



City of Surrey

Parks & Community Services Committee

Minutes

Parks Board Room
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2006
Time: 7:00 p.m.

Present:

Chairperson: N. Beuk
C. Annable
S. Chima
S. Moore – 7.05
G. Rai
Councillor Villeneuve
Councillor Gill

Absent:

Councillor Martin

School Board Trustee:

T. Allen

Also Present:

L. Cavan, General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture
O. Croy, Manager of Parks
S. McKinnon, Manager of Arts Services
L. White, Manager of Community & Leisure Services
D. Vestergaard, Admin Coordinator
J. Dean, Appraiser, Real Estate Division
J. McLeod, Manager Long Range Planning & Policy Development

D. Wong, Legislative Service

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

A request was made to amend the meeting adjournment time to read 8:50 p.m.

It was

Moved by S. Chima

Seconded by C. Annable

That the minutes of the Parks & Community

Services Committee meeting held on March 15, 2006, be adopted as amended.

Carried

B. DELEGATION

Ms. Laurie Cavan, General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture, advised that the City's partnership established with the Tong Louie Surrey Family is very successful and is a model for other communities across Canada. She noted that the YMCA has made their swimming pool available to the community at specified times and that their program activities complement those of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Department. She stated that there is good communication with the Y and City staff. The Agreement specifies that one Parks, Recreation and Culture staff member currently, Lisa White, and a member of the Parks and Community Services Committee currently, Councillor Mary Martin, participate on the Y Program Advisory Committee.

Mr. John Woolgar, General Manager, Tong Louie Surrey Family YMCA with the aid of a power point presentation provided an update on the Tong Louie Surrey Family YMCA. He stated that they opened for business in 2002, and had 10,000 active members. Following are some of the statistics and activities which occur at the YMCA:

- There were 9000 program participants in 2005
- 8000 members of the public used their swimming pool

- They had approximately 400 volunteers.
- They assisted 1000 low income family members who couldn't otherwise afford the experience.
- They had the largest child care centre in BC with 85 licensed child care spaces.
- There were 75 children on the wait list in the 3-5 year old category.
- Their childcare centre was successful because they have integrated developmental assets into their program.
- 3500 children attended their 2005 summer camps which focused on sports, dramatic and visual arts, outdoor recreation, leadership development and personal development.
- They had over 10,000 active health and fitness members.
- There was 1.5 million or more accesses to the new facility since it opened in 2002.
- Over 750 people participated in weekly group fitness classes such as stroller aerobics, baby and me aquafit, healthy heart and waterworks.
- Over 11,000 children took swimming lessons in 2005, at least 50% of those were not members of the facility.
- They facilitated community extension programs such as day camp, basketball, soccer, and babysitter training.
- They host an annual Healthy Kids Day, Fridays are Teen Night which are usually well attended, and Saturday is Family Night.
- With the assistance of the City, they were awarded a \$1M grant from the Canada/BC Infrastructure program. They also raised an additional \$500,000 to fund facility expansion.
- 5,200 sq.ft. of space had been added. This was used for dance, martial arts, gymnastics, seniors and youth fitness programs.
- They had Fitlinxx interactive technology – to help track member exercise programs.
- They were in partnership with the YMCA centre in Ecuador with whom they were conducting an HIV/Aids prevention program.
- This year they were fundraising to provide 7 community centres in Ecuador .
- Volunteers who would pay their own way, as well as raise \$20,000 for materials, would be traveling to Ecuador to help build these centres.

He then thanked the City and in particular the Parks, Recreation & Culture Department for their invaluable support over the years in helping the YMCA deliver much needed programs and services to the residents of the City.

In response to queries from the Committee, he advised that:

- A number of Surrey residents who belong to the YMCA would be going to Ecuador as volunteers.
- The daycare has been fully utilized since it was originally opened.
- They could not accommodate any more children because of licensing issues, however they were working with the Province to resolve those issues.
- He will forward to the GM of Childcare Services the suggestion that the Committee would be willing to write a letter of support to the Province with regard to licensing issues flexibility.

In response to queries from the GM, Parks, Recreation & Culture, he advised that he had statistics on those areas in the City that made the most use of the Tong Louie Family Y,

and was willing to share this information with her. He also advised that the seniors programs were currently underrepresented at the Y but that they were in the process of addressing this need.

C. REQUEST(S) FOR DELEGATION

D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. Options Services to Communities Society

Councillor Villeneuve thanked staff for this well written, sensitive report. She noted that there was a huge need for services such as those delivered by OPTIONS in this area and asked staff to review ways of accommodating some of these programs at the Guildford Community Centre. She noted this would be appreciated by the users of OPTIONS and requested that Ms. Cavan inform OPTIONS that staff would be reviewing this issue.

In response Ms. Cavan, GM, Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services advised that this may be a challenge because of the pre and post school programming at the community centres. However, she noted that staff would explore ways in which these programs could be facilitated at the community centres during their less busy time periods.

Discussion ensued on this matter and the following comments were made:

- That there is a comprehensive list of facilities that have leases and other operating agreements on park land, including community centres such as Bridgeview and Clayton, the 1st Semiahmoo Sea Scout building at Elgin Heritage Park, and the Surrey Sailing Club at Blackie Spit Park. All of these facilities provide some form of leisure activities.
- That the definition of recreation could be expanded to include heritage, arts, and stewardship of the environment, and which would be compatible uses for park land.
- That Committee would like to look at the inventory of facilities on parkland and the type of agreements that are in place for these facilities.
- That while the buildings used by OPTIONS at Guildford Heights Park are still serviceable, they will continue to be rented to OPTIONS by the City, however they would not be repaired at considerable expense should significant structural issues arise over time.
- That the buildings are inspected by the City's employees or agents, and would not be rented if unsafe.
- That staff will report to Committee on the last date of inspection.
- That the Committee support the existing Policy regarding the use of park land only for the purpose of public green space and recreation/leisure development.

It was Moved by S. Chima
Seconded by T. Allen
That the Parks and Community Services
Committee:

1. Receive this report as information;
2. Not support the development of a community services facility on public open space parkland at Guildford Heights Park; and
3. Support the continued rental of buildings in Guildford Heights Parks to Options.

Carried

2. South Fraser Tennis Society – Report Deferred

E. STAFF PRESENTATIONS(S)

1. City of Surrey Social Well Being Plan

With the aid of a power point presentation Ms. Mcleod, Manager of Long Range Planning & Policy Development provided an extensive review of the City's Well Being Plan Initiatives advising of the 5 Issues Elements for which the City has Primary Responsibility and those for which the City has limited, secondary or no responsibility, including key gaps and recommendations.

Discussion ensued on this matter and the following comments were made:

- That Committee needs to be proactive with these initiatives and take a stand if there are cutbacks at both the Federal and Provincial levels of government.
- That there will be 2 full-time qualified social planners on staff in the near future.
- That the presentation was excellent.
- That no other jurisdictions at the political level was involved in this initiative.
- That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Summary of Projects has been initiated and would be delivered to address some of the gaps in the Initiatives Program.
- That success has and will come by taking a community development approach and building on partnerships, as these make the most impacts on the community.
- That staff are working with stakeholders to expand the SEEP card players access to indoor space and progress was being made.
- That the stats for the Whalley revitalization was impressive and staff would try to develop the same programs in the Newton area as well.

F. NEW BUSINESS**1. Lease of City Property at 5288 168 Street (Mound Farm)**

Mr. Owen Croy, Manager of Parks briefly reviewed the history of the Mound Farm situated at 5288 168 Street.

Mr. John Dean, Appraiser, then advised that the current leasee of the property – has requested an extension of the lease for 30 years to start a berry farm and develop a “showcase” operation since the land was no longer viable for root crop because of the infestation of wireworms.

Discussion ensued on this topic and the following comments were made:

- That the leasee will spend significant amounts to improve the farm.
- That the lease was negotiated every 5 years.
- That the new rent would increase the lease revenue on the property and the showcase farm will present a much better appearance than what is presently on the property.
- The entire 160 acre site is park land.
- Only the 120 acres of fields of Mound Farm is set aside for farming and it is in the ALR.
- That there are environmental values associated with this area – such as shelter and forage for raptors, and winter feeding by migratory waterfowl.
- That the revenue from the farm was not a lot of money.
- That at present the lease can be set aside with one year’s notice from either party.
- That if this lease were to go ahead, there may be heavy penalties to the City to set it aside.
- That it was Council’s Policy for this farm to remain in active agriculture use.
- That staff should be looking at other alternatives to use this land for the benefit of the community.
- That the leasee was getting a significant benefit with regards to the value of the land.
- That there was no approved pesticide to control wire worms.
- That the tenant would be planting trap crops – the wire worms would migrate to these crops and leave the berry roots alone.
- That if there was no tenure, there was no incentive to maintain the farm.
- That the options were limited for this land, and the options for short term uses were also limited.
- That the land could not be sold unless there was a referendum.
- That there should be some form of jeopardy for the tenant if he set aside the lease.
- Could a percentage of the profit from the farm be paid to the City.
- That there should be an escape clause for the City in the lease.
- That there was some concern about the 30 year lease, and before this was allowed, the City should determine exactly what should be done with the land.
- Were there any different strategies which could be employed for the use of these lands?

- That Committee was not convinced that a long-term lease should be considered for this site.
- That Council has adopted a long-range plan for the use of these parklands.
- That Council wants the Mound Farm to continue with good farming practices and more intensive use.
- Can the farm be opened to the public for berry picking?
- That a Lease of this land would be need to be approved by Council.
- Could revenues from the lease be reinvested to benefit the Mound Farm Park?
- That there should be an educational component to this farm - i.e. community farm, eco-tourism.
- That there were not enough community development aspects to the proposal.
- That the land should have multipurpose uses in order to benefit the community
- That staff will work with the comments and suggestions from the Committee and incorporate them into a final report to Council.

2. Shelters in Parks

In response to queries from the Committee, the following responses were made:

- That staff has worked with all stakeholders and will continue to do so until this issue has been resolved.
- That approximately \$750 was spent on annual maintenance for each existing portable picnic shelter.
- That the shelters were popular and were used primarily by seniors.
- That staff will meet with Mr. Tiwana to discuss his request for an adjoining shelter at Enver Creek Community Park.
- That staff should discuss with the proponents proactive ways of procuring extra shelters – such as involvement of the business community.

It was

Moved by T. Allen

Seconded by S. Moore

1. That the Committee receive this report;
2. That Staff proceed with meeting with the community regarding their request and determining if appropriate, when an additional picnic shelter could be funded within the Department's available funding sources; and
3. Report back to the Committee on the outcome of the process.

Carried

In response to a query from Committee, Ms. Cavan, GM Parks, Recreation & Culture advised that two new benches at Bear Creek would be placed to acknowledge the victims of the assault that had occurred there in 2005.

3. 2006 Parks, Recreation and Culture Service Delivery Plan

In response to a query from the Committee, Ms. Cavan advised that this plan had been developed through a series of staff meetings held in the fall of 2005. The Plan is developed based on Council priorities, advice provided by the Parks & Community Services Committee to Council over the course of the year, input from the public through various public meetings, significant projects initiated by the City i.e. the Surrey Plan for Social Well being and participation trends. She noted that the intent of the plan was to guide the work of staff in the Department, and that Committee's role was to advise Council on issues in the community, and on issues forwarded to Committee by Council.

It was Moved by T. Allen
Seconded by S. Chima
That the Parks and Community Services
Committee receive this report for information.
Carried

4. 2005 Sponsorship/Revenue Enhancements

Ms. Cavan stated that this report was provided to Committee to show how additional revenue was generated by the department.

It was Moved by S. Moore
Seconded by T. Gill
That the Parks and Community Services
Committee receive this report for information.
Carried

5. April 19th, 2006 Parks & Community Services Committee Workshop Notes.

It was Moved by S. Moore
Seconded by S. Chima
That the Parks & Community Services
Committee recommend to Council that the revised Terms of Reference be approved. (Attachment 1)
Carried

6. Guildford Community Partners Society Correspondence

In response to a query from Committee, Ms. Cavan advised that she would meet with Mr. Terris concerning his request for contributions from the City to help develop a pool in Guildford, and to discuss his proposal and responses he may have received from other potential funders. She noted that the current Five Year Financial Plan did not include funding for a new aquatic facility.

It was Moved by S. Moore
Seconded by C. Annable
That the Parks and Community Services
Committee receive this report for information. .
Carried

7. Upcoming PRC Events

Mr. Annable stated that there would be a formal dedication ceremony for the "Operation Remembrance" Program at the Sunnyside Lawn Cemetery.

G. STAFF VERBAL REPORTS - DELIVERY OF SERVICES

BCRPA 2006 Provincial Awards Program

REMIXX Youth New Media Project has been the successful recipient of this award. The award was presented and accepted by Councillor. Martin at the 2006 BCRPA Symposium in Vancouver on April 29, 2006.

Partners in Parks

On April 6th of this year, the Partners In Parks Celebration attracted 275 volunteers to the Guildford Recreation Centre. Members of City Council, the Parks & Community Services Committee, and Parks, Recreation & Culture staff was there to say thanks to the volunteers for all their efforts.

With over 700 regular volunteers, and another 4,500 one-time cleanup participants last year, Surrey residents have whole-heartedly embraced the opportunity to enhance their neighbourhood parks.

A number of display tables were on hand that provided information on other valued agencies that the Parks, Recreation & Culture Department partners with on various projects. Entertainment, food, refreshments, and door prizes were part of the evening's festivities as well.

The evening was a huge success and the City of Surrey is proud to acknowledge the hard work of all its park volunteers.

Darts Hill Garden Open House

On Saturday, April 29th, 550 guests braved the wet weather to attend the annual Spring Open House at Darts Hill Garden. The event promotes the garden that was donated to the citizens of the City of Surrey by Edwin and Francisca Darts. It consists of 7.5 acres of horticultural richness without equal in North America for its variety of rare and precious plants, shrubs and trees, having been developed over the past 55 years.

The garden is available for private tours now through the end of July. The garden closes for maintenance during the month of August and re-opens for tours again in the fall.

Beer Garden Licences Days

At the February P&CS meeting a query was brought up as to where the proceeds went from the North Surrey Minor Football Beer Garden went. The athletic fields at Bear Creek Park were the recipients of these funds.

Grant Writing Workshop

The Surrey Arts Centre, the Arts Council of Surrey and ArtsNow (an area of 2010 Legacies Now) are teaming up to host a grant writing workshop in Surrey. The workshop will cover a range of topics including ArtsNow funding programs, other local, Provincial and Federal funding opportunities; discussion regarding organizational capacity building, budget planning and grant writing.

The workshop will be available to artists; arts administrators and anyone else who is interested in arts grant writing. The session will be approximately 3 hours long, and is available at no charge to a maximum of 30–35 participants. The workshop will be held on Monday May 29th, in the evening, at the Surrey Arts Centre. To register for the session or for more information, please contact the Arts Council of Surrey at 585–2787.

Millennium Project

Under the direction of Jennifer Mervyn, a youth worker with Fraser Health, the **Millennium Project** is underway. The project involves 19 at risk street youth from Surrey and the GVRD, in a phototherapy project. This project challenges the participants to create photographs that respond to the United Nation's eight Millennium Goals addressing poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy and other issues.

Later this month when the project is completed, eight selected photos will be enlarged into banners and displayed at the site of the World Urban Forum in Vancouver, and a set of eight postcard sized photographs will be included in the delegates packages for the thousands of people attending the World Urban Forum from all over the world.

Early Years Festival

Took place at the North Surrey Recreation Centre April 29th stage activities, activities, sponsorship from West Coast Families Magazine, Make Children First, Whalley Day Care Ltd., Options, Boys and Girls Club. Saw over 3,000 people attend which made this 3rd year the biggest Early Years Festival yet. Very successful.

Youth Week

Youth Week was a real success this year and had over 250 people attend the Youth Recognition Awards which made it the biggest awards night ever. The recognition event had sponsorship from the Sunrise Senior's Centre and Cloverdale Senior's Centre. The Youth Festival was successful and held in Cloverdale this year with youth bands playing throughout the day and into the evening, skateboard competitions and entertainment. Youth Week had free programs all week for youth to participate in and received positive feedback from the youth and parents in the community.

Surreys 1st Fire Fighter Boot camp for youth (13 to 17)

Was this past weekend, May 11th, 12th and 13th. A new partnership between Surrey Parks, Recreation and Culture, Fire Association and Safe Schools which saw 12 youth (3 females included) participate in a three day boot camp with the Surrey Firefighters and Recreation Staff where the youth were trained and certified in first aid, given nutrition tips and advice and participated in physical fitness fire drills as well as other fire safety experiences. There was also an important session on drug and alcohol awareness by Safe Schools. It was very successful, the youth really liked it and their parents thought it was a great idea and program. The partners are debriefing next week and looking at next steps with this very popular and successful program

Museum Hosting Library Board for Facility Tour

The Museum will be hosting the Library Board for a facility tour on May 25 at 5:30 pm. The City Librarian, Beth Barlow requested the tour to provide Board members with information on the new Museum, its function, operation and services. This tour is a follow-up to numerous meetings over the past year, by Library and Heritage Services staff to share information and make connections to better serve the public.

International Museums Day Open House

Thursday May 18 is International Museums Day Open House at the Museum 6 pm to 8 pm - behind the scenes tours of collections, ongoing films and demonstrations of textile arts

Victoria Day at the Stewart Farm

This event is taking place on Sunday, May 21st from 12 noon to 4 (Morris Dancing and old fashioned birthday cake to celebrate Queen Victoria's birthday.

Two Wheeled Dreams

Continues at the Surrey Museum until May 20th (vintage motorcycles from the historical collection of Trev Deeley - first time on exhibit in Surrey)

H. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

I. CORRESPONDENCE

J. INFORMATION ITEMS

K. EMERGING PRIORITIES/POLICY DISCUSSION

L. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

Mr. Allen thanked all of Council for the dinner hosted for volunteers.

Councillor Villeneuve advised that Todd Ayotte, Community Development Services was leaving the City of Surrey. She noted that he has done a lot of work in community development in Whalley. She requested that a letter of appreciation be sent to Mr. Ayotte on behalf of the Committee for the work he has done in the community.

It was
Mr. Ayotte, Community Development Services from the Parks and Community Services Committee.

Moved by J. Villeneuve
Seconded by C. Annable
That a letter of appreciation be sent to

Carried

M. ADJOURNMENT

It was
Committee meeting do now adjourn.

Moved by
Seconded by
That the Parks and Community Services

Carried

The Parks and Community Services Committee adjourned at 9:39 p.m.

Margaret Jones, City Clerk

N. Beuk, Chairperson
(Parks and Community Services Committee)

PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL

Terms of Reference

Attachment 1

1.0 GOAL

To enhance City's parks and other community services for the enjoyment and wellbeing of current and future residents.

2.0 SCOPE

The scope of Parks and Community Services include Parks, Recreation, Arts and Culture Services, programs and facilities as well a broad range of activities undertaken by the City in support of the social well-being of the City's residents.

3.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

- To advise and make recommendations to Council on policies, priorities, new initiatives and direction to respond to current and emerging needs and expectations in the City.
- To hear and respond to delegations and appeals by community groups, sports organizations and others and make recommendations to Council.
- To review and recommend a schedule of annual fees and charges for various Parks and other community services to Council for approval.
- Consider other issues and tasks as may be assigned by City Council

4.0 MEMBERSHIP (Appointed by Council Annually)

- Three Councillors, one as Chair
- One School Board Trustee as chosen by the School Board
- Five community representatives

5.0 MEETINGS

- Meetings will be held at the call of the Chair, but not less than once every two months.
- Any member who is absent from three consecutive meetings of the Committee without reason satisfactory to the Committee, may be removed from the Committee.
- Quorum – 5 voting members

6.0 STAFF SUPPORT

- Appropriate staff support will be arranged by the General Manager of Parks, Recreation and Culture, City Clerk and where appropriate, the City Manager.