



City of Surrey

Parks & Community Services Committee

Minutes

Parks Boardroom #1
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17,
2007**
Time: 7:05 p.m.
File: 0540-20

Present:

Chairperson: Linda Hepner
Councillor Mary Martin
C. Annable
S. Chima
S. Moore
G. Rai
Councillor T. Gill

Absent:

School Board Trustee:

T.Allen

Also Present:

L. Cavan, General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture
O. Croy, Manager of Parks
L. White, Manager of Community & Leisure Services
B. Sommer, Heritage Services
J. Rennie, Manager of Arena Operations
J. Thibaudeau, Business Operations Manager
D. Vestergaard, Administrative Coordinator
J. McLeod, Manager Long Range Planning & Policy Development

H. Dmytriw, Legislative Service

INTRODUCTIONS

ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR

Elections for Deputy Chair deferred to the next meeting.

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the November 15, 2006 Parks & Community Services Committee meeting to be adopted.

It was

Moved by Councillor Martin

Seconded by Councillor Gill

That the minutes of the Parks & Community Services Committee meeting held on November 15, 2006, be adopted.

Carried

B. DELEGATION**1. Steven Traaseth
File: 6130-01; 0550-20-10**

At the Regular Council Public Hearing meeting held November 20, 2006, Council referred Steven Traaseth to the Parks & Community Services Committee relative to the proposed pathway on parkland at 163B and 164 Streets.

This matter was deferred to the next meeting.

**2. Monica Parker, Semiahmoo Pottery Club
File: 0250-20/S**

Monica Parker of Semiahmoo Pottery Club introduced Val Hammil to discuss the need for a pottery studio in the South Surrey area. Val Hammil presented the following:

- The Pottery Guild established the Semiahmoo Pottery Club in 1994. In 2000 they were asked to leave their space in White Rock Elementary School.
- The Guild has 30 active members and a waiting list of 15-20 wanting to join. People on the waiting list have dropped out because there is no space available.
- Their current space is a small 350 sq.ft. studio in the back of a residence in south Surrey. Their eviction date is April 30, 2007. Stacy Rennie from Parks Recreation & Culture department has been a great help in seeking out potential space.
- They require larger space to accommodate more members. Space requirements include space for three pottery wheels (one kick and two electric wheels), tables, shelves, a kiln and a place for glazing.
- They are a part of the Surrey community and have a lot to offer as a recreation.
- Their pottery has been showcased at Ocean Park Library with two sales events per year with 15% profits going back to the club as revenue.
- Ocean Park Community Hall featured their pottery; 1500 people expressed an interest in attending, and there was a lot of positive feedback.
- Member's dues help to pay the rent and hydro costs.
- The members have been committing additional funds to build up reserves for a new venue. There is now a small amount of \$5,000 in the bank.
- The Guild applies for grants and non-profit organization funding.
- They fully expect to pay operating costs; membership to pay more in fees to cover their overhead.
- They sell wonderful pottery as a hobby group.
- They are requesting the committee to assist in locating space.
- The Club has posted ads, notices in the local newspapers, looked at potential space in barns, garages, and commercial space.

Discussion:

- Their founding members have been in the club since the inception 13 years ago. The only stipulation to join is that members must have some pottery experience.
- Current membership is kept at 30 members due to lack of space.
- Membership fee is \$200, associate members pay \$100.
- They would like to expand to include youth and children.
- The studio needs to stay in South Surrey in order for the members to manage the kilns and studio.
- Delta and Richmond have pottery groups, but not Surrey.
- The club utilizes the studio 30 days a month and they very much want a permanent dedicated space.

Requirements:

- 600-1,000 sq.ft. in a permanent setting.
- Require not more than 4-5 parking spaces. They do require a dedicated space, due to the mess.
- The Club has looked at commercial space, which started at \$1400 per month plus property taxes. They currently spend \$200 per month on rent but could afford to double or triple that amount per month. Space availability would dictate what they could afford to pay.
- Councillor Hepner advised that she will ask staff to be looking for space for the Club, and get back with information by the March meeting (keeping in mind the April 30, 2007 eviction date).

The delegation left the meeting at 7:40 pm and did not return.

Discussion:

- The General Manager of Parks, Recreation & Culture commented that she would really like to find them space in South Surrey although it is difficult to find a suitable facility. The Club had talked about children and adult classes so the general public could use space this also.
- Councillor Hepner commented that the Pottery Club have some revenue so it will be cost neutral. She questioned whether Stewart farmhouse was an option.
- The Manager, Heritage Services advised that the Stewart Farmhouse is a designated building and therefore cannot be altered or converted.
- The General Manager of Parks, Recreation & Culture will look at potential lease spaces and bring back a report.
- Cliff Annable advised that there is an old house owned by City of White Rock near Centennial Arena, across from Safeway not far from McLeod Elementary School that could satisfy their needs.
- The General Manager of Parks, Recreation & Culture suggested Terry Allan could check into any potential school space and a classroom could provide a revenue stream to a school.

C. REQUEST(S) FOR DELEGATION**1. Kla-How-Eya Aboriginal Centre Family Development Program
File: 6130-01**

Tom Oleman, Elder, requested to make a presentation regarding the use of parkland for Cultural and Spiritual purposes by Kla-How-Eya Aboriginal Centre.

Councillor Martin noted that she had met with Tom Oleman and provided the following comments:

- Kla-How-Eya Aboriginal Centre Family Development Program is looking for a place to hold ceremonies and a sweat lodge.
- They are seeking a site at a suitable distance from residential areas as ceremonies would be held at midnight and chanting would take place over several hours.
- The organization has looked at a former school site, which is vacant, on Grosvenor Road between 136th and 140th Streets. This is city owned parkland, but with the development of East Whalley Ring Road this position will change and may not be as useful for parkland. Whalley Ring Road has been a key parcel of land that the city wants to develop.
- Councillor Hepner has viewed the sweat lodge by the creek.

It was

Moved by Councillor Martin

Seconded by S. Moore

That the Kla-How-Eya Aboriginal Centre

Family Development Program be heard as a delegation at the next committee meeting.

Carried

D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**1. Burrard Cricket Club
File: 0540-20**

Staff provided a report relative to a proposal by Mr. Varinder Parhar, Club Secretary, Burrard Cricket Club, to install the largest cricket bat in the world at the Sullivan Cricket Grounds on March 4, 2007.

Discussion ensued and the following comments were provided:

- General Manager of Parks, Recreation and Culture advised that the Burrard Cricket Club made an impassioned presentation at the last meeting.
- They would like to put up a cricket bat at Sullivan Heights Park.
- The City's cricket fields usage are at capacity, but an additional field will be developed in south-west Newton in the coming years.

- While a giant bat might promote the sport of cricket, a structure like this could lead to other groups wanting to erect something reflective of their sport.
- Promoting the sport through putting up items such as a giant cricket bat could be considered park signage, and as such needs to be dealt with in a fashion similar to request for signs advertising home-park based sport groups. This is also an issue that should be reviewed by the Public Art Advisory Committee. A sport type of piece of art in a public civic realm is a civic space issue.
- The Manager, Parks, commented that there are structural issues associated with erecting a giant cricket bat that would need to be resolved if the proposal were to proceed further.
- Staff will contact the City of Duncan where the biggest hockey stick is located, and request information and feedback regarding tourism, how the stick might have affected hockey enrolment, etc.
- Councillor Gill voiced concerns regarding vandalism, maintenance, and public art policies.
- Steve Moore made the following observations:
 - Structure to be horizontal not vertical.
 - Group wants to fund it themselves.
 - This is a world record type item not a sign-promoting group and the structure would be a landmark for Surrey.
- G. Rai voiced concerns relative to lack of resources for outdoor sports and high maintenance costs
- It was suggested the Cricket Club's request also be reviewed by the Public Art Advisory Committee.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

It was Moved by Councillor Martin
 Seconded by Councillor Gill
 That the Parks & Community Services
 Committee recommends to Council that this issue be referred back to staff.

Before the question was called:

It was Moved by Councillor Gill
 Seconded by S. Moore
 That the Parks & Community Services
 Committee recommend to Council that staff be directed to define a process
 around accommodating these kinds of requests, and applications in general, for all
 groups coming forward.

Carried as amended.

2. Newton Arena Operation**File: 8000-20**

Staff addressed issues raised relative to arena operations during discussion at the November 15, 2006 PCSC meeting.

J. Rennie provided the following update:

- Newton arena operations work was completed on January 12th, 2007.
- Heaters – piping in gas work has begun; there is now an outlet in the wall for fresh air.
- Next week there will be a “lift” put on the ice to turn on heaters.
- A brief discussion ensued with respect to rodent control.

C. Annable raised the issue of revenue fees and the General Manager of Parks, Recreation & Culture responded that adult hockey leagues previously registered directly with the City, now a contractor takes registrations. The revenues are growing, but the revenues are shown in different budget and cost-tracking revenue accounts.

It was

Moved by S. Moore

Seconded by Councillor Martin

That the Parks & Community Services

Committee recommend that Staff address issues raised relative to Newton Arena operations.

E. STAFF PRESENTATION(S)**F. NEW BUSINESS****1. Green City – Update on 2006 Initiatives****File: 6140-20/MF**

A memo from the Manager of Parks dated December 18, 2006 regarding an update on Green City 2006 Initiatives was received.

2. Mound Farm Park**File: 6140-20/M**

A memo from the Manager of Parks dated December 14, 2006 recommending that the PCSC:

1. Receive this memorandum as information; *and*
 2. Approve the present lease arrangements for the agricultural portion of Mound Farm Park be continued
- was discussed.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

It was Moved by Councillor Martin
Seconded by Councillor Gill
That the Parks & Community Services
Committee recommend that Council:

1. Receive this memorandum as information; *and*
2. Approve the present lease arrangements for the agricultural portion of Mound Farm Park be continued.

Carried

3. Artificial Turf Fields
File: 5920-01

Memo from the Manager, Parks Planning, Research & Design regarding existing and future artificial turf fields in Surrey was provided.

Discussion:

- At the January 15, 2007 RC-PH, Council approved the construction of an additional turf field in Guildford in the amount of \$2.2 million to compliment the existing 6 artificial turf fields. Additional information and recommendations to be provided.
- Council also approved a 3rd sheet of ice at the Surrey Sport & Leisure Complex. Construction to start as soon as possible.
- The Manager of Parks discussed the process to be followed in determining the location of the new Guildford Artificial Turf Field. Hjorth Road Park/Fraser Heights were mentioned as candidate sites. He stated that during the process, staff would speak to Guildford based soccer association, field hockey associations and other outdoor sport associations to gain their input. Staff will also solicit feedback from the Outdoor Sports Advisory Committee.
- During the recent snow and rain many soccer games were cancelled; Guildford Athletic Club used Cloverdale fields as a result.
- Soccer registration is huge in Guildford:
 - Registered 1278 players in 2005
 - Registered 1500 players in 2006
 - Registered 2000 players in 2007
- When asked about the track at North Surrey, the Manager, Parks commented this was jointly funded by Surrey and School District No. 36, primarily on school district property and a small sliver of City land.

General Manager of Parks, Recreation and Culture advised she would keep the committee informed.

4. Fees & Charges
File: 1810-01

Memo from the Manager of Community & Leisure Services was received recommending that the PCSC recommend to Council:

1. A general 3% increase to the 2007/08 fees and charges
2. And that the following exceptions to the 3% fee increase be accepted:
 - a. Youth memberships remain at \$5
 - b. Pre-Teen dance rate remains at \$5 in advance, \$7 at the door or \$18 for 4 prepaid admissions
 - c. Surrey Museum admission rates remains unchanged.
 - d. Increase drop-in admission by 1% for Fee 1 and 5% for Fee 2 facility admissions to assist in aligning the fees over the next 4-5 years. The Fee 1 facilities are: Guildford Recreation Centre (GRC), Newton Wave Pool (NWP), South Surrey Recreation Centre (SSRC), and Fraser Heights Recreation Centre (FHRC). The Fee 2 facilities are: North Surrey Recreation Centre (NSRC), South Surrey Pool (SSP), Fleetwood Community Centre (FCC), Cloverdale Recreation Centre (CRC), and public skating admissions.
 - e. Subsidized (Community Youth) arena rental ice remain unchanged.
 - f. Ward's Marina mooring fees remain unchanged.
 - g. Darts Hill Garden Guided Tours fees remain unchanged at \$5.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

It was Moved by Councillor Martin
Seconded by C. Annable
That the Parks & Community Services
Committee recommend to Council that:

1. A general 3% increase to the 2007/08 fees and charges
2. And that the following exceptions to the 3% fee increase be accepted:
 - a. Youth memberships remain at \$5
 - b. Pre-Teen dance rate remains at \$5 in advance, \$7 at the door or \$18 for 4 prepaid admissions
 - c. Surrey Museum admission rates remains unchanged.
 - d. Increase drop-in admission by 1% for Fee 1 and 5% for Fee 2 facility admissions to assist in aligning the fees over the next 4-5 years. The Fee 1 facilities are: Guildford Recreation Centre (GRC), Newton Wave Pool (NWP), South Surrey Recreation Centre (SSRC), and Fraser Heights Recreation Centre (FHRC). The Fee 2 facilities are: North Surrey Recreation Centre (NSRC), South Surrey Pool (SSP), Fleetwood Community Centre (FCC), Cloverdale Recreation Centre (CRC), and public skating admissions.
 - e. Subsidized (Community Youth) arena rental ice remain unchanged.

- f. Ward's Marina mooring fees remain unchanged.
 - g. Darts Hill Garden Guided Tours fees remain unchanged at \$5.
- Carried

G. STAFF VERBAL REPORTS - DELIVERY OF SERVICES

The General Manager of Parks, Recreation and Culture provided the following verbal updates.

PRC Strategic Planning workshop

At the Feb. 21st Parks & Community Services Committee (PCSC) we will give an introductory presentation to the Committee of the Strategic Plan.

Surrey Shines

A Surrey Youth Arts Council was formed in 2005 and they began programming arts events for youth in 2006. On January 12 & 13th they presented the second annual Surrey Shines performing arts showcase. So many youth auditioned this year there was enough talent for two shows and over 600 people attended the events. The Youth Arts Council members organize and implement all aspects of the show under the mentorship of adult volunteers and Surrey Arts Centre staff.

An Evening of Cultural Entertainment

The Surrey Arts Centre is working with a new South Asian community theatre company (APNA) to present a series of plays including; a Shakespearian tragedy called "*Uthal*", "*My Two Weddings*" about a grooms dilemma when he find himself heading into marriage with two women on the same day and "*How to be Safe*", a one act play about domestic violence. Channel M television is sponsoring the shows, the Leader has provided front page coverage and the BC Touring Council provided a grant of \$5,000 under their Culturally Diverse Collaborations program to support this new initiative.

Art of the Sari Exhibition

The Surrey Art Gallery is preparing an exhibit on the art and design of the sari. Channel M television, the Leader and CBC Radio have helped us to promote the community planning meetings and a call for original poetry. The community response has been excellent and we are looking forward to the opening on Saturday March 24th.

Surrey Children's Festival

Teacher's guides to the 2007 Surrey Children's Festival were distributed at the beginning of January and advance tickets for school bookings went on sale Monday. We sold 900 tickets in three hours. In addition, at the back of the Guide, we promoted an opportunity for schools to provide portrait flags to help us decorate the site. We wanted 650 flags and this project was fully booked in one day. In 2005, 88 school groups booked to attend the Festival and in 2006 this number grew to 138 school groups. Based on the ticket sales activity this week we are expecting another large increase in attendance this year.

2007 BC High School Wrestling Championships

Guildford Park Wrestling and the Surrey Firefighters Charitable Society present the 2007 BC High School Wrestling Championships in Surrey. This event will feature over 600

boys and girls in BC. Many of these wrestlers will use this event as the springboard for the National Championships in Toronto, Ontario in April 2007. This will be the first time Guildford Park Secondary School will host the Championship event. As the host Guildford Park will be looking to win its first BC High School wrestling championship event in its long history. Last year, the Guildford Park Sabres finished 4th and with all of their returning wrestlers they look for their first Provincial Championship in front of their hometown fans.

Schill Legacy Playground

In the fall of 2006, the City of Surrey was approached by the family of Charlie Schill (their two year old was tragically killed in an accident) expressing an interest in partnering with the City in the development of a new playground structure in commemoration of Charlie. The Schill family has established a trust fund and has been receiving donations from the community to support this initiative. Surrey Parks has been in dialogue with the family since that time and has moved forward with securing support (Community Matching F Program) and design work for the project. A local Rotary Club has also dedicated funding to the initiative and private sector in-kind contributions have been expressed. Given Parks playground inventory and provision objectives, it was determined (and agreed to by the Schill family) that the Schill Legacy playground (this is not as a memorial. No name is to be attached to play structure. They want to contribute back to community) would be destined for Bakerview Park. Parks staff has been working on a preferred design that will be an expansion/enhancement to existing playground, which is known to be one of the busiest playgrounds in the Semiahmoo Peninsula. The design will have a strong nautical theme with the all play elements integrated into a boat shape. The final playground design will be determined through consultation meetings with the Schill family, over the next few weeks. It is expected that the new playground structure will include slides, platforms and an array of climbing apparatus. The projected costs of the project are \$75,000 (fund raising is getting close to that) and construction is scheduled for early May 2007 with "ribbon cutting" in mid June.

Manager, Parks stated that the City will match funds raised by the Trust and Rotary Club.

H. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

I. CORRESPONDENCE

J. INFORMATION ITEMS

Brochures on the following events were distributed:

- Employee Wellness Challenge – October 1-31, 2006
- Surrey Children's Festival – May 31 – June 2, 2007

K. EMERGING PRIORITIES/POLICY DISCUSSION

L. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

1. Nico Buek

- Councillor Martin would like to thank Nico Buek for his work on the Parks and Community Services Committee and noted that he has been invaluable member

2. Tree Damage

- The Manager of Parks reported that 120 boulevard trees were lost due to storms, and hundreds of other boulevard trees were damaged; clean up, restoration pruning and replanting will take months. An additional 1300 native trees in the park forests were destroyed during the storms.
- City is obliged to replace boulevard trees, as they are so important to the community. Also, approximately 500 native species trees will be planted to replace the forest trees lost during the storm. The initial clean-up, restoration pruning and replanting cost estimate is \$360,000.
- Manager, Parks: Parks staff haven't gone into wooded areas far beyond forest paths, so there will be forest trees lost that are not included in the 1300 estimate. Also, staff haven't included trees that fell from the City road allowances. It appeared that the City didn't lose many significant heritage trees planted by the Brown Bros in Redwood Park, or in the historic arboretum in Green Timbers that were planted in 1930's. Heavy wet snow, combined with sudden freezing temperatures caused considerable breakage.
- S. Moore commented that staff should be complimented on cleanup between the bus loop and N.S. Rec Centre.
- During the storm period, Parks moved crews to emergency tree removal work. Two companies on standby were also brought in, resulting in significant impacts on the operating budgets. Work was cut back elsewhere and funds were diverted to tree removal. Staff anticipate utilizing funds from other Corporate sources. Unfortunately, information on the costs of storm clean-up came too late to go into budget process. A possible source of funding is the City's Green City fund, which is based on 2% of \$1.4B bldg permits fees.
- A question was raised to using contingency funds or should a community fund raising process be developed.

The General Manager noted that the District of Maple Ridge Parks & Recreation has inquired about the opportunity to host a joint one-day workshop to discuss current issues, with Committee members invited. Date to be determined.

3. Spirit of BC week – Feb 10-19, 2007

- Councillor Hepner noted that the Provincial Government has chosen Surrey to kick off Spirit of BC Week with a 10:30 am kickoff time. Parks, Recreation & Culture staff are working on a program. An invitation will be sent out to the Committee.

4. Literacy Skate with the Surrey Eagles

- Councillor Hepner noted that Surrey Sport & Leisure Centre is hosting a literacy skate with the Surrey Eagles, with story telling and a carnival atmosphere. The overall literacy event information to go to all schools. Full day at the Surrey Arts Centre - Display of sledge hockey.

S. Chima thanked the staff and those involved for dealing with the issues being addressed with the arenas and for getting the work done.

M. NEXT MEETING

The next Parks & Community Services Committee meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 21, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in Parks, Recreation & Culture Boardroom #1.

Please note that the March 24 date has been changed to March 14th due to spring break.

N. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Councillor Hepner
Seconded by T. Allen
That the Parks and Community Services

Committee meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Parks and Community Services Committee adjourned at 8:30 p.m.
Certified as true and correct:

Margaret Jones, City Clerk

Chairperson: Councillor Hepner
Parks & Community Services Committee