

RICHMOND SPORTS COUNCIL

December 8, 2009

7:00 pm

Richmond City Hall

Meeting Room M.2.004

Present: Jim Lamond (Chair), Roger Barnes, Annie Watson, Pat Weatherhill, Ivan Wong, Serj Sangara, Warren Karsgard, Dawna Sales, Gary Rosval, Terry Kehoe, Penny Talbot, Peter Mitchell, Fred Pawluk, Terry Rolfe, Bob Jackson, Don Fennell, Eric Stepura, Paul Morizawa, Gerry DeCicco, (City staff)

Guest: John Mills, Oval General Manager

1. Call to order at 7:01 pm
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of November meeting minutes as circulated - Moved: Pat Weatherill, Seconded: Gary Rosval, Carried.
4. Business arising from minutes:
 - Terry referred to his letter in regard to cuts to grant funding
 - Terry requested that the comments made to the MLAs be recorded and circulated to the MLAs in regard to how damaging the cuts were to the group collectively as it was critical for the MLAs to have a list of these comments
 - Roger circulated a list on the sports groups funding decreases with the total being reduced from 800,000 to 240,000. Richmond Therapeutic Equestrian Society would also like to be included within the sports groups
 - Bob confirmed that the total number of applications for Kidsport funding has risen from 90 to 190 with a result of cutting back on financial assistance to sporting groups. There is a need to find a way to fund Kidsport. No funding from Kidsport BC even though they fund raise in Richmond, Kidsport Richmond receives no benefit
 - Roger confirmed that he has all the contact information for the Ministers and the comments made to the MLAs at the last meeting should be sent directly to the ministry
 - Eric stated that Arts & Culture would also like Sports Council to write a letter on behalf of the groups that have been impacted by the gaming grant cuts
5. Council Report – Councillor Bill McNulty
 - On November 9th the Arts group came to the Parks & Recreation Committee re funding cuts and Council did write a letter on their behalf to the various ministers, MLAs and Premier on behalf of the funding cuts. Bill recommended that the Richmond Sports Council do the same as well as individual groups

- Council is preparing for the Olympics and Feb 9th is the Torch Run with groups in the community taking part
- There will be no council or committee meetings between Feb 9th and March 1st
- Has spoken with the Mayor in regard to the Kidsport grant and this will be brought forward for consideration in January 2010 or perhaps a little earlier
- Artificial turf for lawn bowling has been approved within the Capital Budget with funds coming from Casino revenue and Nelson Road interchange surplus
- Olympic tickets are available and encourage everyone to apply for them

6. Presentation by John Mills – Oval General Manager – 7:17 pm

Jim introduced John and referred to discussions that had taken place over the past 5 years with regard to community use in the Oval.

John reviewed and number of slides including:

- Oval objectives
- Strategy and Philosophy
- Strategy Defined
- Position Statement

John confirmed that advanced booking privileges and pricing should be available by the end of January 2010 and gave the following approximate rates for prime time which would be 5 pm to 10pm week days and 9 am to 10 pm weekends and holidays:

Dry floor space	\$70 per court per hour
Ice rates	\$250-280 per hour

A question arose in regard to advantages for Richmond groups over others and John responded that this would be the advanced booking privileges.

Benefits

- pre paid rentals receive discount
- corporate/commercial business i.e. special events etc – a way to share benefit with community organizations
- reminder that the Oval needs to be run as a business
- organizations can encourage their members to become Oval members, encourage young athletes
- training support for athletes
- non prime time use for schools and other opportunities for sports groups.

Legacy Conversion

- looking at a variety of configurations

- create as many opportunities as possible to make use of space

Round Table Question and Answer Period:

Bob - *Turf – how much space?*

John - *Not full size, not permanent can be flexible and modified.*

Bob - *Community has paid for the Oval and as a resident I would hope that the citizens of Richmond would have “first crack” and be reasonable enough for community group to make use of it. National sports group are being signed up. Community groups should be signed up first before national teams. Local people should have prime time before outside organizations take up space.*

Gary – *I will wait until the end of January for the price structure for my comments. Cannot afford rates (Batting cage use)*

Donna – *Volleyball programs can grow but cost will be a factor. Tremendous facilities available and having coaches available. Indoor sport looking forward to using the facility.*

Peter - *120M for the Oval and \$20M for land and no property taxes, this is a very large cost to the taxpayers.*

Annie: *-Is there an opportunity for sport hosting? Are regular groups going to be moved out when hosting large event?*

John – *there will be a threshold on the number of events so that disruption will be kept to a minimum, we are very sensitive to this dynamic. There needs to be a balance*

Annie - *Financial benefits of sports hosting would be a gain to the community. Gymnastic events can be held in the Oval but not a dedicated use. Could a club be in the Oval on a permanent basis.*

John – *permanent basis no, event yes.*

Serj: - *Excited for the opportunities for all sports. Softball and cricket have had input. Baseball academy are a corporate interest. Pricing policy should be lower rates for Richmond residents for memberships etc. If already a member are they still being charged while closed?*

John – *membership is suspended during closure and reactivated when opened*

Pat/Warren – *no comments.*

Terry: *4 yrs ago Richmond Sports Council proposed that their office should be located at the Oval to do administration and registration and have a common address which would bring the community into the Oval. This facility would be permanent and provide service and support for the sports groups and be a “win win” situation. This was never discussed any further*

Jim: *Richmond Sports Council would have had an office at the Oval and a mailing*

address for all groups. Gary Young was in discussion on this. Now we are going in a different direction and have had discussions on an office through the City and a permanent address.

Terry: Trophies and a display case was also suggested and a viewing space i.e. A Hall of Fame and this would bring people into the Oval.

John: This does not mean that this could not happen. The priorities are to find sponsors and recruit members as there is a need to establish the Oval financially and there are huge challenges ahead to generate revenue. This request is not a priority at present.

Sandra: No where to go to hold trials for lacrosse. Will there be removable for field lacrosse and boxes?

John: this is not an option but may be able to have some kind of training.

Sandra - Field Lacrosse needs a turf surface and we are using Sportstown at present at a cost of \$165 per hour.

John: Ice season has not been determined and the dry floor will probably be July and August but not decided at present.

Pat:- Is there a conversion time? Are groups going to get specific times for their sport?

John: All sports will be available with very little effort due to the amount of space and conversion is not a complicated process. We are trying to find ways to accommodate as many sports as possible.

Jim: A letter had been submitted by Frank Classen RACA in regard to ice time usage etc.

John: how would you like this to function? we are looking for a proposal.

Jim said he would discuss this letter later.

Seafair: *Subsidizing ice time at a lower rate for community groups – would City provide a revenue stream to make this happen? There has been a loss of gaming funds and escalating ice costs and it is not realistic to encourage membership as some families are struggling financially.*

John: This matter has been discussed at the Oval Board and asked Roger for his comments. Roger stated that he does not discuss Oval Board matters at Sports Council.

Fred: Is there a rate for use of the track? Any method of dealing with potential conflicts between runners and walkers?

John: Not discussed track as user basis. There are few models like the Oval so we cannot tell you at this stage but it should be worked out in 4 to 5 weeks. With walkers there are a variety of options that could include segmenting some track lanes and space around some of the sports i.e. walking paths.

Fred: Staff need to be there to control activities in different areas.

UBC Rowing Club – *incredible and a centre of excellence. Talent ID Program was suggested.*

Ivan: *no comment.*

Jim: Frank Classen from RACA had submitted a letter with his concerns and Jim read out the salient points raised.

Jim: *two thirds community and one third elite was the original promise
Richmond people need to have a break on pricing, questions have been asked repeatedly but no response received from staff.
Oval Corp should work with Rmd Sports Council groups, we should all work together
How much time is the community going to have?
Climbing wall – is this for the elite membership?
Have copies of minutes from 2005 where questions were raised, I sat on a stakeholders group and discussed with community. Cost is an issue for the community.*

John: No way would the oval compete with sports organizations, the Oval is to be complementary. RACA discussions have taken place with regard to programs. Community participation in programs develop in different ways. 80% of the current club members are residents of Richmond. High performance will not use the 20% of the time, this will not happen. They also use non prime time. High performance sports through GOT are contributing one third of the costs and the community is the beneficiary of this funding.

Jim: *Sports groups want to help the Oval and work with them rather than against them.*

John: After this first year, we now know the costs of operating the Oval and some of our pricing will reflect this as we have a better idea of costs now.

8:53 pm conclusion of presentation by John Mills.

Jim thanked John and Gerry for attending the meeting.

7. Facility Development – Eric Stepura – there will be two artificial bowling greens at Minoru Park with a contribution of \$350,000 from the City and \$50,000 from the Club. A grant for \$200,000 has been applied for also and should this grant not be approved then only one bowling green will be completed.

South Arm Master Plan approved which included the development in 2010 of 2 lit Basketball Courts. South Arm Community Association contributed \$300,000 in partnership with the City. As a result Dolphin Park may have lady members.

Final draft of the Richmond Sport for Life Strategy is near completion with 10 key goals between 2010 and 2015. A final review will take place shortly and then be brought forward to

the Parks & Recreation Committee for approval in January 2010. Feedback from the sports community will then take place before final ratification in the Spring of 2010.

8. Sports Hosting

Jim confirmed that Mike Romas was unable to attend the meeting, however, he is working on a key project which is the Hosting Grants Program. This will go forward to the Parks & Recreation Committee in January 2010 and then to the Richmond Sports Council for feedback before going forward to Council.

9. Kidsport

100% increase in applications and the grant application is yet to be considered by the City.

10. Trust Fund – Sammy will bring an update to the January meeting.

11. Correspondence – letter received from John Yap MLA with regard to his attendance at the last meeting.

12. Round Table

- Richmond Soccer held a Futsal Fiesta at the Oval, Boys and Girls Championships in April 2010, busy soccer hosting season
- \$1000 donated to Kidsport from Jimmy Ng Tournament
- Lacrosse now have a Junior A team
- Rowing club now in 3rd year of programs. Produced first Junior National medal. Targeting youth 17 yrs and beyond
- Ivan thanked everyone for their assistance in regard to the artificial bowling green especially Eric, Dave Semple, Councillor McNulty and Jim
- Dawna stated she would try to get a member to attend Richmond Sports Council meetings.

Next meeting: Tuesday January 12, 2010 in Meeting Room M.2.004 at Richmond City Hall.

Jim wished everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year.

Adjournment at 9:05 pm.

Nora Wright
Recording Secretary