



# City of Surrey

## *Parks & Community Services Committee*

### **NOTES**

Annex Boardroom  
City Hall  
14245 - 56 Avenue  
Surrey, B.C.  
**WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2005**  
Time: 7:00 p.m.

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#### **Present:**

Chairperson: Councillor Tymoschuk  
N. Beuk  
S. Chima  
Councillor Higginbotham

#### **Absent:**

M. Martin  
S. Dhaliwal  
Councillor Villeneuve  
P. Glass

#### **Also Present:**

L. Cavan, General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture  
J. McLeod, Manager Long Range Planning & Policy Development  
  
K. Swaele, Legislative Service

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

#### **A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES - April 20, 2005**

The minutes of the Parks & Community Services Committee meeting held on April 20, 2005, will be forwarded for consideration at the June 15, 2005 meeting of the Committee.

#### **B. DELEGATION/PRESENTATION**

##### **1. Tong Louie Surrey Family YMCA**

John Woolgar, General Manager, Tong Louie Family YMCA was present to provide an update on 2004 activities, and 2005 expansion of the facility. Mr. Woolgar noted:

- That the YMCA in Canada serves 1.3 to 1.5 million people of all backgrounds through various recreational and community service programs.
- That 700,000 people participate in YMCA Health programs, and over 500,000 belong to one of 95 YMCA Centers across Canada.
- That the name of the Surrey facility was changed to the Tong Louie Family YMCA because of a generous donation from the Tong Louie Family.
- That the Tong Louie YMCA facility is now one of 6<sup>th</sup> largest in Canada with 9,000 active members, 8,000 program participants, 7,000 public swim visits, and 400 volunteers.
- That \$36,000 has been raised in the Partners with Youth campaign and over 800 low-income family members assisted.
- That the facility was built for 10,000 people and is now almost at maximum.
- That the facility has a licensed childcare with 85 spaces and 75 children on the waitlist for the 3 to 5 year age group.
- That childcare is an area of demand and there is a lot of need for this service in the City of Surrey.
- That the YMCA works to build developmental assets for children to help them have a positive impact on society.

- That they had 3,300 children have a summer experience in 2004 by participation in sports, dramatic and visual arts, outdoor recreation, leadership and personal development programs.
- That they have had over 1 million health and fitness accesses to the building since September 2002.
- That a total of 9,000 people participated in swimming lessons, and 50% of these were non-members.

Mr. Woolgar then reviewed some of the health and fitness programs and community extension programs offered by the Tong Louie Family YMCA such as Baby and Me programs, day camps, basketball, soccer, babysitter training, and Healthy Kids day. Mr. Woolgar noted their partnership with Ecuador YMCA in HIV/AIDS prevention education, and continued:

- That the 2005 expansion to the building will cost \$1.5 million and add 5,200 square feet.
- That they have been awarded a grant of \$1 million from the Canada/BC Infrastructure program, and the other \$500,000 will come from fundraising.
- That the expansion will allow more space for youth programs including dance, martial arts, gymnastics and more space for senior and youth fitness.

In response to questions Mr. Woolgar stated:

- That the building is currently 66,000 square feet, not including expansion.
- That day camps in South Surrey will be held at the Peace Arch Fellowship Church, which has both classroom and gymnasium settings.
- That day camps will also be held at Sullivan community hall.
- That they have 3 resident camps which kids are encouraged to go to Camp Howdy, Camp Elphinstone and Camp Decca.
- That in Langley they use the Scout Camp at Campbell Valley Regional Park.
- That the Provincial Licensing body for daycare is very rigid.
- That measured out, the daycare space at the Y would accommodate 37 children, but the maximum group size approved for licensing is 25.
- That they are trying to work with the Provincial authorities to provide them with some flexibility.

The General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture commented that they have received calls from across Canada on the very positive relationship the City of Surrey has with the YMCA, and how well the agreement is working. She noted that Parks, Recreation & Culture works with the Y to ensure ongoing communication and participation in program planning.

The Parks & Community Services Committee expressed appreciation to Mr. Woolgar and complimented the Y on the very positive influence they provide in the community.

**C. REQUEST(S) FOR DELEGATION****D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES****1. Plan for the Well-Being of Surrey Residents**

Corporate Report C007 from the General Manager, Planning and Development providing a Status Report on the Preparation of the Plan for the Social Well-Being of Surrey Residents – Completion of the Gap Analysis and Responsibility Matrix.

Note: This information was provided in response to an inquiry at the April 20, 2005 meeting of the Parks & Community Services Committee.

In response to comments from the Committee, the Manager Long Range Planning & Policy Development noted:

- That for the first community forum a specified list of agencies was invited to determine issues.
- That the five open houses are open to the public and will include a broad variety of agencies.
- That the open houses have been advertised through the newspaper, letters, telephone and email.
- That for the next component the Consultant wants to talk to knowledgeable people in the community to look at the gaps that are identified.
- That following this, they will meet with more focused groups to look at the gaps.
- That once the report is finalized it will go back to Council as a whole, which will hopefully be by late summer or early fall.

In response to questions the General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture noted that the Department does have an intercultural inclusivity policy and an intercultural marketing plan to look at how services are delivered and to reduce barriers to participation.

The Parks & Community Services Committee noted that once the Plan is developed and problems identified, Members of Parliament and Members of the Legislative Assembly should be asked to come to the table to provide assistance and participation.

**2. Request for City Funding to Upgrade Bridgeview Park Ball Diamonds**

The Manager, Business Operations & Athletic Fields submitted a memorandum in response to a delegation from the Bolivar Slo-Pitch Society asking for upgrades to Bridgeview Park. The report provided a history of the Bolivar Slo-Pitch Society and noted the contribution to the Park made by the Society. The Manager, Business Operations & Athletic Fields reviewed the report and noted:

- That slo-pitch is now played at Bolivar Park for 12 months of the year.
- That the aggregate value of the operating agreement with Bolivar Slo-Pitch Society is currently \$23,276 per year with \$8,358 of the works delivered by Society volunteers and \$14,918 in services contracted to the City (and paid for by the Bolivar Slo-Pitch Society).
- The Society has been diligent in meeting all financial requirements specified in the operating agreement.
- That in return for the Society operating the park, the City has provided a blanket permit for all time at the facility with the responsibility for allocating individual timeslots vested in the Society.
- That in addition, the City has waived adult user fees for rental of the ball diamonds at Bolivar Park.
- That the group has established a good relationship with the community and has been very successful in attracting tournaments.
- That Bridgeview Park is located at 125A Street & 114 Avenue, adjacent to the Bridgeview Hall.
- That the Bolivar Slo-Pitch Society contributes \$2,200 a year towards maintenance of softball diamonds at Bridgeview Park in return for exclusive access to these facilities.
- That Bridgeview Park contains two softball diamonds, a water playground and areas of passive parkland.
- That the athletic fields at Bridgeview Park have proved challenging to maintain as it is one of Surrey's older parks and the high water table results in poorly drained sports fields which are unplayable during the fall and winter months.
- That turf quality in the spring/summer months is substandard.
- That the facilities at Bridgeview Park are regularly inspected by City turf management staff to ensure safe conditions.
- That the facility is safe but not suitable for high-level adult slo-pitch in its present form.
- That the Parks Division's annual athletic field renovation budget is currently \$110,000.
- That the field renovation budget facilitates a series of small scale renovations and repairs, including activities such as irrigation head replacements, minor drainage improvements, additional aeration & top dressing and replacement of goalposts.
- That the scope of the facility upgrades requested at Bridgeview Park is well beyond the scale of the existing athletic field renovation budget.
- That the report has grouped the costs into phases, in the event that individual phases can be undertaken separately, but that this is a major project requiring significant funding.
- That the 2005 Park Development Capital Program is well underway and not recommended as a funding source for the proposed project.
- That inclusion of this project in the five-year capital plan would require other high priority projects related to outdoor athletic facilities to be deferred or cancelled.

- That the Outdoor Sport Advisory Committee (OSAC) has expressed concern that a project of this scope may divert limited capital funds away from a host of other projects that are required by the constituent sports represented on OSAC.
- That the Bolivar Slo-Pitch Society is currently in discussions with Softball City regarding running joint tournaments in the future and that the first joint tournament between these two large slo-pitch facilities will likely occur in 2005.

The Manager of Parks noted that each year Council has an opportunity to review and fine tune the 5-year plan. The Manager of Parks reviewed some of the projects in the 5 year plan and noted:

- That the only way to obtain high quality fields at Bridgeview would be to preload the site by putting material down for one or two years and then remove it after it has provided significant compaction of the native soil.
- That in some cases, pile driving may be required in addition to preloading of the underlying peat soil.
- That the fields are not used in winter due to poor drainage, but they are used entirely for slo-pitch in the summer and get good usage.
- That site servicing would be very expensive and drainage would require pump systems.
- That the costing of upgrades has been done by Parks, Recreation & Culture and Planning and Development staff, based on current costing received for similar projects.
- That the upgrades requested for Bridgeview Park will benefit adult slo-pitch groups but not youth groups that are served by other facilities in Whalley.
- That the relatively small population of Bridgeview is well served, in terms of athletic facilities, with Kwantlen Park and Bolivar Park.
- That the last major multi-facility athletic park constructed in Surrey, was Bolivar Park located in Bridgeview.

The Parks & Community Services Committee commented:

- That perhaps an amenity charge on development in the area could be used as a way to raise funds for Bridgeview Park.
- That the City wants to build facilities close to transportation and perhaps a beginning could be made through some upgrading of Bridgeview Park.
- That Surrey wants to be a sports tourism destination, and to do this it must provide the facilities to attract the tournaments, including facilities for Slo-Pitch.
- That if the facility is upgraded it could become self-sufficient, similar to Bolivar Park through partnership with the Bolivar Slo-Pitch Society.
- That while there is value in upgrading the park, it is difficult to say in the overall capital envelope, if this deserves more recognition than other projects, but it is worthy of being in the mix and given some consideration.
- That a business plan would need to be in place to support upgrading of the facility.

**E. STAFF PRESENTATION(S)****1. Capital Projects – Parks Recreation & Culture**

J. Lamontagne, Manager Civic Buildings and Park Facilities was in attendance to update the Parks & Community Services Committee on capital projects relating to the Parks, Recreation & Culture Department. Mr. Lamontagne advised that this is a record capital year for the Parks Department, and provided an overhead presentation displaying the projects in the various stages of construction. These projects included:

- North Surrey Recreation Centre
- South Surrey Running Track
- South Surrey Artificial Turf Field
- Museum & Archives
- South Surrey Recreation Centre
- Fraser Heights Recreation Centre

Mr. Lamontagne noted that the steel fabrication portion of the projects had been the most taxing as steel estimates were only good for 7 days due to the volatility of the marketplace.

The Committee noted the amount of capital construction activity in the community and complimented Mr. Lamontagne and his team on the excellent job that is being done to bring these projects to completion.

In response to a question from the Committee, The General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture advised that partial year operating budgets have been developed for 2005.

**F. NEW BUSINESS****1. Housing Requirements for Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program/Shelter and Housing for Surrey's Homeless**

Memorandum and minute excerpt from Agricultural Advisory Committee, and information from Human Resources Development Canada regarding housing requirements for seasonal agricultural workers. The Agricultural Advisory Committee has asked whether there is an interest in providing shelter and employment for Surrey's homeless through work in the agricultural industry.

The Committee commented:

- That this would be a good item to be included in the Plan for the Social Well-Being of Surrey Residents.
- That rather than paying to bring people from Mexico, providing accommodation and paying them \$8.50 an hour, the money could be better

utilized to provide a more livable wage for local workers.

- That while there is merit in trying to provide work for homeless people, some face other problems that make it difficult for them to undertake full time work.

The Manager Long Range Planning & Policy Development noted that housing and homelessness is one of the items included in the Plan for the Social Well Being of Surrey Residents.

**2. Additional Beer Garden Days – Killer Ales Slo-Pitch**

Memorandum from the City Clerk requesting that the Parks & Community Services Committee approve an additional 2 days for a Beer Garden to be held by the Killer Ales Slo-Pitch.

Due to a lack of quorum, the memorandum will be forwarded directly to Council.

**G. STAFF VERBAL REPORTS – DELIVERY OF SERVICES**

**1. Semiahmoo Heritage Trail**

A 'planting' was held April 24<sup>th</sup> on the Semiahmoo Heritage Trail with Parks staff and approximately 30 residents participating. The residents were very pleased with the event and expressed their appreciation to the Department.

**2. Darts Hill Garden Open House April 24<sup>th</sup>**

There were 704 visitors to the Darts Hill Garden Open House and all members of the Darts Hill Garden Society Board were in attendance. The weather was excellent and the event was a huge success.

**3. Business & the Arts Reception**

The Business and the Arts Reception held April 26<sup>th</sup> at the Surrey Arts Centre, was very successful with over 100 people in attendance.

**4. Youth Week & Youth Recognition Awards –**

The Parks, Recreation & Culture Youth Services hosted a dynamic City-wide Youth Fest event at the Surrey Arts Centre and Bear Creek Park on May 6 during Youth Week. The Recognition Awards were held in conjunction with the Youth Fest and were positively received.

**5. Fleetwood Community Centre Renovated Areas**

The Fleetwood Community Centre renovated areas were officially opened on May 12<sup>th</sup>. In order to maintain local RCMP presence, a 1,400 square foot space within the existing Fleetwood Recreation Centre & Library Complex was renovated to serve as the new Fleetwood RCMP Office. An addition of 1,200 square feet was added to the back of the facility to accommodate the pre-school centre that was displaced in the process.

**6. Arts Council of Surrey's Annual Juried Art Exhibition Surrey Arts Centre**

The Juried Art Exhibition is on display in the Centre Main Gallery. There are generally over 300 submissions, with 50 to 60 selected works installed and the show opens Friday night May 27th.

**7. Museum Parking**

A portion of the new Museum parking lot has been paved so that seniors have a parking facility when work is started on the existing seniors' parking lot. This area is enclosed with fencing for safety purposes.

**8. Youth Mural Project**

The Youth Mural project continues under the auspices of the Surrey Crime Prevention Society. The Museum was the first location chosen nearly 10 years ago and it inspired the very successful series that has blossomed into an important community initiative.

The new Museum has been approached to host another mural on the south wall of the City's (Corporate Facilities) concrete block storage unit. Heritage Services will be working with the Surrey Crime Prevention Society, and the painting will take place over the summer months.

**9. Learning & Discovery Centre**

The cultural context, relocated cenotaph and the historic precinct of the designated 1912 Hall create a significant opportunity to feature images of Surrey's celebratory heritage. Staff are excited to have this addition to the context of the site.

**10. Twoonie Swim:**

As suggested at the last Parks and Community Services Committee, Aquatics Staff investigated later evening swim programs. A pilot program will be offered at South Surrey Indoor Pool starting June 7, on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 10 p.m. to 12 a.m. The participation in the Twoonie Swim (\$2 admission fee) will be evaluated to determine community demand.

**11. World Oceans Day Celebration**

The World Oceans Day Celebration will be held Saturday, June 4 at Blackie Spit Park. The event is held yearly around the world following the 1992 Earth Summit and is a means to increase knowledge and protection for the world's marine environments. The day will feature activities and displays presented by more than 20 groups involved in marine stewardship, live music, marine walks, kayaking and scuba diving demonstrations, a simulated Coast Guard rescue and live beach critters.

**12. Children's Festival – Reminder**

The Children's Festival is coming together nicely and will be held June 2 to 4 at Bear Creek Park.

**13. Sun Safety**

Non-melanoma skin cancer is the most prevalent form of cancer, with the majority of skin damage occurring before age 18. With these facts in mind, Surrey Parks, Recreation & Culture is taking a leading role by making Surrey the first City to partner with the Canadian Cancer Society in an effort to reduce exposure to the sun's harmful UV rays, particularly for children and youth. The program has been promoted by:

- Including the “seek, slip, slap, slop” sun safety poster in the Leisure Guide.
- Posting Canadian Cancer Society sun safety posters in all facilities and outdoor pools.
- An interactive sun safety session presented by the Canadian Cancer Society as part of the summer camp staff in-service training.
- Posting the “seek, slip, slap, slop” poster and information about sun safety awareness week May 30-June 5, on the active living web page.

**14. Surrey's 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Environmental Extravaganza April 16 – June 112**

In partnership with 30 community groups dedicated to the environmental health of the City, the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department is hosting the 8th Annual Environmental Extravaganza.

The Environmental Extravaganza is a unique, eight week long, free celebration focusing on Surrey's natural environment and the people who share the common goal of protecting it. Each year the community partners offer 40 free programs and events to Surrey residents.

Participation numbers are up 48% from this point last year for a current total of 17,000 people. Numbers include the Earth Day Celebration at Bear Creek Park, Surrey's Inaugural Arbor Day at Royal Kwantlen Park. Many smaller programs that have been stretched beyond capacity include fish releases, OWL Prowls and interpretive walks along Semiahmoo Heritage Trail.

**H. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL**

**I. CORRESPONDENCE**

**J. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**1. Days Hotel – Letter of Support for Upgrade to Bridgeview Park**

Letter from Stephen Casson – General Manager Days Hotel, supporting Bolivar Slo-Pitch Society efforts for a renovation of Bridgeview Park.

**2. Aquatic Volunteer Program – Newton Wave Pool**

In response to an inquiry from the Parks & Community Services Committee, the General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture presented a memorandum regarding Aquatic Volunteer Programs at the Newton Recreation Centre – Wave Pool. The report noted:

- That a volunteer instructional program has been established at the Newton Wave Pool.
- That the program provides an opportunity for youth to be involved in pre-school and children's swim lesson instruction under the guidance of aquatic staff.
- That the program allows youth to fulfill the practical experience requirements of the Canadian Red Cross Water Safety Instructor course, and encourages and supports them as they take the next steps in their lifeguard/instructor training.
- That due to the shut down at North Surrey Recreation Centre, the program was introduced at the Newton Recreation Centre on May 23.
- That the program demonstrates the continued commitment to developing well-qualified and energetic aquatic staff in Surrey and to developing opportunities for youth to be involved in their community and build strong leadership skills.

**3. Accommodation of Request from Seniors Group for Community Centre Space at Fleetwood Community Recreation Centre**

The Community Leisure Services Manager Fleetwood presented a memorandum on the Accommodation of Seniors Groups at the Community Centre Space at Fleetwood Community Recreation centre.

The memorandum noted:

- That in October 2004 two letters were received by Mayor and Council, requesting that a shelter be constructed at Fleetwood Park to accommodate a group of seniors who use the park on a daily basis for social interaction, exercise and activities.

- The Parks and Recreation Divisions worked together to explore options that would support the group.
- That a meeting was organized with Dave Hayer (MLA) and members of the seniors group to involve them in a discussion about their needs.
- That as a result of this meeting the Fleetwood Community Centre and the Seniors group agreed to embark on a partnership for use of the Fleetwood Community Centre for their gatherings.
- That this partnership was solidified with a letter of understanding and began with a three-month evaluation period from December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2004 to March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2005.
- That at the three month point the success of the partnership propelled the agreement to an extension until December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2005.
- That the opportunity to continue the agreement into another year will be discussed and evaluated in December 2005

**J. EMERGING PRIORITIES/POLICY DISCUSSION**

**K. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**

**L. ADJOURNMENT**

The Parks and Community Services Committee adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

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Margaret Jones, City Clerk

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Chairperson  
Parks and Community Services Committee