



Corporate NO: R009

Report COUNCIL DATE: January 17, 2000_

REGULAR

TO: Mayor & Council **DATE: January 13, 2000**

FROM: General Manager, **FILE: 0042-071**
Parks, Recreation and Culture

SUBJECT: Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission By-law - Eligibility to Serve as Chair and Deputy Chair

RECOMMENDATION

1. It is recommended that Council amend the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission By-law No. 13663 in Section 8, Paragraph 1 to allow all members of the Commission to be eligible to serve as chair and deputy chair, as outlined in Option 3 in this report.
2. That Council instruct the City Clerk to introduce an amending By-law to allow Recommendation 1. (above) to proceed.

INTENT

In December of 1999, the Mayor appointed a Councillor as the Council Liaison to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department. To this end, we have reviewed the existing Commission By-law with respect to any limitations that it might impose on the new Council Liaison position. The intent of this report is to recommend changes to the Commission By-law in this regard.

BACKGROUND

The current Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission By-law No. 13663 was approved by Council on March 1st, 1999 after a review process of similar by-laws in British Columbia by a sub-committee of the Commission.

The current Section 8, paragraph 1 calls for the selection of a chair and deputy chair at the first meeting in January each year, but stipulates that these positions be filled only from the six Council-appointed citizen

members 'who shall not be a member of Council or School Board'. The actual wording of the section is:

8. (1) The Commission shall, at its first meeting in January of each year, appoint one of its members, who shall not be a member of Council or School Board, as Chair and a second as Deputy Chair. The Chair shall preside at the meetings of the Commission, when present, and in the absence of the Chair, the Deputy Chair shall preside. The Commission shall, at the same meeting, appoint a Secretary (ex officio).

DISCUSSION

Practices vary from one municipality to the next in terms of how the chair of commissions or advisory committees are selected. In some cases, the chair is directly appointed by Council and is normally the liaison member of Council to the committee; the deputy chair role is then selected from citizen representatives. In other cases, the chair is elected by the membership of the commission or committee. In this scenario, eligibility is either open to everyone or is restricted to citizen appointees.

In the Municipality of Delta, the City of Coquitlam and the City of New Westminster, the Mayor appoints the Chair of the Committee. In the Township of Langley, the District of West Vancouver and the City of Burnaby, the Chair of the Commission may only be appointed from citizen representatives, as is currently the case in Surrey. Richmond, Vancouver and the District of North Vancouver operate under entirely different models.

In the City of Surrey, the only other Commission is the Heritage Advisory Commission, where the Chair is appointed by the Mayor.

Options: The options available to Council are:

1. **Retain Existing By-law** - This restricts eligibility to the six citizen members to serve as chair or deputy chair, but allows all other members to vote (other than those nominated).
2. **Commission Selects a Chair from all Members** - The phrase "who shall not be a member of Council or School Board" would need to be removed from Section 8, paragraph 1, but still allows for the chair and deputy chair to be elected by the Commission members, with all nine members eligible.
3. **Council Appoints the Chair** - The Chair would appoint the Deputy Chair from the Commission membership.

Timing of Report and Impact on 2000 Commission Chair Position

Consideration of this report is requested at this time so that council's direction can be considered at the first Regular meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission scheduled for January 19, 2000. If the recommendations of this Report are accepted by Council, the amending by-law will have received first through third readings, but will not have had fourth reading and adoption. Therefore, an interim Chair will be need to be appointed by the Commission on January 19, with that Chair being selected only from amongst the citizen appointees of the Commission.

SUMMARY

The current Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission By-law restricts eligibility for serving as Chair and Deputy Chair to the six citizen members. While this emphasizes the important role that citizens play in

community leadership, it restricts eligibility to only two-thirds of the membership. It is recommended that Council consider an amendment to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission By-law No. 13663 in Section 8, paragraph 1 to allow all members of the Commission to be eligible to serve as chair and deputy chair and that the chair be a Council appointee.

Don Hunter, General Manager

Parks, Recreation and Culture