



City of Surrey

Parks & Community Services Committee

Minutes

Annex Boardroom
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2006
Time: 7:15 p.m.

Present:

Chairperson: Councillor Martin
Councillor Gill
Councillor Villeneuve
S. Chima
N. Beuk

Absent:

S. Dhaliwal
Trustee P. Glass

School Board Trustee:

Also Present:

L. Cavan, General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture
L. Guilbault, Manager Long Range Planning & Policy Development
L. White, Manager Community & Leisure Services
R. Ryan, Business Operations and Athletic Fields
D. Vestergaard, Administrative Coordinator
C. Bonneville, Legislative Service

The Chair welcomed those in attendance to the Parks & Community Services Committee ("PCSC") meeting. She thanked the members, and Councillor J. Higginbotham and S. Dhaliwal for their time and effort with the PCSC. She also welcomed Councillor Gill as a new member to the PCSC.

L. Cavan provided an update regarding the appointments to the Committee, stating that there is currently one vacancy. S. Chima has applied for reappointment and S. Dhaliwal's intention is unknown. The advertisement for the vacancies were posted and there are two weeks within which applications may be received for Council consideration.

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The Committee is requested to adopt the minutes of the Parks & Community Services Committee meeting held November 30, 2005.

It was

Moved by Councillor Villeneuve

Seconded by S. Chima

That the minutes of the Parks & Community Services Committee meeting held on November 30, 2005, be adopted.

Carried

B. DELEGATION/PRESENTATION

1. Green Timbers Heritage Society (SNAP)

Mr. Peter Maarsman of the Green Timbers Heritage Society was in attendance to provide a presentation on the Surrey Stewardship of Natural Areas Partnership (SNAP) program.

Following are the comments made during Mr. Maarsman presentation:

- SNAP is in their sixth year of operation and presently raising funds for 2006.

SNAP will soon be interviewing university students for the five available positions. There are sixty applications received and the Society managed to get the highest quality of employees.

- SNAP is a community driven effort to preserve, protect and enhance natural area in Surrey. The Green Timbers Heritage Society in partnership with the White Rock and Surrey Naturalists, Sunnyside Acres Heritage Society, Surrey Parks, Recreation and Culture Department, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, VanCity, and the Surrey Foundation operated the program in 2005. SNAP is hoping to have an additional new partner this year and this will enable the hiring of more students.
- Projects are based on their mandate to restore and enhance natural areas, maintain previous SNAP project sites, educate park users about environmental issues and to provide environmental education to children's summer camps. Key projects have been the planting of native species, invasive plant removals, trail maintenance, decommissioning unsanctioned trails, providing pamphlets to residents about yard waste removal, nature camps for children and community environmental events.
- Throughout the summer students work with Urban Forestry and Environmental Programs Section to complete projects and develop new ones. While their major focus is on the Green Timbers Urban Forest, Sunnyside Acres Urban Forest, and Blackie Spit Park, they also work in 20 other parks and greenbelts in Surrey.
- SNAP in the first few years installed 3,700 native plants to create wildlife habitats and removed 100 truckloads of destructive invasive plant species. In 2003 SNAP removed over 214 metres of invasive plants while planting 1,824 native plants, over 240 metres of trail was built in Green Timbers Urban Forest. Dumping waste into the forest was a major problem and SNAP does a great job of providing brochures to educate the public not to dump in the forest or parks. In 2004 SNAP removed over 118 square metres of invasive plants, planted 941 native plants and completed a 300-meter all season trail in Green Timbers. In 2005 SNAP removed 170 square metres of invasive plants throughout Surrey and planted 720 native plants. A total of 24 cubic metres of yard waste and 43.9 cubic metres of garbage were also removed.
- A lot of work involves visiting former sites to keep up the areas completed in previous years. Volunteers also provide 96 hours to help with restoration and enhancement.
- The SNAP students have amazing enthusiasm and with confidence they complete all the projects and surpass expectations.

Eco Ranger Patrol:

- The Eco Ranger Patrol received a positive response from the public in its first year. Yalda Asadian, the Coordinator, designed the program based on similar programs in the GVRD. She recruited volunteers ranging in age from 15 to 55 who worked in Green Timbers Urban Forest, Sunnyside Acres Urban Forest and Blackie Spit.
- In Green Timbers there were eight volunteers with an average of eight shifts per week for a total of 84 hours and they talked to 500 visitors. In Sunnyside Acres the four volunteers spent four shifts per week for a total of 64 hours and talked to about 100 park visitors. In Blackie Spit there were four volunteers

with an average of five shifts for a total of 52 hours and talked to about 120 park users.

- Five cell phones, t-shirts and hats were purchased to set the volunteers apart from the visitors to the park. The Eco Rangers had a difficult task of trying to get the public to obey the rules and regulations of the park. For example dogs off leash; off-road bikes making new trails and damaging wildlife, plants and trees; and feeding wildlife and birds. This proved necessary so we hope to continue this program for another year.
- A recommendation would be to increase the presence of By-law officers in the park; this would assist the Eco Rangers to enforce the by-laws.

Mr. Maarsman introduced Brenda Void, a previous participant with SNAP.

Brenda Boye stated the benefits of her work done with SNAP as follows:

- Able to work in the city, and cycle to work.
- A great working environment, happy environment.
- Sense of putting back into the community.
- There were challenging moments, such as users that have been using the trails for years and being told of rules and regulation, and working with young children.
- Was able to use equipment not available in an academic environment. Applied the learned theory and knowledge gained in the classroom to work in the field.
- Developed a newfound awareness of what citizens think. Having people from the community come out and contribute and the feeling that you were really doing something meaningful and having a sense of accomplishment.

Following are the comments made during the discussion of the delegation:

- Suggest that the delegation present before Council in the springtime, to assist with the public awareness of yard waste and the curbside waste program.
- At most parks there is signage stating 'no dumping', the one-on-one approach does work.

In response to questions from the Committee, the delegation stated:

- Volunteers provide 300 to 400 hours during the summer time.
- We are presenting to the Committee so that you may see the value of the programs.
- More signage would be good, but most visitors don't read the signage.

The Chair thanks the delegation and commended the time and effort put forward through the programs.

L. Cavan stated that on behalf of the department, she thanked the society for all of their hard work and dedication. She further stated that the department has a desire to continue to work with this valuable community group.

It was suggested that the ratepayers associations would be a good start to marketing the message of partnership programs with the community.

2. Friends of Semiahmoo Bay

Margaret Cuthbert, President, Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society (“FSBS”), was in attendance to discuss the Birds on the Bay 2006 Program.

Following are the comments made during the FSBS PowerPoint presentation:

- FSBS is a trans-boundary project focused society mandated to participate in conservation and restoration projects in the local community.
- FSBS works to build project partnerships and by sharing resources, together achieve common restoration and educational goals. Our partnerships include local residents, businesses, other non-profit groups, First Nations, Municipal, Provincial and Federal government agencies.
- Projects include opportunities to engage and raise the public’s awareness, knowledge, community pride and participation in the natural treasures of the City of Surrey.
- Some of the projects that are being carried out in Surrey include:
 - Shoreline and Marine Projects
 - Eelgrass Mapping and Monitoring;
 - Sub tidal Debris Removal;
 - Shore keepers;
 - Invasive Removal;
 - Watershed Planting;
 - Habitat Restoration; and
 - Boundary Bay Habitat Atlas (inter tidal mapping with volunteers).
- FSBS joined with the Seagrass Conservation Group in 2002 to build community stewardship for crucial eelgrass meadows of Boundary Bay. Our eelgrass volunteers are on the beaches between May though to September each year.
- As participants of the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup we plan to remove sub tidal debris to improve human and wildlife safety and improve water quality. This project is promoted nationally and internationally.
- In 2004, FSBS initiated a “Shore keepers’ program in Boundary Bay coordinating community volunteers to form teams to “adopt” a section of beach to survey annually. We now have six “Shore keeper” teams surveying eight sections of shoreline from the US border to Blackie Spit. Over 80 community volunteers have participated to date.
- *Spartina angelica* (English Cordgrass) Removal Group investigates the spread of this invasive inter-tidal plant in Boundary Bay near the City of Surrey border; our focus is to educate field volunteers in its identification, record the GPS coordinates and report its presence for removal and raise the public’s awareness.
- Watershed Planting along the Little Campbell River, with over 30 community partners including the City of Surrey’s ShaRP and SNAP teams have participated in planting, removing invasives and fencing on the Little Campbell River.
- FSBS works with other stewardship groups to increase wild salmon in the rivers of Surrey.
- FSBS initiated the Boundary Bay Habitat Atlas in 2002 with the Community

Mapping Network, all levels of government and other groups to share resources, data and develop an integrated planning and resource management tool.

- Since 2002, FSBS has hosted free training workshops for community volunteers of all ages, all economic and cultural backgrounds. Two eelgrass mapping and monitoring and marine invertebrate ID training workshop are scheduled for May and June 2006, both in Surrey. Two shore keeper and forage fish workshops are scheduled for May and June in Surrey.
- Free Education Outreach Activities include: Celebrating International World Ocean Day (third year hosting this event with Surrey Parks at Blackie Spit); FSBS Marine Display; Skimboarder decorum poster; Beach Hero Interpretive Program.
- Recognizing the need to promote beach etiquette FSBS approached the 'cool' local skim boarding crew to partner with producing a skim boarding beach etiquette poster. We provided the etiquette they provided photo and layout. The poster has been supplied to the City of Surrey.
- In 2004, FSBS recommended DFO support a free family program offered by interpreters with a marine ecology background. FSBS developed the "Beach Hero" Program and between June and September, six interpreters carried packs full of fun family activities and led walks on the beaches of Surrey. Hundreds of children and adults learned beach ecology, etiquette and personal safety tips.

Bird on the Bay, Jane Weiss, Chair, Birds on the Bay Program ("BBP"), was in attendance to discuss the Birds on the Bay 2006 Program.

Following are the comments made during the Birds on the Bay Program, PowerPoint presentation:

- The BBP is now in its fourth year. BBP directly involves over 15,000 participants annually and indirectly touches thousands more through its website and program promotion. The majority of the program and activities are held in the City of Surrey.
- The BBP was initiated to raise public awareness, respect and community involvement in this internationally recognized area through both conservation and educational programs.
- Through the Nest Box Stewardship Program volunteers install, clean and repair nest boxes at a number of Surrey Parks.
- BBP monitors breeding success thru the nesting season, this conservation program involves over thirty community volunteers.
- One of the most important aspects of the BBP is Community Education Outreach.
- The BBP is an annual winter program organized and coordinated by FSBS with over fifty community partners. The 2006, January to June program, offers over eighty events, mostly free family activities, which are inclusive of residents and visitors and many events can be enjoyed by people with special needs.
- The BBP also highlights wildlife viewing by kayak. Experienced naturalists and kayak guides lead several different kayak expeditions to key wildlife areas including the Nicomekl River and Boundary Bay in Surrey.

- BBP annually hosts a formal opening reception event, February 24 at the Rotary Field House in South Surrey. This featured event offers politicians and community decision makers a chance to meet and share ideas.
- BBP brought the formal International Designation for Hemispheric Reserve Celebration to the City of Surrey in April 2005 held at the Surrey Art Centre.
- BBP Educational Outreach includes a traveling display and family activities to many Surrey Parks events such as Earth Day, World Oceans Day and the Salmon Homecoming and others.
- FSBS has initiated in cooperation with the Surrey School District to deliver a number of free guided interpreted field walks, outdoor discovery activities and events focused to reach urban youth in Parks and Natural Areas near Surrey Schools. Field equipment and teacher resource packages are available.
- FSBS continues to facilitate important interpretive signage; there are three western hemisphere shorebird reserve network signs in the City of Surrey.
- In summary BBP brings together numerous project partners and citizens to work together to achieve broader goals on a watershed scale. It encourages and supports cooperation, cohesive action, a community education and a shared responsibility for environmental stewardship. Through the protection and enhancement of its 'natural capital', the community is strengthened with greater health benefits, economic possibilities and pride of place.

The Chair thanks the delegation for their presentation.

Following are the comments made during the discussion of the delegation:

- Education regarding swimmer itch is important, it was suggested that an education pamphlet be made available.

L. Cavan advised that the Parks Department works with the Health Authority, and the Health Authority is putting together a panel to advise on the issue of swimmer's itch.

In response to questions from the Committee, the delegation stated:

- There are many other groups monitoring the issue of avian flu, we do have a contact that could come before the committee and provide information. Our presentation of the BBP is done as a positive thing.
- The snails have been in the Bay for over fifty years and it would be very difficult to remove them all. Dr. Tom Carefoot may be a resource for the research of swimmers itch.

L. Cavan commended the delegation for the work done in the community.

3. Darts Hill Garden Conservancy Trust Society

Susan Murray, Chair, Darts Hill Garden Conservancy Trust Society was in attendance to update the Committee on recent activities of the Society and provide an overview of activities planned in the garden in 2006.

Following are the comments made during the Darts Hill Garden Conservancy

Trust Society (“Darts”) PowerPoint presentation:

- Darts is one of the great jewels of the City of Surrey; this presentation provided a brief history of Darts and photographs of the park. Darts would like to host the Committee as a group to show this jewel in the City.
- Francisca Darts is the founder, and her husband Edmund Darts was a big partner.
- Historic slides of the property were shown, showing the land prior to the garden, the house on the hill, and the orchard as the first planting on the land.
- There are many rare and original plant materials in the garden. Francisca Darts sent away for seeds from all over the world and propagated the plants for the garden.
- Slides of the garden through the different seasons were shown, witch hazel tree in full bloom, rare specimens in the northwest, magnolia collections, rhododendrons that people from all over the world come to see.
- There is a spring open day in the garden, and also a fall open day, and tours can be booked through the Parks, Recreation and Culture Call Centre.
- There is a labeling project in progress, in which all plants in the garden will be labeled.
- There is a small group of active volunteers that assist with all the work to be done.
- We would like to host a tour of Darts with the Committee members.

The Chair concurred that hosting a tour for the PCSC should be done. The delegation stated that March and April are good months for a tour, however at May the gardens are brilliant.

O. Croy stated that Darts has been a valued partner in the operation of the Darts Hill Garden. The garden is not in a state of readiness to be open to the public at all times, however with the collaboration with Mrs. Darts and the volunteer guides provided by the Society, Darts Hill Garden is accessible for anyone who would like to see the gardens. The Darts Hill Garden Conservancy Society is one of the hardest working groups volunteer groups that the City partners with.

C. REQUEST(S) FOR DELEGATION

1. Sport Cricket – Request for Delegation

In response to a question from the PCSC, L. Cavan advised that there was no request for delegation received from the local sports cricket group.

D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. Holly Park Access

At the November 30, 2005 meeting, the Committee asked that an update be provided at the January 18, 2006 meeting. The Manager of Parks has provided a memo regarding the January 25 public meeting about the walkway near Holly

Park and advised that the Parks Division is taking an integrated approach to resolving this issue.

2. Lord Tweedsmuir Football Program/Cloverdale Minor Football

At the November 30, 2005 meeting, Trustee Glass advised she would make inquiries about this program and report back to the January 18, 2006 meeting.

This item is to be forwarded to the next PCSC meeting when Trustee Glass is expected to be attendance.

3. Public Art at Guildford RCMP Office

At the November 30, 2005 meeting, the Committee asked about the translation of the Public Art at the Guildford RCMP District #2 Office at 104th Avenue and 148th Street. The Manager of Arts Services has provided a memorandum providing a brief description of the translation and interpretation of the Public Art.

E. STAFF PRESENTATION(S)

There were no staff presentations.

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. Allocation of Sullivan Heights Park Cricket Field.

The Manager, Business Operations & Athletic Fields has provided a report with an overview of the sport of cricket in Surrey and describing the methodology utilized to provide community access to the recently constructed Sullivan Heights Park cricket ground.

G. REVIEW OF CALENDAR/UPCOMING EVENTS

A list of upcoming Parks, Recreation and Culture Events was reviewed and L. Cavan advised that time for the Fraser Heights Recreation Centre Official Opening, schedule for Saturday, February 4, is now starting at 1 p.m. and ending at 3 p.m.

H. STAFF VERBAL REPORTS – DELIVERY OF SERVICES

L. Cavan provided the following verbal reports:

1. City Wide Youth Council

Parks Recreation and Culture has been working with an enthusiastic group of youth from across the City resulting in the development of a Citywide Youth Committee. Their primary purpose is to make recommendations on recreation activities and options for youth. Engage youth in developing solutions to youth

issues. Currently there are 18 youths with representation from all six-town centers. Parks, Recreation and Culture provide ongoing support, facility space and coaching to the group.

2. Fraser Heights Recreation Centre

Fraser Heights has opened to the public. The Official Opening and Ribbon Cutting is scheduled for Saturday, February 4th.

1:00 – Doors open to the public

1:30 – Official Ceremony

2:00 – Activities and refreshments

Facility hours will be:

Monday to Thursday 9:00am to 9:00pm

Friday 9:00am to 10:00pm

Saturday and Sunday 9:00am to 5:15pm

If customers have any questions our main phone number is 604-591-6920.

3. Washrooms at South Meridian School Park Site

At a December 2005 public meeting to discuss locating a washroom at South Meridian School Park site, the residents expressed concerns with parking problems; isolation and issues associated with potential vandalism if a washroom were located at this site. They brought forth the suggestion to have it located on the school property to the north of the sports field and to allow use of the school parking lot by sports groups on the weekends when games were scheduled. In early January staff contacted the school Principal to determine if there was school-based support for these suggestions. The school Principal indicated that he did not support either of these suggestions, due primarily to his concern that vandalism would increase if either of these suggestions were adopted.

Staff will now meet with School District representatives to determine if there is a basis on which these suggestions could proceed. We will report back to the PCSC with an update at the next meeting.

4. 2006 Turino

On Jan. 9th Council approved Mayor Watts, Councillor Hepner and Manager of Sports Ventures & Athletic Events to attend events leading up to and a portion of the 2006 Olympic Games in Torino, Italy, and to host a reception at BC - Canada Place. The objective of their participation is to position Surrey to take advantage of current business opportunities as well as sports hosting and business opportunities related to the 2010 Olympics and other sporting events. Surrey's rich cultural amenities and diversity will also be profiled as components of Surrey's assets.

5. Late Night Youth Programming 2005

In July 2005 Council approved \$20,000 to support late night youth programming. Programs that were added due to the \$20,000 Council contribution in 2005 include Band Nights, Coffee House, Drop-In, Girls Night Out, Family Movie

Nights, Dances, etc. The City-wide Grand Total participation for 2005 was 2,679 participants. A fully annualized amount of \$40,000 will be included in the Parks, Recreation and Culture Budget for 2006; we will build on the success of the programs developed in 2005.

6. Heritage Services

(a) Threshing Shed

The Peace Arch Weavers and Spinners Guild vacated the Threshing Shed in Elgin Heritage Park in June and the Hooser textile collection was moved into the new Surrey Museum. Since that time, the building has been used to host registered programs and exhibits related to the interpretation of the 1890 Stewart farmhouse. The building is now called the Stewart Hall and is scheduled for use for programs, exhibits and public rentals.

Program Plans for 2006

- 32 registered public programs,
- 32 summer day camps (Tuesdays-Fridays in July and August)
- 6 seasonal special events
- 132 programs for schools (Tuesdays-Fridays in Oct-December and February-June)

Exhibit Plans for 2006

- Accessorize Me (turn of the century fashion) from March 16-May 20
- River Heritage -from September 16 – November 4

Rental Options

The facility is also available for rental along with a portion of the barn. The rental opportunities are limited to one-time situations that do not restrict public access or program/revenue requirements of the heritage operation.

(b) Surrey Museum

The Museum operation did extremely well from its opening on October 15. The year-end attendance was 19,114 for a nine-week operation. There have been 212 annual passes sold to date. (67 adults, 54 seniors, 19 children, 70 families, 2 student/youth)

The new temporary exhibit “Easy Riders” – One Hundred years of motorcycle history will open on Tuesday February 7th.

The Museum staff have been working closely with representatives of the South Asian community to enhance several of the permanent exhibits and to add in new collections and interpretations that reflect the diverse traditions and practices of Surrey residents.

7. Greenbrook Clubhouse

Greenbrook Estates is a BC Housing complex and is located at 6987 - 135 Street, Surrey.

The Greenbrook Clubhouse offers after school drop-in programs and services for youth who live at Greenbrook. Programming is run by BC Housing in partnership with Surrey Parks, Recreation and Culture. The Official Open House is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 26th from 3:00 – 4:00 at 7032 – 135th Street (amenities room). This program is consistent with the direction identified in the Surrey Social Well Being Plan.

8. Banner Project

PRC has received commitment from the Whalley BIA to provide financial support for the Little League Banners. On Friday, Jan 13, staff met with Lesley Tannen and Bonnie Burnside from the WBIA, as well as representatives from the Whalley Little League. It is a project focused at youth in Surrey/Whalley age 13-18

As part of the project, staff will be contracting an artist (from Surrey) to do a series of workshops with youth to provide skill building in order to provide the necessary skills to submit a successful application (graphic design skills, issues around designing for a banner, etc). A series of 4 workshops will be coordinated with Kwantlen Park and Queen Elizabeth - the other two workshops will be held in the Whalley League facility.

There will be 80 banners total. The goal is to have them installed for the April 8 official ceremonies for the season. During the national championships in August, the banners will be "auctioned" off as a fundraiser for the Little League. The banners will stay up till mid September, when they will be de-installed, cleaned and distributed to those who were successful bidders.

9. Arts Update

The Surrey Arts Centre has broken a record, selling out 14 shows of “Mom’s the Word 2:Unhinged”, over a week in advance of the shows opening on January 23rd.

Staff have recently conducted 3 workshops with representatives of the arts & heritage communities to gather input on a Cultural Capitals of Canada submission. Surrey would like to compete for this Federal designation for 2008. If successful the financial award could be up to \$2 million for new celebratory and cultural legacy. Our application has to be submitted by March 15, 2006.

10. Bear Creek Park Security

There was a request from Council to look at other options for security at Bear Creek Park, PRC will provide a report to the January 30 Council meeting. Private security will continue to patrol the Park in the interim period.

In response to questions from the Committee, L. Cavan advised:

- There have been no significant incidents in the past couple months.
- Visitors to the park can feel confident, knowing that there are security cameras and other security measures in place at the park. The effectiveness of having paid security is minimal; based on the needs across the city and the difference to personal safety; staff recommended that the private security patrol be discontinued. However, some park patrons want the service. This is understandable, as once a service is made available, users do not want to see it taken away.

11. Wards Marina

FREMP has provided permission for the City to build a rowing float.

12. Social Planner

L. Guilbault advised that Barb Beblo, Social Planner for the City of Surrey for the last seventeen years has resigned. The Planning and Development Department is actively recruiting for the position and putting forward a financial proposal for two positions, this report should be before Council on January 30.

I. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

J. CORRESPONDENCE

K. INFORMATION ITEMS

L. EMERGING PRIORITIES/POLICY DISCUSSION

L. Cavan advised that if there are policy issues or if something was heard in the community regarding the PRC policies this is where members of the committee should bring it forward and we would be able to provide information or report on the issue.

1. Eelgrass/Swimmer's Itch

It was suggest that the invasive species be monitored and that updated information be provided to the PCSC members as they will be asked questions and will require background on these issues.

L. Cavan advised that staff would come back with a report and provide staff

presentation advising on the issues and how the PRC is responding.

2. Cultural Connection

A member of the Committee stated that members of the Pakistani and Hindu Communities were asking: How can they become more involved? And Where would be the place to raise their issues? Other questions arise, such as How can we make individual cultures become more involved in the events such as the 'Festival of Arts'? or How could we make them feel more comfortable in getting involved or becoming part of a group?; Should there be a committee established just to bridge the culture and the community (a place to share information about the culture and ways of connecting more)?

L. Cavan asked what the interest were of the individuals and requested that their names be forwarded and PRC would be able to connect them with events and opportunities in their community, through a volunteer coordinator we could make sure that they were getting involved. The Community Development Section does a lot of community outreach.

M. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

N. ADJOURNMENT

It was

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

Committee meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Parks and Community Services Committee adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Margaret Jones, City Clerk

Councillor M. Martin, Chairperson, PCSC