



City of Surrey

Parks & Community Services Committee

Notes

Annex Boardroom
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2005
Time: 7:00 p.m.

Present:

Chairperson: Councillor Tymoschuk
S. Chima
S. Dhaliwal

Absent:

N. Beuk
M. Martin
R. Soares
Councillor Higginbotham
Councillor Villeneuve

Also Present:

L. Cavan, General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture
J. McLeod, Manager Long Range Planning & Policy Development
O. Croy, Manager, Parks
J. Lamontagne, Manager, Planning, Research & Design
C. Bonneville, Administrative Assistant, Legislative Service

School Board Trustee:

P. Glass

The Chair advised that quorum for the meeting has not been achieved therefore notes will be taken and no motions passed.

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The Chair requested that the minutes of January 26, 2005 be deferred to the next agenda of the Parks & Community Services Committee (P&CSC).

B. DELEGATION

1. Premier Baseball League – Stetson Bowl Proposal

Mr. C. Inouye, Executive Director of Premier Baseball League presented a proposal to reclaim the Stetson Bowl (SB) for year-round use for baseball and as a training center for youth baseball. He introduced other members present as Mr. Murray Gage-Cole, Director of Premier Baseball League (PBL), 40 years experience with the league; Mr. Nick Daconney, responsible for web design and communication issues.

Mr. Inouye stated the following during his presentation:

- The Premier Baseball Association (PBA) supports programs of eighteen teams in BC and Alberta, and has completed ten years of competition.
- For the upcoming season starting in March 2005, twelve high school teams all from BC, and six college teams will compete against BC and Alberta teams.
- The PBA would like to establish a partnership with the City of Surrey to reclaim/upgrade the SB facility to bring baseball back to this site on a year-round basis, and also to provide the PBA with a home field to sponsor league events. Having baseball back in the SB will have many positive spin-offs for the City of Surrey, including:
 - The SB would be used for what it was constructed – baseball. This can be made possible within a very short time frame and will address the needs of youth and community groups in the area.

- The SB will become the only first class venue in the province where special games and tournaments as in international competition can be hosted. Nat Bailey Stadium, the only other facility where professional baseball is played, will be torn down to make space for an Olympic facility.
- The SB will become the site of many major baseball and cultural events hosted by community groups, which will have a positive economic impact for Surrey and the province.
- The SB partnership with the PBA would provide some financial support to the City of Surrey to assist with the upgrading of this facility.
- The return of baseball to the SB will address and support youth in Surrey and other community organizations in the following ways:
 - The SB, when upgraded, will provide a first class baseball facility for use by teams, youth and community groups in the area.
 - The SB will provide a year-round baseball training facility for youth and teams in the area.
 - The SB will provide a first class tournament facility for teams to host special tournament such as the “Nationals”.
 - The SB will provide teams in the area a field for fall baseball as many fields are converted for soccer, football, or rugby at this time of year.
 - The SB will provide community groups a venue to host events that require spectator seating and which will not result in damage to the baseball field. Examples of such events could be: musical concerts, dogs shows, kabaddi, Frisbee football, etc.
 - The SB would be accessible to all minor baseball organization in Surrey. Confirmed baseball user groups include: 12 BCPBL teams (high school), 6 BCCBL teams (college), 6 Pacific Metro teams (senior men’s), over 15 Surrey minor baseball teams.
- Cloverdale and the SB could become known as a tournament or special events destination, which would have a positive economic impact for Surrey.
 - The benefits derived from tourism would definitely be a positive gain. A good example would be Kamloops, known as the tournament capital of BC and Parksville for their BC's Best tournament in May. During the tournament, over 200 rooms are filled for 3 or 4 nights and this has been the case for the past 10 years.
 - Exposure for the Surrey area and the rest of the province will be increased as a result of international competition, teams from abroad, and visits from college and professional scouts.
 - Retail businesses in Cloverdale will enjoy the positive impact when events are scheduled in the SB. Feedback from businesses in Parksville indicates an increase in sales during the BC's Best tournament in May.

Business Plan:

If the City of Surrey gives approval to the SB proposal, the PBA would be prepared to enter a partnership agreement based on the following:

1. The PBA would provide financial support, pending grant approval, to the City of Surrey to cover a percentage of the upgrade costs to bring Phase I of the SB into play. Phase I quotation received from the Parks Department is \$310,000.00

2. The PBA would implement a four-year development plan that includes three phases and the following timeline:

2005/2006 Secure funding. Complete grant applications and initiate fundraising programs. Submit 2006 capital project application to Gaming Branch.

2006/2007
(\$350,000) **Phase I:** upgrade/replace playing field, sprinkler system and dugout, repair fence, activate lights and scoreboard. Submit 2007 capital project application to Gaming Branch

2007/2008
(\$200,000) **Phase II:** develop indoor workout areas undercover areas and existing structures. Schedule practices/games for April 2007. Submit 2008 capital project application to Gaming Branch.

2008
(\$150,000) **Phase III:** upgrade bleachers and further construction of indoor storage, concession office space, etc. Submit 2009 capital project application to Gaming Branch if additional funds are still needed.

3. The PBA will seek funding through grants, fundraising, and assessment to cover Phase I costs to bring the playing field up to standard for play at the PBL level. Funds for Phase I will come from the following sources:

i) capital project gaming funds	\$100,000.00
ii) Baseball Tomorrow Fund (letter of inquiry received; project meets criteria)	200,000.00
iii) PBL capital projects fund/team assessment	<u>50,000.00</u>
TOTAL	\$350,000.00

Other potential funding sources

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • corporate sponsorships | • municipal/provincial grants |
| • local association partnership | • "save the SB" website |
| • alumni sponsorship program | • fence advertising |
| • "friends of baseball" donations | • other fundraising programs |
| | • . |

4. The PBA would hire a person to oversee the day-to-day operation of the SB to ensure that scheduling, maintenance, and other tasks are maintained.
5. The PBA would require the following from the City of Surrey to enter into a partnership agreement:
 - i) a needs assessment that specific costs for upgrades in Phase I by **April 1, 2005**. This information is required to complete grant applications.
 - ii) oversee the repair/upgrade work of all phases to ensure they meet the standards for the City of Surrey.

- iii) provide staff expertise, time, and consultation for the entire project at no cost to the PBA.
- iv) enter a long-term agreement with the PBA to transfer responsibility of the SB according to existing policy to the PBA.
- v) enter a maintenance agreement with the PBA.
- vi) provide staff support wherever and whenever possible to support the project at no cost to the PBA.

Summary:

The PBA would like the opportunity to help bring "life" back into the SB through year-round use for baseball and other community events.

This can be accomplished within a relatively short time frame without a large financial burden on the City of Surrey and will achieve many positive outcomes.

1. The SB will provide the highest level of playing facility for youth and teams in Surrey.
2. The SB will provide the province with the only professional baseball facility with the loss of Nat Bailey Stadium to the 2010 Olympics.
3. The SB events will provide economic benefits for businesses in Surrey.
4. The SB will provide a home facility to showcase the top teams and players in the PBA.
5. The SB will provide the opportunity for the City of Surrey to work with volunteer groups to bring a project to fruition.
6. The SB will become the "showcase" facility for baseball in Canada. The PBA urges the Parks and Services Committee to ask the question, "what can we do to ensure that this 3.5 million dollar facility be used to benefit our community and province all year round?"

In response to questions from the Committee the delegation stated:

- PBL is affiliated with Baseball BC, we advertise their summer camps on our website. We do have a relationship with Baseball BC.
- The rodeo would not be able to use the field, however it is our understanding that the rodeo would like to be undercover as some point.
- We require a needs assessment from the Parks Department; we believe that there is a refurbishing estimate on file from 2002.
- We understand that the priority tenant is the rodeo, we are requesting that if there is another facility for the rodeo to relocate to, that we become the new partner tenant of the facility.
- If PBL is not consider for the SB we would hope to be considered for any other facility in Surrey. We are however hoping that the SB will be turned over to PBL and we will make it our showcase facility.
- The Provincials are rotated to different cities each year. The Championship for PBL is during the long weekend in August.

The General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture advised that at this point there is no allocation of money in the budget, the work plan would require reprioritizing.

The Manager, Long Range Planning and Policy Development advised that over the last eight months there have been many meetings with the stakeholders of the site. Staff are currently working on a preliminary report that will be forwarded to Council in the next few weeks. We would then start public consultation and work on a detailed master plan.

It was suggested that PBL have discussion regarding their proposal with the rodeo event organizers.

The Chair advised that staff will provide further information regarding this issue at a future meeting of the P&CSC and an appropriate motion would be forwarded to Council.

C. REQUEST FOR DELEGATION

1. Bolivar Park Slo-Pitch Society – Request for Delegation

Mr. Peter McKenna of Bolivar Park Slo-Pitch Society is requesting to be a delegation at the March 16, 2005 meeting of the P&CSC to discuss upgrading of the Bridgeview Park ball diamonds to allow the Society to bring large tournaments to the Park.

There were no concerns expressed by the Committee members. The Chair suggested that the General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture arrange to have the delegation heard at the next meeting of the P&CSC.

Trustee Glass declared that she has a conflict with the next agenda item, as she is the past president of the Rotary Field House, she left the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. Rotary Field House, South Surrey Athletic Park

The Manager, Parks is requesting that the P&CSC receive the information and that the P&CSC members provide comment and advice to staff on the following proposed six point operating and debt retirement plan.

1. That as the Society is in a position to operate the Fieldhouse with no substantive subsidy from the City, offering rental space for meetings and events in a community context, the current operating model be considered appropriate for at least the next five years to coincide with the term of the lease which is presently up for renewal for a five-year period.
2. That as the \$162,322 in project cost over-runs has already been paid for through the City's Capital Program, it is recommended that this amount not be considered as debt, and not be required to be repaid by the Society.

3. That of the \$100,000 advanced to the project by Council resolution a balance of \$85,400 remains and it is recommended that a debt repayment plan be structured at \$5,000 annually for 17 years, without a provision for the charging of interest on the debt.
4. That the City explore ways to assist the Society in promoting the Fieldhouse as a rental venue, with the aim of improving revenues and thus facilitating the repayment of the debt.
5. That the City review opportunities for renting space at the Fieldhouse for the delivery of community leisure programs.
6. That as a requirement for acceptance of the operating and debt restructuring plan, the Society host a facilitated meeting of Fieldhouse stakeholders, analyzing storage needs and current storage space allocations, with the goal of optimizing storage space for all key facility users.

The Chair advised that he had spoken with Councillor Higginbotham and she had advised that she has no issues with the operating and debt retirement plan. And she could be persuaded to have the plan even more lenient.

The Committee members provided the following comments:

- This will be giving incentive to be accountable.
- Support the operating and debt retirement plan.

The General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture advised that a report, that includes the options available, will be prepared and provided on the next agenda of the P&CSC.

Trustee Glass returned to the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

2. Update on the Joint Use Agreement with School District 36

The General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture provided an memorandum in response to a request from the P&CSC, for background information and history on the Joint Use Agreement.

It was suggested that the Mayor write to the Ministry of Education requesting provincial funding. The Ministry is currently promoting “active youth”.

The Manager, Parks stated that ‘limitations in stated funding ability’ refers to elementary schools. Compliance with closure of the fields is through education, staff and students, however we have provided the education and staff changes.

The Chair suggested that this item be deferred to the meeting of the P&CSC.

E. STAFF PRESENTATION

No presentations were scheduled.

F. NEW BUSINESS**1. Fees & Charges 2005/2006**

The General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture provided a memorandum requesting that the P&CSC recommend to Council a general 2% increase to the 2005/06 fees and charges.

The memorandum provided the following information:

A general 2% increase in fees and charges for 2005/2006 effective September 1, 2005 is recommended to meet the 2005 budget. The current 2004/2005 fees and charges are attached for your reference.

Fee comparisons on admissions and rentals for a few other communities in the Lower Mainland will show that Surrey is within market range on most fees and charges. Staffs continually monitor the fees in relation to other comparable facilities.

The introduction of new facilities and emerging operating efficiencies require that the previous year's document be updated to reflect these recommendations:

1. *Heritage Discovery Centre*

With the opening of this new facility, Heritage Services will move from a donations base to a fixed cost admissions model. The Adult Admission of \$5.00 (G.S.T included) is recommended to be set as a base rate; Seniors and Students, 75% of the base rate at \$3.75; Youth and Children at 50% base rate at \$2.50 and; Preschool (0 to 5yrs) free of charge.

An Annual Pass of \$12.00 is also proposed with the same age category pricing. Adults paying 100 %, Seniors and Students 75%, Youth and Children 50% and Preschool (0 to 5yrs) free of charge.

New rental facilities in the Discovery Centre (Theatre, Foyer and Program Room) will be added to the appropriate room rental-pricing category determined by their capacity.

2. *Outdoor Sports Facilities Age Group Definitions*

Currently, adult user groups are defined as 18 and over; Youth as younger than 18 years. Staff are recommending that these definitions be amended to Adults, 19 and over; Youth 18 years and under. This would be consistent with definitions in use by the Department for facility admissions and program registration.

3. *Lit Practice Fields*

There is currently a 28 cent/hour differential between the 2004/2005 Youth Rental Rate for lit grass sports fields (\$4.02/hour) and the Youth Rate for lit all-weather (gravel) practice fields (\$4.30/hour). Staff are recommending that these rates be consolidated so that there is one rate for both of these facilities (\$4.30/hour) and that this consolidated rate then be increased by 2% for the 2005/2006 season, at \$4.39/ hour.

Grass sports fields represent a much higher quality facility than gravel fields and community sport associations have indicated that game play on grass should not be at a lower rate, as is currently the case. The City has only one (1) lit grass football field and three (3) lit ball diamonds so the impact of this rate consolidation to community sports groups will be minimal.

4. *Grass Sports Fields and Game Courts*

Staff recommend that sports boxes and tennis, volleyball and basketball courts be added to this category. Growth in participation and increased organization of sports using these additional facilities have created a demand to reserve bookings.

5. *Implementation of Adult Rate for Adult Users of Lit Grass Practice Fields*

In the 2004/2005 fees and charges, there was not an adult price listed for grass practice fields, only a youth listed fees and charges price. If the recommendation of the lit grass practice fields are consolidated with the lit all-weather fields, then it is recommended that the existing Adult Rate for lit all-weather fields (\$5.98/hour) apply to adult users of lit grass practice fields. This adult fee will be increased a further 2% for the 2005/2006 fees and charges schedule. This will affect two (2) community sport associations that have adults within their associations.

6. *Dollar Rounding of Theatre Rental Rates*

Staff recommends the acceptance of dollar rounding of the base rate fees for the Art Centre Theatre facilities be accepted. The base rate is the fee before GST is added. Consistent with industry practice, staff giving telephone quotes use the base price. Theatre rentals are complex and usually include numerous additional services according to customer need. Dollar rounding improves communication by simplifying the prices quoted.

After a review of the general increase, the following items are submitted for approval as exceptions to the 2% increase. The 2005 budget revenues will still be achieved with the few minor exceptions to the 2% price increase.

7. *Ward's Marina*

Staff are recommending that moorage charges at Ward's Marina remain unchanged, due to the limited services this marina offers compared to market survey. This would reflect the reduction in the value of moorage at the marina.

8. *Seniors' Centre Member Fee*

Staff are recommending that Annual Seniors' member fee be increased by 1.5% to \$16.75. This lesser increase provides balance for the previous year when the fee was increased by 3.1%. This higher amount in 2004 was due to price rounding.

9. *Arts Centre Ticket Service Charges*

Staff recommends that Art Centre ticket service charge remain at its current price of \$1.45.

Prices are rounded to the nearest five (5) cent increment. Five cents added this year would result in an increase of 3.4%. No increase would follow the practice of implementing a fee increase every other year. In 2004/05, the fee was raised by five (5) cents or 3.6% (the general increase was 2%).

Discussion

The General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture advised that the Parks Department requires to know whether there will be a fee and charges increase by late March for publications.

The General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture responded to a questions, stating:

- That the Parks Department has a leisure access program that allows people to apply to have leisure fees lowered. Public awareness of this program is done through publications and presentations at schools and the Ministries are aware of the program as well.
- That the pool is busy during the day as programs are offered that attract mature adults and schools often utilize the pool during the day.
- We will monitor the response to the admission to the Heritage Discovery Centre.

The Chair requested that the General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture try to arrange a teleconference meeting regarding the issue of fee and charges.

G. STAFF VERBAL REPORTS – DELIVERY OF SERVICES

1. Birds on the Bay

Birds on the Bay is a three-month event, February thru to beginning of May, where people can take free guided bird walks and forest walks throughout Boundary Bay which is Canada's number one bird area. A spectacular array of over 100,00 wintering waterfowl and 333 different species of birds can be viewed and enjoyed. Parks is actively supporting the celebration that is being spearheaded by Margaret Cuthbert and the Friend of Semiahmoo Bay and involves over 20 other partner organizations.
www.birdsonthebay.ca

2. National Rhythmic Gymnastics Event

This event will be taking place at the Guildford Recreation Centre Feb. 25th – 27th. There are 100 competitors participating in a premier national qualifier event. The top junior and senior rhythmic gymnast participants will be competing. Female competitors range in age from 11 – 18 years and come from 6 provinces. 20 judges and 20 coaches, plus family, friends and supporters. Group qualifier to take place here as well. Sanctioned by the BC Rhythmic Gymnastics Federation

3. “Preserve the Past, Presenting the Future”

"Preserving the Past, Presenting the Future" - Museum & Archives staff and volunteers are presenting an extensive program in school and to seniors clubs and meetings, start February 22 through to May. The program provides a slide show on how archival documents can be used to tell stories related to Surrey's history and heritage, it includes a hands-on exploration of museum objects to enhance the storytelling, and it includes a preview of the buildings and services planned for the new Museum and Archives when they open in the fall of 2005.

4. Unveiling of the Heritage storyboards

The Heritage Advisory Commission is unveiling six new community heritage storyboards in celebration of Heritage Week 2005. Interested members are invited to attend on Saturday February 19. A tea will be served at the Historic Stewart Farm at 2:30 pm. See Laurie for copy of Itinerary that includes 6 different unveilings at various sites.

5. Partners in Parks Recognition Evening

March 31st at Guildford Recreation Centre - This evening is designed to appreciate and showcase the exceptional involvement of the many partners who contribute considerable time, energy and resources in developing, maintaining, managing and enhancing Surrey's parks and open spaces. The evening provides opportunities for interactions among volunteers, donors, sponsors, City staff and civic officials to take place in a relaxed and celebratory atmosphere.

6. Wireless registration

SPRC has undertaken a pilot project to increase participation among children and the economically challenged. By the use of new wireless technology, staff are able to take registration services out of our facilities and to fourteen schools and community events in support of program outreach events. This project is an example of Surrey Parks, Recreation and Culture using emerging technologies to remove barriers to participation.

7. The Newton Health and Wellness Fair

This fair took place on Feb. 12 and the Guildford Health and Wellness Fair took place on Jan. 29th. Both were great successes. Many positive comments were received from our community partners who joined us in providing health and wellness information to the participants.

8. Sport Tourism Event

Surrey will be showcasing our sport facilities as part of strategies for 2010 at a Sport Tourism Event. It will provide an opportunity to meet one-on-one with numerous Provincial Sport Organizations to explore sport event hosting opportunities. Taking place in Richmond on March 15.

9. Surrey Arts Centre update

Following on the success of the first show in the series, "The Number 14" which had 95% houses for the 10 show run, the second show in the series, "Sexy Laundry" has just concluded with 96% houses over an 11 show run (over 4,000 patrons). Tickets were selling so well that we added a show this past Sunday at 4:30 pm. (Super Bowl Sunday) and it sold out! So our revenue on this booking was over \$20,000.

At the same time we also had a very successful two-week rental in the Studio theatre. Fraser Valley Christian High school presented Flowers for Algernon, 8 shows, 95% houses for their run (over 1,000 patrons).

10. BCRPA

The **BC Parks and Recreation Association (BCRPA)** chose Surrey as a location to host a provincial Parks and Grounds Spring Training event taking place Feb. 16 and 17 at the Surrey Art Centre approximately 175 delegates are attending.

11. Youth Week May 1 to 7

Youth week, May 1 to 7, a promotion for youth week will be going out in the tax notices in late February. The General Manager distributed the notice to committee members for information.

H. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

I. CORRESPONDENCE

J. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. "Let Me Sing" Community Theatre Project

Inter-Office Memorandum from the Manager of Arts providing information on the "Let Me Sing" Community Theatre Project.

Trustee Glass advised that she is delighted with this report and hopes that this project will continue.

2. Good Citizen Award

Letter and background information from City Clerk regarding the 2005 Good Citizen Award. Note that the submission deadline is 4:30 p.m., Thursday, April 7, 2005.

K. EMERGING PRIORITIES/POLICY DISCUSSION**1. Nat Bailey Stadium**

A member of the committee requested clarification on the demolishing of Nat Bailey Stadium as mentioned by the delegation today. There was an understanding that the stadium would be preserved.

In response to a question, the Manager, Long Range Planning and Policy Development advised that the SB main use is the rodeo, there are filming events and a few other events, the facility is under utilized.

2. Service Delivery Plan 2005

The General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture advised that through planning sessions with staff, the Parks Department has put together the Service Delivery Plan document. It is an internal document and there are limited colored copies available.

3. South Surrey Athletic Park

A member of the committee mentioned that she was glad to see the bulldozer at the South Surrey Athletic Park and also to see the boards stating what is being done.

L. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**1. Facility Bookings**

The General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture advised:

- The first priority in booking is for our programs, second is providing access to community groups (i.e. school district and group bookings), third priority is private functions (i.e. family celebrations).
- For private functions there is a set of standard questions that staff asks to ensure that the events are free of conflict and controversy.
- Some requests are reviewed by the General Manager to see if the event is appropriate to hold in our facility or if it would be more appropriate to be held in a private facility.

Following are the comments from the committee members:

- Political bookings should be sent to private facilities, it would be best to steer clear of those types of bookings.

- It is a good idea to have controversial booking dealt with at a General Manager level.

The General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture stated that most facilities are multi-use facilities and we want the other users of the facility to be comfortable.

2. Current projects

The Manager, Long Range Planning and Policy Development advised of some of the current projects, such as, South Surrey Athletic Park; North Surrey Structure; Museum on Highway 10; and Fraser Heights. He advised that he would try to arrange a tour for Council and the P&CSC.

N. ADJOURNMENT

The Parks and Community Services Committee adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Margaret Jones, City Clerk

Councillor Tymoschuk, Chair, P&CSC