to review the Sports Hosting strategy.

Neonila responded that the strategy was to establish the capacity within the City and over the next 5 years to promote Richmond as a premier sports hosting destination. The marketing and holding of the events is what the strategy is all about and is a concept only with the details to be developed later.

As there were no more questions, Neonila left the meeting at 8:20 pm.

Sean Davies – Winterfest – Sean provided a status update on the Winterfest planning and provided details of the two day event to be held on February 14 and 15, 2009. An invitation was extended to the sports groups to participate in this event. An information handout was circulated and it was confirmed that the theme of Winterfest would be Music, Mirth and Magic. A participant form and application form was also circulated. It was suggested that an information booth be set up and there would be no cost to the sports organizations.

No further questions – Sean left the meeting at 8:25 pm.

4. Council Report – Councillor Bill McNulty - Bill enquired if Sports Council members had received an invitation to the opening ceremonies of the Rmd Oval.

As no one had received an invitation, Bill stated he would take this up with George Duncan as it was a disgrace.

5. Staff Reports – Eric Stepura – Eric talked about the Canada Games Council meeting which had been hosted by Sports BC in regard to the 2015 Canada Winter Games. This was an information session and the bid process would begin in June 2009 with a deadline for submissions of August 7, 2009. Information has been supplied to Council and staff will work on researching if Richmond would meet the requirements for hosting such an event.

Eric confirmed that the Rugby trailer was now in place and should be hooked up by January 23, 2009. The weather had been a challenge in this process.

Women in Sports Conference will be held on Jan 22-24, 2009 at Richmond City Hall. Admission is free and there are 2/3 spots still available, anyone interested in attending to contact Eric directly.

Review of the 2009 City budget had been taking place and the facility rental and user fees could be increased 3/3.5%. Eric would like to meet with a small group of field user in order to establish the rates for 2009. It was noted that 3 months notice has to be served to the sports groups prior to implementation of any new rates.

6. Senior Games – Jim provided information on the Volunteer Rally to be held on Tuesday January 20, 2009 at Minoru Place. All facilities have been booked for the games and arrangements are proceeding smoothly.
7. Kidsport - Terry provided a status to date and confirmed that 90 applications had been received in 2008. Terry also reported that the Second Annual Perry's Prospects Super Camp held at the Richmond Oval had been very well received and 62 kids from Richmond had participated.
8. Richmond Oval – Oval gym times and fees reviewed by the Chair.
9. Round Table:
 - Futsal event was cost recovery
 - Evening times for basketball courts are available for rent
 - Inventory of trailer from Prince George Seniors Games now available
 - Gymnastics – one member to be part of the prep team for Games Canada
 - 18-23 yrs Junior Team Baseball – 16 players registered this week, Richmond is the first team ready to go
 - Registration for baseball, 200 people showed up including 20 new residents
 - Ethel Tibbets Awards, looking for nominations which are being accepted for Arts, Sports, Community and Fitness

- Richmond Sports Council Awards Dinner to be held April 30, 2009 and nominations will be accepted within the next 2 weeks
- Senior Soccer League – fields have improved considerably, thank you
- Seafair Minor Hockey – co hosted a food bank drive and raised \$1400 and hoping to make this an annual event, Midget Tournament winner
- Softball – bid on National event being considered
- Michael Lok introduced by Councillor McNulty – Michael expressed his concern at the number of martial arts schools in Richmond some of which are questionable (40) as there are no regulations in place. Michael has run his professional martial arts school for the past 13 yrs.
- Rmd Areans – upgrading of parking lot and new awnings. Wish List submitted as requested
- Kajaks – Annual 8 km icebreaker race on February 1st at 8:30 am
- Soccer – Provincial A Cup in July in Richmond
- Request for support of UFC at River Rock in Richmond. After discussion it was pointed out that the Sports Council only supports amateur sport and not professional sport. Tabled to February meeting.

No further business

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Nora Wright
Recording Secretary.