



City of Surrey

Parks & Community Services Committee

Minutes

Annex Boardroom
7452 - 132 Street
Surrey, B.C.
**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30,
2005**
Time: 7:00 p.m.

Present:

Chairperson: Councillor Tymoschuk
N. Beuk
S. Chima
S. Dhaliwal – 7:20 p.m.
M. Martin – 7:10 p.m.
Councillor Villeneuve

Absent:

Councillor Higginbotham

Also Present:

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

School Board Trustee:

P. Glass

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Adoption of Minutes – September 21, 2005

It was

Moved by Councillor Villeneuve

Seconded by N. Beuk

That the minutes of the Parks & Community Services Committee meeting held on September 21, 2005, be adopted.

Carried

B. DELEGATION/PRESENTATION

C. REQUEST(S) FOR DELEGATION

(1) Sports Cricket – Request for Delegation

The General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture advised that staff are currently working with a local sports cricket group regarding allocation of the cricket field, and hope to be able to resolve the group's request prior to the next meeting. The General Manager advised that staff are also working with the B.C. Lower Mainland Cricket League as to how the cricket field will interface with leagues throughout the Lower Mainland. However, the Surrey cricket group may wish to attend the next meeting of the Parks & Community Services Committee.

It was

Moved by N. Beuk

Seconded by Trustee Glass

That the delegation from the sports cricket group be received at the next meeting of the Parks & Community Services Committee meeting to be held on January 18, 2006, should a request come forward.

Carried

D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**1. Sunnyside Acres Heritage Society**

At the July 22, 2005 Parks and Community Services Committee, Dr. Roy Strang was present and recommended that some peripheral stands of trees in and near South Surrey Athletic Park be added to the dedicated Sunnyside Acres Urban Forest. The Manager of Parks provided a report which noted:

The Manager of Parks noted:

- That in the 1980's City-owned land known as "Sunnyside" was considered for development, but opposed by residents who formed the Sunnyside Acres Heritage Society.
- That the City held a referendum on the question of setting the lands aside in perpetuity as an Urban Forest Park, and the referendum was passed.
- That in 1996 another referendum was held and additional lands were added to the Urban Forest Park which now comprises 334 acres.
- That the Urban Forest Park Policy provides for acquisition of contiguous lands to provide for a buffer around the Urban Forest, and a referendum is not required for Council to dedicate park land for specific purposes.
- That the forest is a rare ecosystem and adding to the Urban Forest Park will assist to preserve and protect it.
- That 6 parcels of land have been proposed to be added:
 - Cemetery Lands –the lands requested to be removed from the Cemetery lie to the southwest of the Semiahmoo Heritage Trail and consist of second growth coniferous forest awaiting cemetery development. The lands are not contiguous with the forest, but separated by 148th Street.
 - South Surrey Athletic Park – the lands are forested and contiguous with the urban forest with some trails from the Bike Park connecting with trails within the dedicated Urban Forest.

Mary Martin arrived 7:10 p.m.

- Another part of the South Surrey Athletic park is forested and serves as a buffer between active athletic facilities and nearby residential neighbourhoods, and not contiguous with the Urban Forest.
- City Lot and Road Allowances – two cul-de-sac bulbs, an unopened side lane and City lot are all forested and contiguous with the Urban Forest. There are several minor engineering drainage features located on the lands.
- That after consultation with stakeholders and staff there was found to be agreement that most of the identified parcels of land are good candidates for being added to the Urban Forest Park.
- That staff recommend that the cemetery lands be retained as they provide a unique opportunity to create cremation interments and columbaria locations, while maintaining the forest ecosystem.

It was Moved by Trustee Glass
Seconded by Councillor Villeneuve
That

1. The Parks and Community Services Committee receive the report on the request to add lands to Sunnyside Acres Urban Forest for information; and
2. That the Parks & Community Services Committee recommend to Council that all land parcels identified in Appendix 2 be added to the dedicated Sunnyside Acres Urban Forest Park after all appropriate legislative and process issues have been dealt with by staff; and
3. That the Committee recommend to Council that the Sunnyside Lawn Cemetery lands not be added to the dedicated Sunnyside Acres Urban Forest Park; and
4. That The Committee recommend to Council that land parcels “B” and “C” identified in Appendix 1 of the report be referred to Legal Services for an opinion on whether or not a public referendum is required to rescind the previous dedication as “...held for park, pleasure and recreation and community uses...” prior to their dedication by Council as urban forest park.

Carried

2. North Surrey Indoor Pool

At the September 21, 2005 Parks & Community Services Meeting, the issue of extending pool hours at the North Surrey Indoor Pool was raised. The General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture provided a report which noted:

- That the North Surrey Indoor Pool is currently open to the public until 9 p.m. except for Tuesday and Thursday which are open until 10:00 p.m.
- That Tuesday and Thursday are Women Only swim times and have been very successful.
- That staff will start taking attendance between 8:00 and 9:00 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday to evaluate public demand for extending hours.
- That while North Surrey’s public swims and adult swims have increased participation since the renovations, the pool is not at a point where the swims are crowded and swimmers turned away.

Sukh Dhaliwal arrived 7:20 p.m.

It was Moved by Councillor-elect Martin
Seconded by Councillor Villeneuve
That the Parks & Community Services
Committee receive the report on extension of hours at the North Surrey Indoor
Pool, for information.

Carried

3. Summer Theatre Utilization

At the July Parks & Community Services Committee meeting, members expressed an interest in seeing greater utilization of the Surrey Arts Centre theatre facilities during the summer months.

The General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture noted that they definitely want to increase utilization of the theatre over the summer months and the report provides some strategies and opportunities as to how this can be done.

The Manager of Arts Services provided a report, which outlined the core activities of the Surrey Arts Centre as defined in the Cultural Strategic Plan. The report noted:

- That accepted industry standard for theatres is 235 booking days annually.
- That in 2003 booking days for the Studio and Main Stage was 217 days; in 2004 295, and 2005 is expected to remain at the same level.
- That most bookings are concentrated in the October to June theatre season, with a low summer demand.
- That people tend to spend more time outdoors during the summer, and it is an opportune time to carry out maintenance.
- That there are some successful summer programs such as Bard on the Beach, Theatre Under the Stars, and the Arts Club Theatre Company, which receive sources of funding not available to the City of Surrey.
- That based on research one option is summer theatre school for youth, which would be a break-even proposition, but increase theatre usage, participation and educational opportunities for youth.
- That staff will also pursue additional opportunities through 2010 Legacies Now, ArtsNow, the Union of BC Municipalities Community Tourism Program, the Youth Arts Council and recruit members for a Theatre Program Advisory Committee.
- That staff will work with the Theatre Program Advisory Committee and meet with stakeholders to explore new ways of increasing theatre usage in the summer.
- That with the recent growth in facility bookings and new funding sources available to support cultural presentations, that the Surrey Arts Centre and City in general will see more summer arts events in the future.
- That in the development of Holland Park they are looking to providing an outdoor venue which will provide opportunities for the community as well.

Councillor Villeneuve noted that the Studio Theatre may be a nice venue for those in the community who have dramatic skills and who may want to teach during the summer months. It would also be an opportunity for people to showcase their own work, and perhaps an opportunity for university students to showcase some of their work as well.

It was Moved by M. Martin
Seconded by S. Chima
That the Parks and Community Services
Committee receive the report on Summer Theatre Utilization for information.
Carried

4. Toilet Facilities at South Meridian Park

At the September Parks & Community Services Committee meeting, the issue of toilet facilities at South Meridian Park was raised. The Manager of Parks provided a report which noted:

- That presently portable toilets are in place to serve athletes who use the field on weekends.
- That a pre-fabricated concrete washroom building with underground storage vault will be constructed with anticipated completion by the end of the year.
- That feedback is being sought from the local community on a proposal to site the building on parkland south of the soccer fields.

In response to questions, the Manager of Parks indicated that there are washrooms at Unwin Park adjacent to the caretaker's residence, and staff will look at additional signage for these washrooms and the washrooms at Crescent Park.

It was Moved by M. Martin
Seconded by S. Chima
That the Parks and Community Services
Committee receive the report on Toilet Facilities at South Meridian Park for information.
Carried

E. STAFF PRESENTATION(S)

1. Public & Community Art Presentation

Todd Ayotte, Community Development Services Manager, was in attendance to provide an overhead presentation on Public and Community Art. The presentation noted:

- That public art places the work of an artist in a publicly accessible space and is generally created in the artist's studio with their singular vision created for a specific site.
- That community art refers to both the process and the artistic product and is a collaborative partnership between the artist and community.
- That Council adopted a Public Art Policy in 1998, and appointed a Public Art Advisory Committee.
- That the policy was revised in 2004 and applies to all art projects installed and sited on City land or parks.

- That the policy ensures artwork and the creative concepts of artists are supported.
- The art is selected through an informed, open and fair competition and reflective of a wide range of professional artistic expression.
- That public art is integrated into the planning, design and execution of applicable civic development.
- That capital projects are identified in the public art plan and approved by Council.
- That non-capital projects are often independent, community-initiated and may involve alternative funding sources.
- That because non-capital art projects are intended for public siting, the Public Art Policy Applies and Public Art staff and the Public Art Advisory Committee are there to support the projects.
- That Public/Community Art staff liaise with the Public Art Advisory Committee, City staff, artists, contractors and technical experts on City art projects.
- That staff also provide support on all public and community art projects, collections management, maintenance, documentation, etc.
- That the Public Art Advisory Committee advised on implementation of the policy, provides artistic and technical expertise.
- That the guiding principles of public and community art is that it is accessible to all citizens, flexible to encourage a wide variety of creative expression, integral to civic planning, encourages excellent quality and innovation, and demonstrates the significance of art in community life.

The Community Development Services Manager continued by providing an overview of the selection process, distribution of the Call for Proposals, Selection Panel, technical review if necessary, Public Art Advisory Committee recommendation and Council approval if necessary.

Mr. Ayotte concluded his presentation by noting the wide range of media used for public art and presented overheads of public art projects in the City of Surrey, noting current and upcoming projects.

2. Child & Youth Friendly City

The General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture noted that the Child & Youth Friendly City Program is a result of initiatives by the National Parks & Recreation Association and something the City of Surrey believes in.

Lisa White, Manager of Community & Leisure Services provided a presentation on Child & Youth Friendly City. Ms. White noted:

- That the City has established a Child and Youth Friendly City Committee who are working on quality assurance strategies to ensure welcoming spaces for children and youth.

- That policy and procedures include guidelines for youth staff, program instructors manual, child protection policy, code of conduct policy, and gender equity policy.
- That the Child and Youth Friendly Committee:
 - Support and coordinate child and youth friendly education and awareness initiatives.
 - Support the development of policies that are aligned with child and youth friendly principles.
 - Provide leadership and act as a resource to the Parks, Recreation & Culture Department.
 - That the program is in effect in North Surrey, Guildford and South Surrey facilities and they are currently working towards Fleetwood.
 - Staff are provided with picture identification so that youth can quickly identify them.

The Manager of Community & Leisure Services continued by noting:

- Information from the Aquatics Guide, which outlines health and safety guidelines to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for youth.
- The “Right from the Start” program, which provides opportunities for parenting courses for parents of children under 2 years of age.
- The “High Five” program which offers certification for frontline leaders.
- Late night youth programs.
- Educational opportunities for youth such as helmet safety.
- The Surrey Children’s Festival.
- Youth Week.
- The Diwali Festival.
- The Whalley Enhancement Strategy which has increased participation of children and youth by 6,000 in 2005.
- Development of the Whalley Value Guide marketing free swimming lessons, value camps, programs and free events to the community.
- The Youth Council – a City Wide committee made up of 18 youth from each town center with ages ranging from 11 to 19.

The Manager of Community & Leisure Services advised that the Action for Neighbourhood Change program is an initiative funded by the Government of Canada and will involve the Bridgeview Community. The program will reach out to the community to see what their challenges are and work with the residents and their resources. That if the program is successful, it will be rolled out to other areas in Surrey.

- The Manager of Community & Leisure Services noted that when developing facilities the City looks at how they can be made more child and youth friendly.
- That the City now has six youth parks.
- That community access computers are placed in facility lobbies and are available for all to work on and very popular.

That 2006 initiatives are to increase awareness of Youth Friendly City initiatives and principals to community partners, coordinate child and youth friendly information and opportunities, Respect Ed training for community groups, prevention of abuse and harassment in all sport, and youth involvement in decision making.

F. NEW BUSINESS

G. REVIEW OF CALENDAR/UPCOMING EVENTS

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

H. STAFF VERBAL REPORTS – DELIVERY OF SERVICES

(1) Museum and Archives

The Manager of Arts reported that the Museum opened October 15 and has been tremendously successful with 11,500 people having visited since the opening.

(2) Cloverdale Partnership Publication and Ahead of the Game

The General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture distributed a brochure “Affordable Fun in Cloverdale” highlighting activities in Cloverdale and created in partnership with the Cloverdale Business Improvement Association and Cloverdale Chamber of Commerce.

The General Manager reported that development of a brochure “Ahead of the Game” is being produced along with the Economic Development Department and Spirit of BC. The objective is to highlight strategies to ensure Surrey is positioned for the Olympics and although not hosting an Olympic event, the City will want to advertise its venues and explore other Olympic and sport tourism opportunities.

(3) Park Horticulture Volunteer program

The General Manager reported the Park Volunteer Program, which provides meaningful volunteer opportunities in Darts Hill and Glades estate gardens, to students who have a curriculum-based practicum or volunteer hours requirement to fill. The goal is to expose youth to horticulture work and nurture a passion for plants and our Parks system. The program also hopes to attract youth that reflect the diversity of our community, and who will be attracted to civic parks as a future career opportunity.

(4) Adopt-a-Park program

The General Manager reported that in partnership with the RCMP, a bursary is being offered to each of the 3 secondary schools in the Peninsula for their dry grads. In return the schools adopt a local park, and commit to regular litter cleanup, graffiti control as well as designing and implementing one major community spirit initiative in their park. Parks will provide technical and material support, and monitor performance. The school with the highest performance rating over the 6 month period, will be provided with an additional bursary.

(5) Environmental programs

The General Manager reported that the 'Releaf' tree planting- program took place through October and scores of school children and Surrey residents planted hundreds of ornamental and native trees and shrubs on City boulevards and parks. Releaf planting opportunities occur in April and October every year.

The General Manager reported that the 8th annual Salmon Homecoming was held on Sunday, November 6th, 1-4 pm, and Surrey residents celebrated the return of salmon to City streams and creeks. Salmon release, music, educational and informational displays were provided by a wide range of environmental groups.

(6) Curator in Residence

The General Manager reported that Niranjan Rajah has started his year-long residency at the Surrey Art Gallery, conducting research that is hoped will lead to a major exhibition on the theme of Sacred Spaces in 2007. The residency is funded by a grant from the Canada Council for Culturally Diverse Curators in Residence. Mr. Rajah is also faculty at SFU Surrey, and is a PhD candidate at the University of Plymouth, England.

(7) “On the Move” workshop

The General Manager reported that Community and Leisure Services were successful in being selected to host an "On the Move" workshop. This was an excellent staff training opportunity - a blend of gender equity and active living, aimed at increasing participation in physical activity by girls and young women (ages 9-18).

(8) Headlines Theatre “Here and Now”

The General Manager reported that a Headlines Theatre Production would be taking place at the Surrey Theatre Dec 1 to 4, and December 7 – 11 and features audience interactive participation, created and performed by members of the Indo-Canadian Community. The project began with a weeklong workshop with 25 members of the community who all had a direct or indirect connection to current issues - including former gang members, at-risk youth, family and friends of gang members, and social workers. From the workshop came the content for the play.

(9) 2006 Canadian Rhythmic Gymnastics Championships

The General Manager reported that Surrey will host the 2006 Canadian Rhythmic Gymnastics Championships at the Guildford Recreation Centre June 1- 4, 2006. The event is sanctioned by Gymnastics Canada and includes 125 of the best novice, junior and senior rhythmic gymnasts, who are all females under the age of 18. The General Manager noted that this is a huge event for the City as the 2006 competition will feature gymnasts who could represent Canada at the Beijing Olympics

(10) Canadian Tire Jump Start Program

The General Manager reported that in 2005 Surrey Parks, Recreation and Culture was invited by Canadian Tire to participate in their Jump Start program. The program acts as a partnership between Parks, Recreation and Culture and Canadian Tire, with 100% of the program costs covered by Canadian Tire. The program is designed to offer children an opportunity to participate in activities that promote physical activity. A committee is in place that meets semi-annually to discuss the program as well as funding opportunities.

Jump Start program opportunities were promoted to the Newton community through local elementary schools. Families at the Newton Recreation Centre and the community-based Healthy Lifestyle's Kids Who Cook committee were also targeted. The program was successful in getting fifteen children registered into the programs free of charge. Not all of the \$3,000 was utilized in 2005 and the long-term goal is to increase the uptake in the program and increase the number of children that access the funding.

I. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL**1. New Environmental Stewardship Program – a Successor to SHaRP**

At its Regular Council (Public Hearing) Meeting held October 3, 2005, Council referred Corporate Report R232 to the Environmental Advisory Committee, the Agricultural Advisory Committee, and the Parks and Community Services Committee for information.

The Manager of Parks noted that the program will involve new initiatives and work within streams and in natural areas outside stream corridors on park lands. Approximately half of the program funding will be managed by Engineering and the other half by the Parks Division. All of these initiatives, aimed at youth involvement, will be marketed centrally in the City to ensure a consistent message about environmental programs. The program will try to offer weekend opportunities for students as well.

It was Moved by S. Dhaliwal
Seconded by M. Martin
That the Parks & Community Services
Committee receive Report R232 on the New Environmental Stewardship Program
for information.

Carried

J. CORRESPONDENCE

K. INFORMATION ITEMS

L. EMERGING PRIORITIES/POLICY DISCUSSION

Holly Park Access

Councilor Villeneuve asked about the alleyway/pathway to Holly Park, which residents would like made safer for those who use the park in a proactive way in the evening hours.

The Manager of Parks reported that the pathway is a mechanism for residents to get back and forth to their apartment units. The park is closed at night and a cost estimate is being prepared for lighting. They are also meeting with the Bylaw Officer who handles crime free multi housing and the RCMP to see if there are other things that can be done.

A community meeting is being planned for early in 2006.

An update will be provided to the Parks & Community Services at its January 18, 2006 meeting.

Use of City Portion of Green Timbers Facilities

In response to a query from Trustee Glass, it was noted that the Parks, Recreation & Culture Department will be looking at opportunities for adaptive re-use of the buildings at Green Timbers. It was noted that there are 2 Cape Cod forest service buildings built in the 1930s and one or both are being considered for the heritage register. There is also a flat-roofed office building and another building which has classrooms at the front; a report on adaptive re-use is expected within the next few weeks.

Camp Kwomais

The Manager Long Range Planning & Policy Development reported that the United Church will be assessing their camps and camps with youth programs and looking at a variety of options. As staff receive information, the Parks & Community Services Committee will be kept updated.

South Surrey Football Track

The General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture advised that staff have not had discussions in terms of a stadium at South Surrey, and the master plan does not include either a stadium site or intent that the football track become a stadium.

Lord Tweedsmuir Football Program/Cloverdale Minor Football

Trustee Glass will make inquiries about this program and report back to the next meeting.

M. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

Councillor-elect Martin commented that it had been an honor to be Deputy Chair of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee and thanked Councillor Tymoschuk for his service to the community as a School Trustee, Councillor, member of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Commission and the Parks & Community Services Committee.

The General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture presented Councillor Tymoschuk with a gift on behalf of staff and the Committee and thanked him for the caring he had shown to the community and his willingness to tackle the hard issues.

Councillor Tymoschuk was thanked for his leadership, mentorship and friendship and members of the Committee noted that he will be missed.

Councillor Tymoschuk thanked members of the Committee and stated it had been a very enjoyable 9 years and he was pleased and privileged to have served. He thanked staff for their support, complimented them on their excellent work, and wished them continued success in their careers.

N. ADJOURNMENT

It was

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

Committee meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Parks and Community Services Committee adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Margaret Jones, City Clerk

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