



Council Member Report

For the Governance & Priorities Committee Meeting of April 23, 2015

Date: April 22, 2015

From: Mayor Helps & Councillor Coleman

Subject: 2022 Commonwealth Games – Alternative/Back-up Host Role

Background:

At its March 12 GPC meeting, Mayor Helps shared, & Council discussed, a letter from David Black regarding the concept of offering the Greater Victoria region as a “back up” host site for the 2022 Commonwealth Games.....should Durban, South Africa, be unable or unwilling to proceed with its bid. Council took the following action:

“It was moved by Councillor Isitt, seconded by Councillor Young that the Committee recommends that Council:

- 1) Request that additional information be provided on the financial implications of the City of Victoria acting as an alternate host of the 2022 Commonwealth Games,
- 2) This motion be considered at the Council meeting of March 12, 2015:

Committee discussed:

- Concerns regarding the cost of security and if the games would be financially viable.
- If substantial upgrades will need to be considered and what the enduring legacy to the City would be.”

As an initial follow up, Mayor Helps & Councillor Coleman attended a luncheon meeting hosted by Mr. Black, along with Chris Causton and Ken Shields. Also in attendance were regional elected representatives from Sooke, Metchosin, Colwood, Langford, Highlands, Central Saanich, Sidney, Esquimalt, and Oak Bay. The discussion on the issue of acting as an alternate host site for the 2022 Commonwealth Games remained at “the 30,000 foot” level and focused on two general areas:

- a) What new facilities (or facility upgrades) would be needed?, and;
- b) What will be the “international security needs” (& costs thereof)?

No specific answers were expected, but the importance of these two areas of concern were recognized by all attending. There was a general belief that such an enterprise could be supported with little new facility construction.....but there may be need of some significant facility upgrades throughout the region. Greater concern was focused on the complexity of the international security needs & related costs.

There was, however, a general feeling that such an initiative was a worthy one & it would be an appropriate first step to send a jointly endorsed letter to that effect, to the President of the

Commonwealth Games Foundation. Should an initial response to the letter be positive, more investigation would be required to address the financial aspects.

Options:

- 1) Council endorse the request that the Mayor sign the letter (attached);
- 2) Council amend the letter and share it with the other regional municipalities before the Mayor signs it;
- 3) Council decline the request to have the Mayor sign the letter.

Respectfully submitted



Mayor Lisa Helps



Councillor Chris Coleman

April 7, 2015

HRH Prince Imran, President Commonwealth Games Federation
CAN Mezzanine
49-51 East Road
London N1 6AH
United Kingdom

Dear Sir,

We understand that Durban SA is the only bidder for the 2022 Commonwealth Games. Victoria BC would like to be considered as an alternative host in the event Durban is unable or unwilling to proceed with its bid. We were thrilled to host the Games in Greater Victoria in 1994 and would be keen to repeat the experience.

We want to be clear that we are not proposing to host because of any worry that Durban would do a poor job. South Africa is a sporting powerhouse. It has hosted many international sports events over the years and done a marvelous job. Having the Games in Africa for the first time would be inclusive and appropriate for the Commonwealth. Furthermore, Commonwealth Games Canada wants the Games to go to Durban, as do we. However, we understand that every organisation needs backup plans. Both Christchurch and Edinburgh put their names forward as possible backups when we held the Games and we would be honoured to do the same for Durban.

If we were to host the Games, we would agree to staging the core sports of Aquatics (Swimming & Diving), Badminton, Field Hockey, Netball (Women), Squash, Athletics, Boxing (Men), Lawn Bowls, Rugby 7s (Men), and Weightlifting. In addition we would consider host-selecting a wide variety of sports, some of which would likely include Rowing, Shooting, Table Tennis, Tennis, Gymnastics, Wrestling, Archery, Cycling (Road, Mountain), and Triathlon.

Signed by:

Signature

Signature

Signature

Signature

Lisa Helps, Mayor of Victoria

Steve Price, Mayor of Sidney

Ken Williams, Mayor of Highlands

Carol Hamilton, Mayor of Colwood

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Nils Jensen, Mayor of Oak Bay

Barbara Desjardins, Mayor of Esquimalt

Maja Tait, Mayor of Sooke

Ryan Windsor, Mayor of Central Saanich

Stewart Young, Mayor of Langford

Alice Finall, Mayor of North Saanich

David Screech, Mayor of View Royal

Richard Atwell, Mayor of Saanich

John Ranns, Mayor of Metchosin
