



City of Surrey

Parks & Community Services Committee

Minutes

Annex Boardroom
7452 - 132 Street Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2005
Time: 7:00 p.m.

Present:

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

Absent:

S. Dhaliwal
M. Martin

Also Present:

L. Cavan, General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture

S. Palmer, Legislative Service
L. White, Community & Leisure Services, Parks, Recreation & Culture
S. McKinnon, Manager of Arts, Parks, Recreation & Culture
G. Ward, Manager, Urban Forestry & Environment Program, Parks, Recreation & Culture

School Board Trustee:

P. Glass

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was

Moved by Trustee Glass

Seconded by S. Chima

That the minutes of the Parks & Community Services Committee meeting held on July 20, 2005, be adopted.

Carried

B. DELEGATION/PRESENTATION

There are no delegations scheduled.

C. REQUEST(S) FOR DELEGATION

D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. Conversion of 93 Avenue Road Allowance to Park between 124A Street and 125th Street

Memorandum from the Acting Manager, Traffic Operations advising that Engineering does not support closure of the road allowance on 93 Avenue as they expect to connect 125 Street and 124A at some time in the future.

Note: Clean up and use by residents of this road allowance was brought up at the July 20, 2005 Parks & Community Services Committee.

The General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture commented that Engineering staff will provide clean up and signage in the area to address the concerns of the residents.

2. Sunnyside Acres Heritage Society

The report from the Manager of Parks on the proposed additions to the Sunnyside Acres Urban Forest will be available at the October, 2005 meeting.

E. STAFF PRESENTATION(S)

1. Active Living Presentation (see Appendix A attached)

Lisa White, Community & Leisure Services Manager, and L Bowie, Section Manager, Newton, were present to provide a presentation on Active Living.

The following comments were provided:

- The City's goal is to increase physical activity by 20%, and an active marketing program is underway to increase participation in Surrey.
- There were over 80 people attending the recent South Surrey Youth Triathlon event.
- The Active City celebration is scheduled for October 1, 2005 at Guildford Mall.
- The Whalley Value Guide provides information on accessible programs in the area.
- Youth Week takes place May 1 to May 7 and encourages participation in the youth group.
- The Surrey Children's Festival is a very successful event
- "Hit Me With Your Best Shot" dodgeball tournament first ever for youth 13 to 18 in Surrey will be hosted at Guildford Recreation Centre on Oct. 15th.
- The City continues to reach out to diverse communities through multi-lingual brochures and flyers and open houses.
- Program and events are advertised in elementary schools, bus shelters, after school programs, and other venues.
- The "Move for Health" Day takes place in May every year offering free activities and two-for-one opportunities.
- The Department is working with high schools to get more opportunities for youth age 13 to 18 involved in leadership programs and late night activities. Teresa Campbell, Surrey School District, and Bonnie St. Croix, Section Manager, Community and Leisure Services are working together on these concepts.
- Drop-in programs are becoming more popular for recreational activities
- More capital is being invested in weight rooms to help out with programs for people with physical challenges
- The "High Five" new instructor training program has proven very successful

for the elementary school age children, and plans are in the works to develop this program for instructors working with older youth.

Councillor Villeneuve noted that there has been a good response to the additional late night swimming times at the South Surrey pool.

2. Youth New Media Gallery (see Appendix B attached)

Sheila McKinnon, Arts Manager, will be present to provide a presentation on the Youth New Media Gallery

S. McKinnon introduced L Davison, Curator of Exhibition, and F Lemon, Youth Intern, working on a temporary assignment as Project Coordinator for REMIXX. She commented that the Surrey Art Gallery is celebrating its 30th Anniversary, having been established in 1975 as one of the foremost contemporary arts museum, and internationally recognized in two area of excellence to the community.

The following comments were provided :

- TechLab was started in 1999 partly in response to the opening of TechBC bringing the expertise of new media artists and enabling the public to meet them and learn more about digital contemporary art.
- The TechLab has been cited as one of the most successful strategies by a museum for not only providing the public access to understanding digital art forms, but also anticipating change.
- Surrey youth are interested in technology.
- In cooperation with the Surrey School District, and with the support of Virtual Museums Canada, the Surrey Art Gallery conducted a study of Surrey youth, and their involvement with digital art.
- They focused on youth as defined by the Federal Government – aged between 15 and 29 years.
- The results encouraged the Gallery to develop a strategy to respond to how they were using technology to create new art forms.
- In partnership with the Surrey School District and representatives of the Surrey Art Teachers' Association, a venue was developed to host artwork made by and of interest to youth, focusing on art they experienced on computer screens, cell phones and I-pods.
- A prototype of a youth media gallery was developed to present more than 50 paintings and a new art form.
- Partnership funding was received and the prototype was tested with focus groups.
- The key factor to this initiative is not only to listen to youth, but to place them in a decision making and creative role.
- This initiative offered the opportunity to dynamically explore the diversity of Surrey residents.
- Over 100 youth contributed digital content to the REMIXX.
- The REMIXX exhibit will be part of the Gallery's 30th Anniversary

celebration.

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. Park Naming – Newton Dog Off-leash Park

Memorandum from the General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture recommending that the Committee recommend to Council that the new Dog Off-leash Park at 76 Avenue and 126A Street be named “Serpentine Dog Off-leash Park”.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

It was Moved by Councillor Villeneuve
Seconded by N.Beuk
That the Parks & Community Services
Committee would recommend to Council that the new Dog Off-leash Park at 76
Avenue and 126A Street be named “Serpentine, Dog Off-Leash Park”.
Carried

G. REVIEW OF CALENDAR/UPCOMING EVENTS

A list of Upcoming Parks, Recreation and Culture Events is included for the information of the Committee.

The General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture, provided a brief overview of upcoming events and noted that there is no official date yet for the South Surrey Artificial Turf Field and that the Public Art Unveiling at the new Museum Official Ceremony is scheduled for 3:00 p.m. on October 15, 2005.

Discussion took place regarding the installation of a washroom at Sullivan Park. The question was raised of using existing washroom facilities in the school by park users and spectators. The General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture noted that funding is in place for washroom facilities and work will commence in the next two or three months. She added that, in the meantime, additional washrooms would be brought in on-site to minimize the impact on the community.

H. STAFF VERBAL REPORTS – DELIVERY OF SERVICES

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

1. South Surrey Pool

- Late night swimming was offered on a trial basis on Tuesday and Thursday

from 10:00 p.m. to midnight for the months of July, July and August, 2005.

- Average attendance for these sessions had been 43 participants per session with a high of 65 and a low of 30.
- With current participation levels, they are consistently meeting the cost recovery threshold.
- Customer response has been very favourable with several requests to extend late night swimming to other days of the week.
- Response has been positive, and late sessions have been continued into the fall schedule, however, response has not been strong enough at this point to expand the sessions to other week days.

S.Chima requested that staff look at the possibility of offering additional late night swimming at the North Surrey pool. The General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture noted staff would watch participation levels at that facility and report back on the swim schedule.

2. Safety Talk to Seniors at Bear Creek Pavilion

The General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture noted that a joint initiative between the Parks, Recreation & Culture Department and the RCMP had been initiated to deal with concerns arising from recent incidents at Bear Creek Park Pavilion.

The following comments were provided:

- RCMP Constable Mirza provided safety talks to seniors at Bear Creek Pavilion, with two Parks, Recreation & Culture staff in attendance.
- Feedback, comments or concerns were requested from the seniors with respect to services, the facility or surrounding park.
- An interpreter was present to assist with communication.
- The seniors were very pleased with the Bear Creek Pavilion facility for the purpose of socializing and playing cards.
- Parks, Recreation & Culture staff would continue to work with the RCMP and seniors regarding safety issues in the park.
- A recent positive article on the Seniors Club at Bear Creek Park was displayed for the committee to review.
- Further follow-up would continue with additional meetings with seniors.
- Seniors were encouraged to follow safe practices by not carrying cash, traveling in pairs, and advised who to call if they had concerns.

S. Chima asked if there could be security staff to patrol the Bear Creek Park Pavilion during those times. The General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture stated that staff is working with By-law Enforcement and the RCMP to have increased presence in the park. She added that the RCMP are monitoring the area and have reported that they are not seeing any ongoing undesirable activity in the area. She reiterated that staff will continue to work with the RCMP and By-law Enforcement to continue the intervention of educating people and using best safety practices.

Councillor Villeneuve noted that a meeting had taken place with the executive, senior's group, Chief Superintendent MacRae of the Surrey RCMP and the Constable from Newton taking charge. She continued that the bike patrol had been reassigned to the Newton District Office and would patrol the park between the hours of 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. She added that the RCMP are also going to provide ongoing education, and teach self-protection techniques to seniors.

Councillor Higginbotham raised the point that GVRD parks have been dealing with security issues and have encouraged patrons to use the "buddy system". In addition, she noted that GVRD Parks staff were trained in many areas including fire fighting and security. She added that the use of motion lights, well-lit walkways and clearing of underbrush are also encouraged in GVRD parks. She made the suggestion that a safety audit be undertaken.

The suggestion was raised to provide staff with language abilities available at the park during peak times to communicate with seniors. The General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture advised that the Park Caretaker that lives on site speaks Punjabi.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

It was Moved by S. Chima
Seconded by Councillor Higginbotham
That the Parks & Community Services
Committee would recommend to Council that funding be provided to allow staff to be hired for security purposes at Bear Creek Park.
Carried

3. Large Community Events in Surrey Parks

The General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture, noted that the south Asian community in Surrey utilizes park space for large community gatherings that include music, dance, food, rides, games, education, information and activities. She added that the parks seem to provide a large enough location to allow the community at large to socialize and celebrate in a central location.

She continued that in addition to public park spaces, the Amphitheatre is also utilized and examples of events at this location include the Teeyan Women's Festival and Indo Canadian Workers Association Celebration.

The following comments were then provided:

- These events often have specific themes such as Mother/Daughter Celebration (Teeyan Women's Festival), honouring poets such as Professor Mohan Singh and musicians Shaunki Mela.
- Sporting events also provide a location for large gatherings such as kabaddi which can bring in between 1,500 to 5,000 spectators to a tournament.
- The celebration held July 31, 2005 at Bear Creek Park to honour Professor Mohan Singh drew an estimated attendance of 15,000 to 20,000 throughout

the day.

- On average, there were about 6,000 to 8,000 on site at any one time.
- The event offered dancing, music, food, entertainment, rides and games and primarily drew south Asian spectators of all ages.
- The August 28, 2005 event at Newton Athletic Park in honour of Shaunki Mela drew an estimated attendance of 15,000 with an average of 6,000 on site at any one time.
- Wet weather had impacted attendance at this event and featured professional singers from India.
- Attendees were primarily young adults between the ages of 18 to 40 from the south Asian community.

4. Canadian Cancer Society Cops for Cancer Ride

- The Cops for Cancer Ride will be utilizing City facilities on September 30.
- They have booked space at Guildford Recreation Centre
- The ride tries to keep the group together and a member of the organizing team had requested access to City facilities to accommodate the group.

5. Arts Club Subscriptions

- The Surrey Arts Centre has surpassed last year's Arts Club subscriptions.
- Last year, approximately 3,000 subscriptions were sold and this number has now been exceeded.
- With subscriptions available until October 29, this should be a very good year for the Arts Centre.

6. Community Health Grant

- A Community Health Grant application through the Fraser Health Authority in the amount of \$8,100 has been approved.
- The grant is to expand services to Ted Khun Towers in partnership with B.C. Housing, People Helping People at Sunrise, Seniors Housing Information Program, and Seniors Support Services.
- B.C. Housing is donating office space for Parks, Recreation & Culture staff to utilize at Ted Kuhn Towers so that programs, counseling and referral services may be delivered more efficiently to the community.
- This is consistent with our desire to foster more outreach connections to the community.
- A practicum student from the UCFV will be helping out with this initiative in the fall.

7. Bell Community Sport Fund Grant

- A \$25,000 grant was received from the Bell Community Sport Fund.
- This grant was awarded to be used for the purchase and construction of synthetic turf goalmouths at the Forsythe Park soccer field to improve playing

conditions and increase children and youth's participation in soccer.

- Bell Canada arranged a media event on September 20, 2005 with representation from their "True Sport" Foundation.
- The Mayor, Mary Martin, Deputy Chair, Councillor Higginbotham and Councillor Priddy were also in attendance.

8. Portable Picnic Shelters

- There are sufficient budget funds in place to fabricate and place portable picnic shelters at the following three parks sites:
 - Beaver Creek Park (66 Avenue/122A Street)
 - Hazelnut Meadows Community Park (140 Street/68 Avenue)
 - Enver Creek Park (146 Street/81A Avenue, next to Janice Churchill Elementary School)
- The senior card players in the neighbourhood will heavily utilize these shelters.

9. Summer Camps

- 9,600 children registered in summer camps this year.
- 895 children participated in the free RCMP Junior Police Academy camp.

I. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

J. CORRESPONDENCE

K. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Surrey High Five Training

Copy of article from the Peace Arch News on Surrey Parks, Recreation & Culture "High Five" program and noting that 200 City staff will receive certification this year.

2. 20% Physical Activity Challenge – 20 by 2010

Copy of Report R197 from the General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture to Council on participation in the "20 by 2010" Provincial challenge to increase physical activity levels within the community by 20% by 2010.

L. EMERGING PRIORITIES/POLICY DISCUSSION

1. South Meridian School

Trustee Glass commented that there are no outdoor washrooms available for weekend soccer players.

G. Ward responded that the sports field at South Meridian School had been recently renovated and there has been more action and scheduling as a result. He added that staff would look at providing portable washrooms on site. The suggestion was raised to negotiate with the Surrey School Board regarding use of existing washroom facilities.

2. Canadian Tire Jump Start Program

Trustee Glass discussed the “Jump Start Program” offered through Canadian Tire stores which provides sports equipment for youngsters who cannot afford to purchase hockey or soccer gear. The General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture, commented that she is aware of the program and that staff are working on this program in the Newton area. She advised she would provide a report to the next committee meeting.

M. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

The Chair noted that the Surrey of Chamber Business Excellence Awards event is scheduled the same night as the next Parks & Community Services Committee (October 19, 2005). He advised that the General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture would reschedule the next committee meeting and notify members well in advance. The suggestion was raised to cancel the October meeting, combining it with an early November meeting.

N. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by S. Chima
Seconded by N. Beuk
That the Parks & Community Services

Committee meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Parks & Community Services Committee adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Margaret Jones, City Clerk

Chairperson: Councillor G. Tymoschuk
Parks & Community Services Committee