



# City of Surrey

## *Parks & Community Services Committee*

### *Minutes*

Annex Boardroom  
City Hall  
14245 - 56 Avenue  
Surrey, B.C.  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 2005  
Time: 7:00 p.m.

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#### **Present:**

Chairperson: M. Martin  
N. Beuk  
S. Chima  
S. Dhaliwal  
Councillor Higginbotham – 7:10 p.m.  
Councillor Villeneuve

#### **Regrets:**

Councillor Tymoschuk  
Trustee P. Glass

#### **Also Present:**

L. Cavan, General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture  
O. Croy, Manager of Parks  
B. Beblo, Social Planner, Planning & Development Department  
K. Swaele, Legislative Service

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### **A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

It was Moved by S. Chima  
Seconded by N. Beuk  
That the minutes of the Parks & Community  
Services Committee meeting held on June 15, 2005, be adopted.  
Carried

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

#### **1. Sunnyside Acres Heritage Society**

Dr. Roy Strang, President, Sunnyside Heritage Society was present to speak in favour of the possibility of including some small peripheral stands of trees into the designated area of Sunnyside Acres Urban Forest. Dr. Strang reviewed the areas proposed for addition on an aerial map and noted:

- That this topic came up at the Sunnyside Acres Urban Forest Advisory Committee and was referred to the Sunnyside Acres Heritage Society.
- That the Sunnyside Heritage Society supports, in principle, the addition of peripheral tree stands to the dedicated urban forest.
- That the Sunnyside Heritage Society does not have the facilities to remove the debris that has been dumped in the area around Softball City.
- That if the proposed addition goes ahead Softball City authority should be required to removed litter, debris and invasive plants from the stand around its parking lot before transfer is implemented.
- That the mountain bike park should not be added to the urban forest, but be attached to the adjoining sports field complex.
- That the Sunnyside Acres Urban Forest Advisory Committee has worked to keep the bikes within their boundary but there are a small proportion of bikers who want to go off trail.
- That if the mountain bike park is included in the Urban Forest, bikers may lose track of their boundaries.

In response to questions from the Parks & Community Services Committee, the Manager of Parks remarked:

- That staff have looked at whether or not a referendum would be required; an opinion from the Clerk's office has suggested that under the Community Charter and the Local Government Act a referendum would not be necessary to add these areas as dedicated Urban Forest.
- That additions to the urban forest could be accomplished by a by-law change approved by Council.

Councillor Higginbotham entered the meeting – 7:10 p.m.

The Manager of Parks concluded that staff would provide a report on the proposed additions to the Urban Forest at the September meeting of the Parks & Community Services Committee.

In response to general questions Dr. Strang commented:

- That on May 15, the Society had 100 volunteer hours of clean up between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.
- That currently they have approximately 40 members.
- That they have received 102 pictures in their photo contest and are working on a 2006 calendar that will be on the market in September.
- That proceeds of the calendar will go to Society for protection of the forest.

Dr. Strang left the meeting at 7:14 p.m.

**C. REQUEST(S) FOR DELEGATION**

**D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**1. RCMP Presence at Crescent Beach Resource Centre**

In response to questions from the Committee, the General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture has advised that the RCMP are not currently utilizing the Crescent Beach Resource Centre however, Parks, Recreation and Culture staff will continue to pursue this with the RCMP.

**E. STAFF PRESENTATION(S)**

**1. Latimer Lake – Master Plan Update**

J. Lamontagne, Manager of Civic Buildings and Park Facilities provided an update on the Latimer Lake Master Plan Process. Mr. Lamontagne noted:

- That Latimer Lake is located at 2786 - 192 St. in South Surrey and comprises 15.72 ha (38.8 acres) of a former gravel quarry.
- That the City acquired the land in 1965.

- That the Lake is a result of the quarry activity, and is the focal point and fishing destination (stocked with trout).
- That the Lake area forms a key part of open space and trail network for the Campbell Heights Business Park Plan Area.
- That the area has a looping trail system and a Douglas fir/western red cedar forest with trees approximately 60-100 years old.
- That in 2005 Council allocated \$150,000 to prepare a master plan for the park and roll out the first phase of park improvements.
- That the 2005 Planning Process schedule includes:
  1. Contract award to DMG Landscape Architects March 2005.
  2. Meetings with stakeholders in April (park volunteers, watershed society, mountain bikers).
  3. Public open house #1 May 12, 2005 (alternate concept plans).
  4. Public open house #2 June 16, 2005 (preferred plan).
  5. Refine plan, prepare cost estimate and report summer 2005.
  6. Presentation to Parks and Community Services Committee.
  7. Council reporting and potential plan adoption Oct 2005.
  8. First phase of improvements 2005-6.

The Manager of Civic Buildings and Park Facilities noted that the first Open House drew participants from both Langley and Surrey and included local residents, mountain bikers, fishers and dog walkers. Approximately 73 residents from 62 households signed in at the Open House. Results of the first open house were:

- 3.3% of residents supported Option 1 (manicured park)
- 74 % of residents supported Option 2 (natural park)
- 19.3% strongly opposed or opposed the plans as presented
- 3.3 % of residents were undecided

The Manager of Civic Buildings and Park Facilities continued that 62 residents (51 households) signed in at the second Open House, and 23 comment sheets were returned by June 21, 2005. The results of the comment sheets were:

- 70%strongly supported or support the master plan as presented.
- 26%opposed the plans as presented.
- 4% had no comment.

The Manager of Civic Buildings and Park Facilities noted that the next steps were final changes to the Master Plan based on public input, cost estimates, a summary report and report to Council in September or October 2005. Depending on budget, detailed design and roll out of phase one of the park development will likely include a parking lot, trail system, and lake enhancements in 2005-6.

In response to questions the Manager of Civic Buildings and Parks Facilities commented:

- That the general consensus of the public is to keep the park natural for the residents to enjoy and over time to make improvements.
- That the public did not expect development of the area to occur so quickly, but had anticipated that it would happen over a longer period of time.

## **F. NEW BUSINESS**

## **G. REVIEW OF CALENDAR/UPCOMING EVENTS**

The General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture reviewed a list of Upcoming Parks, Recreation and Culture Events for the information of the Parks & Community Services Committee.

The Parks & Community Services Committee thanked the General Manager and noted that they appreciated receiving a caption of upcoming events.

## **H. STAFF VERBAL REPORTS – DELIVERY OF SERVICES**

### **1. Grant Application – Bell Community Fund “Gearing up Surrey”**

A grant has been applied for from the Bell Community Fund, which is to assist in eliminating some of barriers faced by economically challenged children when trying to purchase equipment to participate in hockey or soccer.

The City has applied for \$25,000 and if successful, the money will be used to purchase hockey equipment that can be used by youth who want to play minor hockey in Surrey.

### **2. Surrey Arts Centre – 1<sup>st</sup> Annual National Aboriginal Day Celebration:**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual National Aboriginal Day Celebration was held on June 21<sup>st</sup> at the Surrey Arts Centre. It was a tremendous success with several Schools from School District #36 attending. The day featured traditional dance, story telling, cavers, weaving, games and activities.

### **3. Community Development:**

*SPIRIT (Support Participation & Inclusion ~ Reach out, Involve & Transform)  
Volunteer program*

The General Manager reported that the Spirit Program has started its first year of volunteer recruitment, and disability awareness training sessions were held for staff, instructors and volunteers. Fall sessions will be offered community wide and 30+ volunteers are trained and ready to assist community members registered in Surrey Parks, Recreation & Culture programs.

*Special Needs/Disability Opportunities – day camps and away trips*

The General Manager reported that this summer, in partnership with Surrey Association for Community Living, the Parks, Recreation & Culture Department is able to provide 200 spaces for children and teens with special needs/disabilities to attend Surrey Parks, Recreation & Culture day camps and away trips. Opportunities for 15 – 20 youth to volunteer are also included for two-way learning in a peer inclusive environment.

**4. Surrey Museum and Archives**

The General Manger reported that Museum construction has achieved substantial completion and provisional occupancy. Exhibit fabrication is underway and collections move in will take place over the next month.

The General Manager noted that the Honey Hooser Textile collection has been moved from Elgin Heritage Park to the new Museum in Cloverdale and the historic threshing shed is being fit for program, exhibit and rental use.

**5. The new Youth Leadership Program-Level 1 Whalley Pilot July 26th, 27th, 28th and 29th.**

The General Manager reported that the pilot session would be offered to a limited number of registrants free of charge. The youth who participate will be asked to offer their input on the 4 sessions that make up Level 1. The youth input will be included in the finalization of the Level 1 Leadership Program.

The basic premise of the overall Leadership Program is to help youth develop their relationship with self, family and friends and the community. These three circles (self, f&f and community) are the backbone of the program.

The General Manager continued by noting the components of Level 1 and Level 2, which is still in formulation.

In response to questions from the Parks & Community Services Committee, the Manager Civic Buildings and Park Facilities noted:

- That the Cloverdale Seniors will be moving to the old Museum and Archives building until the new Cloverdale Multi-purpose facility is ready.
- That in order to get the building permit for the Archives which will be located in the 1912 City Hall, proper structural investigation is needed to bring the structural assembly up to 2005 standards.

**I. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL****J. CORRESPONDENCE**

**K. INFORMATION ITEMS****1. “Here and Now” Forum Theatre Project**

Memorandum from the Manager, Arts Services advising that Headlines Theatre staff have been meeting with community leaders from several organizations including: Immigrant Services Society of BC, Surrey/Delta Immigrant Services Society, Progressive Intercultural Society, South Asian Family Association, the Vancouver & Lower Mainland Multicultural Family Support Services to create a theatre project that finds community solutions to some day to day life issues, and in particular, the issue of community safety.

The memorandum noted that there is overwhelming consensus and support for the project, and Headlines staff approached the Ross Street Temple in Vancouver to co-produce the project. The “Here & Now” production is an art form and a public education project that encourages cross-cultural dialogue and promotes community driven solutions to everyday problems. The Surrey shows will be performed in the Surrey Art Centre Studio Theatre, December 1 – 11, 2005.

**2. Updates on Crescent Beach and Blackie Spit Issues: Swimmers’ Itch and Dog Swimming Area**

Memorandum from the Manager of Parks providing updates on Swimmers’ Itch at Crescent Beach and proposed Dog Swimming area at Blackie Spit.

Swimmers’ Itch:

The memorandum noted that recent outbreaks of swimmers’ itch at Crescent Beach have caused considerable discomfort for people and impacted the recreational value of the Beach. The problem began in the summer of 2001 and continued in the summers of 2002-2004. The Manager of Parks reported to the Committee:

- That previous to 2001 there are no records of swimmers’ itch at Crescent Beach or in any marine environment in British Columbia.
- That swimmers’ itch is caused by a parasite, which in the juvenile stages lives in marine snails, which were accidentally introduced to the area.
- The parasite dies in humans causing acute dermatitis when a sensitization reaction to the foreign proteins occurs.
- That as a result of an autumn 2004 stakeholder’ meeting, a proposal was submitted to senior government agencies for removal of the snails from strategic locations at Crescent Beach.
- That stakeholders included representatives from the City of Surrey, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Fraser Health Authority, Simon Fraser University and the Crescent Beach Property Owners Association.
- That a consultant was retained and based on the information provided, an application for snail removal was made to the coordinated Environmental Review Committee of the Fraser River Estuary Management Plan (FREMP) in February 2005.
- That FREMP approved the proposal, with several conditions- one of which

was that the City first obtain a Scientific Collections Permit from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO).

- That an application for the Scientific Collections Permit was filed in March 2005, and subsequently turned down by the Resource Management Branch of DFO.
- That denial may be due to concern for potential damage to the fragile inter-tidal ecosystem.
- That the DFO and the other stakeholder groups attended a meeting of the Crescent Beach Property Owner's Association on July 6, 2005.
- That based on community feedback, the City has written to DFO, asking that they join the other stakeholders for a round-table discussion on alternative acceptable strategies that might be employed to mitigate the impact of swimmer's itch.
- That the stakeholders felt a selected number of snails could be harvested and community volunteers are prepared to be trained and supervised by a Registered Professional biologist.
- That the idea was to take away introduced snails and hope that local snails would recolonize.
- That DFO holds all the authority on the foreshore and they need to come to a the table and participate so that solutions can be undertaken that will not harm the environment, but reduce the number of snails.
- That the argument is the snails cannot be eradicated and that larvae will be washed in from other areas of Crescent Beach.
- That there is no reliable scientific data to suggest that the proposal will work to reduce the incidence of swimmer's itch, but there is also none to suggest that it will not work.
- It is proposed that the largest snails be harvested as they are sterile and carry the highest number of larvae.
- That swimmers' itch is peculiar to the one area in Crescent Beach and has not reached other areas.
- That keeping the snail localized may help reduce the rate of spread to other beach areas, but it is likely that the problem will eventually be transported elsewhere in the province.
- That it is uncommon to have swimmers' itch in a salt-water area and it is only known to occur in San Francisco and Crescent Beach on the Pacific Coast.

The Parks & Community Services Committee discussed the issue of swimmers' itch and expressed concern that many families are not at the beach because they do not want their children affected.

The Committee asked that staff keep the Committee posted on progress and noted that studies have shown that when a problem such as this occurs, people will not go to the beach, and will not come back. It can take years for the ambience and economic viability of an area to return.

Dog Swimming Area – Blackie Spit

The memorandum from the Manager of Parks noted that as a result of the development of a dog management plan for Blackie Spit, a candidate area was identified for the development of a fenced dog-swimming area on the west side of Blackie Spit. The memorandum continued:

- That in October 2004, the City filed an application with Fraser River Estuary Management Program (FREMP).
- That FREMP rejected the proposal, citing environmental concerns, suggesting that the City consider an alternative area closer to the launching ramp.
- That the City subsequently modified its plan, and in February of 2005 submitted another application, and for which requested additional information.
- That the additional information has been submitted and staff was advised that the application is still undergoing an inter-agency review.
- That no date was given as to when a further response would be received, and staff will continue to work with FREMP to attempt to secure a dog swim area in Blackie Spit.

**L. EMERGING PRIORITIES/POLICY DISCUSSION****1. Youth Improvisation Theatre/Summer Theatre**

Councillor Higginbotham noted the value of the Here and Now style program that has been used in other areas of Canada with great success. She asked that if the program proves successful, staff use this concept as a foundation for other youth programs.

Councillor Higginbotham also noted the lack of summer theatre at the Arts Centre and asked that staff explore ways in which Surrey can provide summer productions perhaps through a partnership with a community organization.

The General Manager advised that staff want to increase the utilization of the theatre in the summer. This will be achieved by booking professional theatre companies, partnerships with community based theatre organizations and/or youth theatre production opportunities.

Staff will develop strategies for the 2006 summer season and will provide an update to the Committee in the New Year.

**M. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS****1. Walkway and Road Allowance 93<sup>rd</sup> Avenue 124<sup>th</sup> to 125<sup>th</sup>**

S. Dhaliwal asked that staff look at the walkway/road allowance on 93<sup>rd</sup> Avenue between 124<sup>th</sup> and 125<sup>th</sup> Streets, and suggested that the area could be improved and cleaned up for use by local residents. Staff will report back in September.

**N. ADJOURNMENT**

It was

Moved by Councillor Villeneuve  
Seconded by S. Chima  
That the Parks and Community Services

Committee meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Parks and Community Services Committee adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

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Margaret Jones, City Clerk

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M. Martin, Deputy Chair, Parks and  
Community Services Committee