



City of Surrey

Parks & Community Services Committee

Minutes

Annex Boardroom
7452 - 132 Street
Surrey, B.C.
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2005
Time: 7:00 p.m.

Present:

Chairperson: Councillor Tymoschuk
N. Beuk
S. Chima
S. Dhaliwal
R. Soares
Councillor Higginbotham
Councillor Villeneuve

Regrets:

M. Martin

School Board Trustee:

P. Glass

Also Present:

L. Cavan, General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture
O. Croy, Manager of Parks
S. McKinnon, Manager Arts & Community Development Services
B. Sommer, Manager, Heritage Services
J. McLeod, Manager Long Range Planning & Policy Development
K. Swaele, Legislative Service

The Chair welcomed the returning members of the Committee and the new members. The members of the Committee and senior staff introduced themselves for the benefit of the new members.

Ramona Soares arrived 7:03 p.m.

A. ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR

The Chair called for nominations for Deputy Chair of the Parks & Community Services Committee.

It was Moved by Trustee Glass
Seconded by S. Dhaliwal
That Mary Martin be nominated for Deputy
Chair of the Parks & Community Services Committee.
Carried

There being no further nominations, Mary Martin was acclaimed as Deputy Chair of the Parks & Community Services Committee.

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Parks & Community Services Committee Minutes - November 17, 2004.

It was Moved by Councillor Higginbotham
Seconded by S. Chima
That the minutes of the Parks & Community
Services Committee meeting held on November 17, 2004, be adopted.
Carried

C. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. Parks & Community Services Planning Meeting November 24, 2004

The Chair provided a brief overview of the Planning Meeting held November 24, 2004, and noted the value of the meeting in providing direction for the Parks & Community Services Committee.

The Chair commented:

- That the Planning meeting held on November 24, 2004 had helped clarify the role of the Committee.
- That the Committee needs to be clear in providing recommendations and this can be done through motions to Council.
- That Council reads Committee minutes and takes recommendations into consideration when it comes time to make decisions.
- That the agenda has been revamped to address Committee recommendations and provide members with an arena to bring forward recommendations or concerns which they receive from their own area of expertise or from the community.

Councillor Villeneuve arrived 7:14 p.m.

The Chair continued:

- That motions to Council will formalize the actions and recommendations of the Committee.
- That the Committee will hear delegations from the community who want the Committee to make recommendations for staff or Council to act upon.

D. DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations.

E. STAFF PRESENTATION

1. Family and Community Programming in Whalley

Before the presentation, the Committee noted:

- That the proposed development of five 36-storey residential towers in the City Centre will be a definite asset to the City.
- That it is excellent timing for a project of this magnitude and adds impetus to the work being done by the City to revitalize the area.
- That Central City is completely leased out, and the City Core is now being realized.

Lisa White, Acting Manager of Community and Leisure Services invited the Committee to make recommendations to staff regarding community connections

and initiatives. She provided an update on the Whalley Revitalization Strategy, which noted the following program initiatives:

- North Surrey Host Initiative – rather than using security guards, they are using Recreation Attendants who have security training.
- That the Recreation Attendants welcome patrons into a positive, clean, safe, friendly environment to enjoy recreational activities, and assist with directions to locate program and services.
- Whalley Value Guide highlighting affordable recreation opportunities.
- Special Events such as Friday Fun Night, Food and Cultural Event, Breakfast and Fishing at Green Timbers, Music and Barbeque, Harvest Fair.
- Preschool LifeStyle Series Parenting for parents between the ages of 18 and 30 and is a partnership program with Oak Avenue Neighbourhood and South Fraser Community Services.
- That the Preschool LifeStyle Series is now into its third year, and provides activities for the parents as well.
- Preschool Phonics First, which is a kindergarten readiness program to support young children and their families.
- That the Preschool Phonics First program runs from February to June and children go to school every day for 2 hours so that they are better prepared for kindergarten in the fall.
- That the Preschool Phonics First program began in Bridgeview and will be expanded to other schools in Whalley, in partnership with the School District.
- Children's Programs such as Kids in Motion, After School Value Programs, Value added Summer Day Camps at Tom Binnie.
- That they have after school programs in all schools in Whalley except one, which has its own program.
- Youth Programs including Youth Food nights – Skateboard Outreach, Youth/girls only programs (fitness), Value Co-ed skateboarding, cooking, sports, pre-teens drop in.
- That Youth Food nights were held several nights in December and were very popular.
- Adult and Family Fitness including women's only swims, swimming lessons, weight room and leisure swimming and free drop-in swimming lessons for adults and kids.
- That the free drop-in swimming lessons occur every Saturday from 6 to 8 and are proving to be very successful.
- Seniors Outreach including the Great Canadian Grill, Seniors Foundation Appreciation Barbeque, and partnership with Ted Kuhn Towers Chair Fitness outreach classes.

The Acting Manager of Community and Leisure Services noted that there were 434 Seniors members in 2004, including 88 new members. She continued that Community Development Services include:

- The Community Art Matching-Fund Program (CAMP) which completed two projects in 2004 – one at Bridgeview “Building Bridges” and the City Centre Project “Convergence”.
- Community Spirit Building Events, which were held in Cedar Hills, Bolivar

Heights and City Centre.

The Acting Manager of Community and Leisure Services advised that partners for Community Spirit Building Events (Neighbourhood Celebrations) included Whalley Community Association, Surry RCMP, Central City Shopping Centre, North Surrey Lions, Whalley Library, Kla-how-eya Aboriginal Centre and local schools and businesses.

The Acting Manager of Community and Leisure Services advised that new partnerships are being made every day, which allows them to continue to expand services to the community.

The Acting Manager of Community and Leisure Services concluded by noting that they have welcomed over 6,000 additional participants into the new programs and events. The resources given to the Whalley 2004 operating budget enabled them to continue to offer the core programs and services in the Community as well as develop initiate and implement all of the great new initiatives.

In response to questions, staff commented:

- That the partnership with the Bridgeview Community School has been very successful.
- That the Parks, Recreation & Culture Department has a variety of program opportunities for children with disabilities, and that the Volunteer Services Section recruits leisure buddies to work with these children.
- That wherever possible they try to have children with disabilities integrated into regular programs.
- That the department is not trying to replace any of the school programs, but has taken a decentralized approach to enhance programs and provide more services for the benefit of the students.

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. Rotary Field House, South Surrey Athletic Park

Trustee Glass declared that she has a conflict as she is past president of the Rotary Club. She advised that she would not discuss or vote on the matter.

The Manager of Parks was recommending:

1. That the Parks and Community Services Committee receive the memorandum on the Rotary Field House, South Surrey Athletic Park, for information.
2. That the Parks and Community Services Committee provide comment and advice to staff in order that a report to Council can be written relative to the issues presented in this memorandum, concerning the Rotary Field House, South Surrey Athletic Park.

The Manager of Parks reviewed the history of the Rotary Field House in South

Surrey Athletic Park, and noted:

- That when the South Surrey Athletic Park was designed, a washroom/changeroom building was not initially included to service the needs of users.
- That following meetings with the athletic community and with local rotary clubs, the South Surrey Rotary Fieldhouse Society was formed to work towards a more substantial facility.
- That the South Surrey Rotary Fieldhouse Society included the following clubs/associations:
 - White Rock Rotary Club
 - Semiahmoo Rotary Club
 - Peace Arch Soccer
 - Semiahmoo Old Boys Soccer
 - South Surrey Eagles Hockey
 - Bayside Rugby Football Club
 - Semiahmoo Soccer
- That the Society developed plans for a facility that was scaled back somewhat because projected costs were beyond the Society's ability to fund raise in time for a construction start date.
- That the City of Surrey Council temporarily front-ended a funding shortfall on the project of \$100,000, which was to be repaid within two years.
- That the facility was completed in March 1999, but cost over-runs covered by the City, together with the borrowing of the \$100,000 resulted in the Society owing the City \$262,322.
- That since the facility was built the Fieldhouse Society has made good use of the facility, offering it up for rent for community functions.
- The original business plan did not anticipate debt repayment.
- That the South Surrey Rotary Fieldhouse Society has worked hard to repay the money, but the facility bookings do not allow a sufficient profit to help repay the debt at the rate contemplated by Council, and they have only been able to contribute \$14,600 towards debt reduction over the last four years.
- That staff have had discussions with the Society regarding the outstanding debt and have developed three possible options:

Continue Operating as at Present Time, With an Effort to Repay Some Portion of the Debt Each Year

- The present arrangement does not burden the City with annual operating costs.
- The Society might generate some satisfaction that it is honoring its original commitment by making an effort to retire the debt over time.

Write Off Debt, Society to Continue Operating the Fieldhouse

- The Society would have less concern that they are not meeting their commitments and be able to move ahead positively with other community projects.
- That this may give rise to a perception in other parts of the community that the original groups and the Society had not honored their commitment and erode

the confidence of the City in future partnerships with non-profit groups.

- That the City might be in a better position to negotiate for greater City access to the facility to meet other community programming needs.

City to Operate Facility

- The City would assume an additional annual operating expense slightly in excess of \$10,000, for a total net operating deficit of about \$16,000.
- That the City would have slightly greater flexibility in programming to meet community needs.
- The City would make meeting space available to the different sport associations and service clubs at either no cost or a discount rate, taking into consideration the original capital contributions of the various groups.

Staff noted:

- That the Rotary Fieldhouse Society has made a valuable contribution to the community and that it would be beneficial to have them continue to operate the facility.
- That the City would not provide substantially better facility management or make more money.
- That the issue is how the City will handle the debt situation.
- That staff could negotiate some hours of access into the lease agreement.
- That additional hours of access would allow the City to more actively use the facility for City programs if there is an opportunity or need in the community.
- That the original idea of having the Rotary Fieldhouse Society manage the facility was that the Society would pay the full amount less the City's contribution.
- That it must be remembered that this is not a facility operated by the Rotary Club, but by the Rotary Fieldhouse Society, which includes other local organizations.

The Parks & Community Services Committee discussed the issue of the debt for the Rotary Field House Society and commented:

- That the facility is well managed and maintained.
- That it is a community facility operated by a community group, without a substantial subsidy from the City.
- That because it is a community facility, it may be more practical to write the debt off.
- That having the group operate the facility does not add any burden to the City.
- That the money has not been paid in 6 years, and it is unlikely that it will be paid.
- That it may not be beneficial to write off the entire debt, and perhaps some sort of agreeable alternative can be worked out.
- That staff should look at ways to sit down with the Executive of the Society and work out a reasonable payment alternative with a reasonable length of time.
- That with a negotiated reduction in the debt, the Society could have specific

fundraisers targeted towards that debt.

- That other organizations need to know that they have a commitment to their debt and that it will not simply be written off.
- That staff should look at obtaining greater access to the building for programs.
- That all groups using the facility should pay rent, with consideration given to their initial financial contribution.

It was

Moved by Councillor Higginbotham

Seconded by S. Chima

That the Parks & Community Services

Committee recommend to Council that staff be directed bring a report back to the February meeting of the Parks & Community Services Committee based on the comments received from the Committee; and

That members of the South Surrey Rotary Fieldhouse Society be present at the meeting to answer any questions that may arise; and

That following the meeting staff prepare a report for Council on the outstanding debt of the South Surrey Rotary Fieldhouse Society, which will include recommendations and comments from the Parks & Community Services Committee.

Carried

2. Field Allocation Policy

The Manager, Business Operations and Athletic Fields recommended:

1. That the Committee receive the memorandum as background information.
2. That the Committee provide comment and advice to staff to increase the value and effectiveness of the *Outdoor Facility Allocation & Management Policy* for community sport organizations, with the intent that staff would bring back a newly revised policy for final review at the February meeting of the Committee

The General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture commented that periodically the City evaluates how it does business and whether systems are fair and equitable. She noted that they have looked at the field allocation process and benchmarked this with other organizations.

The General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture continued that a comparison done with the City of Surrey policy was very positive given the number of users on City sportsfields of 35,000 Surrey-based athletes and over 100,000 athletes from surrounding communities, other provinces and countries.

The report from the Manager, Business Operations & Field Allocation noted:

- That the City maintains, operates and allocates 220 sportsfields.
- That utilization of sportsfields is guided by the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department's *Outdoor Facility Allocation & Management Policy*.

- That it is a challenging process to allocate fields but it is a fair process.
- That staff consult regularly with the *Outdoor Sport Advisory Committee* (OSAC), which is made up of representatives from the various sport organizations that use city outdoor athletic facilities.
- That based on feedback from OSAC, revisions are made on an ongoing basis to ensure that Surrey's Policy continues to meet the needs of the changing sport environment in Surrey.
- That a review was conducted of eleven municipal athletic field allocation policies and compared against Surrey's Policy.
- That it was found that there is a fairly close alignment of values and allocation criteria amongst municipalities.
- That it is apparent that Surrey has the largest and most detailed Allocation Policy of the respondent cities.
- That intense competition for field resources has given rise to a Policy that relies heavily on the objectivity of a mathematical approach to measuring the relative needs of applicant associations.
- That field allocations are adjusted on an annual basis as the size of the various associations change due to demographics.
- That Surrey is the only municipality in the survey that has a policy that formally recognizes a "home field" component to the field allocation process.
- That the homefield element is intended to encourage stewardship of facilities has resulted in improved management of sportsfields, increased investment of volunteer time, and increased funds towards maintenance and renovation of athletic fields.
- That Surrey's Policy is built around equitable access to facilities and a concept that all Surrey-based athletes should receive the same level of access to City sportsfields.
- That more than 70% of the City's sportsfield users are youth athletes because community sport associations are made up mostly of youth leagues.

In response to questions staff stated:

- That City of Surrey sports fields are heavily utilized.
- That there are a number of sports now played all year such as field hockey, field lacrosse and rugby.
- That there is a definite trend towards year-round sports and staff is dealing with a greater number of sports driven at the Provincial or Regional level.
- That the model in Surrey is different in that there is very little allocation to adult-only teams, as it is mostly adult teams within youth leagues.
- That once youth have moved through the youth ranks they can graduate onto adult teams.
- That staff attempt to ensure that all get an opportunity to play.
- That a soccer field and ball diamond were being constructed at Hillcrest School/Park in 2005 and that an additional soccer field and ball diamond were also being constructed at the North Cloverdale West park site in 2005.
- That the new sportsfields will be available for play in 2006 if the construction and seeding are completed by the fall of 2005.
- That a synthetic turf field will be constructed at South Surrey Athletic Park in 2005.

G. STAFF VERBAL REPORTS – DELIVERY OF SERVICES

The General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture provided the following report:

1. Violet Moore Irish Dance Festival

The Violet Moore Irish Dance Festival was held at Guildford Recreation Centre on December 11 and 12, 2004. The event was very successful with 600 competitors from the Lower Mainland, Western BC, Washington and California. The Festival is booked again for 2005.

2. Whalley Community Festival Committee

The Whalley Business Improvement Area has awarded the Whalley Community Festival Committee \$10,000 towards the 2005 Festival, which is scheduled for June.

3. Kids Who Cook

This is a collaborative program with DASH/Breakfast Learning, School District 36 and Fraser Health and Surrey, Parks, Recreation & Culture. The program has received a grant of \$17,000 from the Health Authority to support the program in 6 schools in Whalley, Newton and Guildford and teaches healthy cooking and eating habits as well as active living.

4. Third Annual Wellness Fair

The Third Annual Wellness Fair will be held at Guildford Recreation Centre, Saturday, January 29 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

5. Surrey Museum & Archives

The Surrey Museum & Archives are now closed to the public while staff are moving and dismantling exhibits and planning the strategy for packing the collections to be moved into the new facility in June – August.

6. Historic Stewart Farm and Hooser Weaving Centre

The Historic Stewart Farm and Hooser Weaving Centre will reopen on February 15 and be open Tuesday – Fridays 10 to 4 and Saturday and Sunday 12 to 4.

7. Vancouver Foundation Community Projects

Shaw Cable is filming a program series about the Vancouver Foundation community projects and has selected the Surrey Museum as one highlight of their grant program. The Vancouver Foundation provided a grant of \$55,000 towards the acquisition of theatre seating, AV equipment and program room furnishings.

8. Grant – Cultural Spaces Canada

Heritage Services has received a grant from Cultural Spaces Canada (Department of Canadian Heritage) of \$84,000 to match the City capital budget contributions towards the building renovation of the 1912 municipal hall and equipment acquisition for the Archives operations.

9. Surrey Children's Festival

The Surrey Children's Festival will be held June 2 to 4 and some very positive corporate sponsorships are being confirmed. Announcements will be available in the next few weeks.

10. Plan for the Social Well-Being of Surrey Residents

The Manager, Long Range Planning & Policy Development reported that open houses/workshops will be held with the community on February 8, 9, 10, 15 and 16. Members of the Parks & Community Services Committee are invited to attend.

The Manager, Long Range Planning & Policy Development noted that the consultant has identified five social issue areas: Housing and Homelessness, Substance Abuse and Addictions, Children & Youth, Community Development and Diversity, and Crime and Public Safety. She continued:

- That advertising will be placed in local newspapers twice a week throughout the time of the seminars.
- That they are contacting a list of stakeholders and have a list of agencies that will be contacted through email.
- That they have identified youth as an issue and they are working through the Parks & Recreation Department to develop a session strictly for youth.

The Parks & Community Services Committee suggested:

- That the website be utilized to develop a simple questionnaire to obtain feedback from the community.
- That the schools also be contacted to participate in the youth forum.

H. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

1. Premier Baseball League – Stetson Bowl Proposal

Letter from Premier Baseball League and response from City Clerk concerning request to appear before Council to present a proposal to reclaim the Stetson Bowl for year-round use for baseball and as a training center for youth baseball.

Note: Council directed that the League be heard at the Parks & Community Services Committee, and will appear at the February 16 or March 16, 2005 meeting.

I. CORRESPONDENCE

J. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. William F. Davidson Elementary and Lionel Courchene Park –Traffic & Parking

Letter from Laurel Stanley, PAC President William F. Davidson Elementary School, and response from General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture; and

Copy of Memorandum from General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture to Chair, Traffic Advisory Committee regarding traffic and parking at William F. Davidson Elementary School and Lionel Courchene Park.

2. William F. Davidson Elementary and Lionel Courchene Park –Traffic & Parking

Information memorandum from Manager Civic Buildings and Park Facilities providing background on Lionel Courchene Park and noting that no construction is planned for Lionel Courchene Park at this time because the park is fully developed. The City is focusing on park and facility development in neighbourhoods without park amenities, and once these are addressed and funds are allocated, a Joint-Use Agreement with the School District will be formed to further develop Lionel Courchene Park in the future.

3. 2004 Landscape Award of Excellence – Fleetwood Park Gardens

Memorandum from the General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture advising that the City of Surrey has been awarded the 2004 Landscape Award of Excellence for the new Fleetwood Park Gardens. The award is sponsored by the British Columbia Landscape & Nursery Association, and recognizes skills, innovation and expertise of the landscape industry. The City of Surrey's Fleetwood Park Gardens won in the Public Gardens category in recognition of the high quality of design and outstanding use of a broad selection of plants.

The Parks & Community Services Committee extended congratulations to all staff involved in Fleetwood Park Gardens and noted that this is a major accomplishment.

K. EMERGING PRIORITIES/POLICY DISCUSSION

The Chair commented that the purpose of this agenda item is for the Parks & Community Service Committee members to bring up issues or ideas from the community which provide new direction in programs, services, or items that need to be looked at.

In response to a question from Trustee Glass that the Joint Use Agreement with the School District should be brought forward on the work plan, staff agreed to bring background information and history on the Agreement to the February meeting of the Committee.

Councillor Higginbotham suggested that during renovations to the City Hall, consideration be given to having an arch or chapel placed in the gardens for non-denominational civil weddings. The City gardens are presently used for wedding photographs, a caterer is located by the Pond, and with construction of a small chapel, weddings could be held entirely on site.

L. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

Councillor Higginbotham noted that GVRD Parks would be holding a meeting February 9 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Sheraton Guildford to discuss a training academy for golf. There are 2 or 3 proponents who are interested and are looking at PGA caliber golf and a commercial operation.

M. NEXT MEETING(S)

The next meeting of the Parks & Community Services Committee is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. February 16, 2005.

The proposed schedule of meetings for 2005 is as follows:

February 16
March 16
April 20
May 18
June 15
July 20
August – no meeting
September 21
October 19
November 16
December – to be determined

N. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Pam Glass
Seconded by S. Chima
That the Parks and Community Services

Committee meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Parks and Community Services Committee adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Margaret Jones, City Clerk

Councillor G. Tymoschuk, Chairperson
Parks & Community Services Committee