



Corporate Report

NO: R104

COUNCIL DATE: June 16, 2008

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: Mayor & Council DATE: June 9, 2008
FROM: General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture FILE: 5000-01
SUBJECT: Invitation for Surrey to Host the BC Disability Games

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department recommends that Council:

1. Authorize staff to make a bid to host the BC Disability Games (the “Games”) in 2013; and
2. Authorize staff to make a financial commitment in the bid of \$20,000 plus \$20,000 of in-kind services toward hosting the Games as is required in the bid documentation.

BACKGROUND

In March 2008, the City of Surrey received an invitation from BC Disability Sports to submit a bid to host the BC Disability Games in either 2011 or 2013 (letter attached as Appendix A). These Games are held every two years. With the Olympic and Paralympic Games being the focus in 2010, staff are of the view that there will be a greater pool of volunteers available in 2013 to assist in such an initiative in comparison to 2011, the year following the Olympics. The Games in 2013 are to be held between July 3rd and July 6th. The deadline for the bid submission is September 15th, 2008.

A report on this issue was submitted to the May 21, 2008 meeting of the Parks & Community Services Committee. The Committee resolved to recommend to Council that the City of Surrey apply to host the 2013 BC Disability Games with funding as noted in the recommendation section of this report.

DISCUSSION

As a multi-disability/multi-sport provincial competition, the BC Disability Games provides developing athletes with a stepping-stone to prepare for higher levels of competition. The Games promote and encourage physical activity and achievement and has over 38 years of history in the province. Each BC Disability Games involves 300 to 400 participants from across the province and requires 400 to 500 volunteers to successfully stage.

If Surrey were successful in our bid submission, the \$20,000 contribution would be required in November 2012, 8 months prior to the Games. These resources would be utilized to deliver services necessary to set up the Games i.e. marketing, volunteer recruitment and on-site logistics. The \$20,000 for in-kind services would cover such expenses related to signage, site preparation of event venues, bleachers, etc.

The bid document also requires that the Host Community be prepared to employ a full time Operations Manager immediately preceding the Games to successfully manage the Games. Subject to a successful bid allocation, this will be included in the City's 2012/2013 Operating Budget.

The Government of BC, through the Ministry Responsible for Sport, will provide \$45,000 for the administration and operation of the Games. These provincial funds will cover general Games administration as well as food services and transportation for all participants in the host community. The cost of transporting participants to and from the Host Community is the responsibility of BC Disability Sports. Current policy is that 50% of the Host Community operating budget savings and 100% of souvenir sales are retained as a contribution to the community as a legacy, with the other 50% returned to BC Disability Sports to contribute to the on-going legacy of the Games.

Surrey has previously hosted the BC Disability Games in 1986 and 1998. These previous Games were very successful in raising awareness of the abilities of disabled persons and showcasing the City of Surrey as a sport tourism destination. The 1998 event demonstrated the ability of the City and community's volunteers to host a successful major Games.

The City has the capacity to support the Games through a wide variety of excellent venues for most sports that are part of the Games; however, some of the venues that will be necessary for hosting the Games are under the jurisdiction of the School District. As such, subject to Council approval of the recommendations of this report, staff will seek a resolution from School District #36 indicating their support for the bid and willingness to make their venues available to host the Games. Preliminary discussions with School District staff suggest that such a resolution would be forthcoming if the City made a request.

The City of Surrey also has the capacity to recruit sufficient volunteers for the Games by way of its Volunteer coordinator, which is a regular full time position, the City's central volunteer registry, which contains the names of several hundred individuals who have committed to being volunteers in support of City events and with many sports and community groups, who by past experience have always been willing to work with the City in providing volunteers in support of the Games.

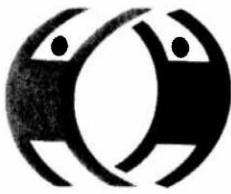
CONCLUSION

The City has the capacity to support the Games through a wide variety of excellent venues and a strong volunteer base. Hosting the BC Disability Games would create increased awareness of people with a disability as individuals, enhanced accessibility and new opportunities and experiences for everyone. The economic impact and high profile associated with hosting the Games will build on Surrey's success as a leader in sport tourism in the Province and generate positive publicity for the City of Surrey.

Laurie Cavan
General Manager,
Parks, Recreation and Culture

cc General Manager, Finance and Technology

Appendix A – Letter from BC Disability Sports



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Surrey, BC V3W 2V3
Phone (604) 598-7890
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BC Disability Sports
ABILITIES IN ACTION

www.disabilitysport.org

March 28, 2008

Joanne Reston
Support Services Manager Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services
14245 56 Avenue
Surrey BC V3X 3A2

Dear Ms. Reston,

RE: Bid Package Host 2011 or 2013 BC Disability Games

We are currently working with the communities of Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows for the 2009 BC Disability Games. At this time, we would like to invite your community to review the Bid Package enclosed and submit to host either the 2011 or 2013 BC Disability Games. The Games, now held biennially began in 1968 and attract from 300 - 400 participants from all parts of the province. The Surrey 1998 BC Disability Games were very successful and resulted in a great legacy for the sport community as well a large number of trained volunteers.

The BC Disability Games provide an opportunity for novice/recreational athletes to compete in an organized sport event which promotes personal excellence, physical fitness and community pride. As well, the Games enable elite athletes to qualify for national and international events, and serve as role models for other athletes and community members.

As a Host Community for the BC Disability Games you will experience enhanced awareness of the sporting achievements of athletes with a disability and the opportunity to promote civic pride in local athletes, coaches, officials and volunteers. The Games leave a lasting legacy of trained volunteers, improved accessibility to facilities, sport and recreation services and equipment for people with a disability.

The closing date for the return of completed packages is September 15, 2008. Please contact Jane Samletzki, Executive Director at 604 598 7891 should you have any questions regarding the bid process or content. On behalf of BC Disability Sports, thank you in advance for expressing an interest in hosting future Games and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane Samletzki". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Jane Samletzki
Executive Director

Encl. Bid Package