



City of Surrey

Parks & Community Services Committee

Minutes -Notes

Parks Boardroom #1
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 2007
Time: 7:05 p.m.
File: 0540-20

Present:

Chairperson: Councillor Hepner
C. Annable
S. Chima
S. Moore
G. Rai
G. Rice
Councillor Gill
Councillor Martin

Absent:

J. McLeod, Manager Long Range
Planning & Policy Development

School Board Trustee:

T. Allen

Also Present:

L. Cavan, General Manager, Parks, Recreation
& Culture
S. McKinnon, Manager, Arts
R. Ryan, Bus. Ops. & Athletic Fields
O. Croy, Manager, Parks
T. Uhrich, Park Designer
D. Vestergaard, Parks, Recreation & Culture
H. Dmytriw, Legislative Service

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was

Moved by Cliff Annable

Seconded by Gurpreet Rai

That the minutes of the Parks & Community
Services Committee meeting held on April 18, 2007, be adopted.

Carried

B. DELEGATION

1. Tong Louie Surrey Family YMCA

John Woolgar, General Manager, was in attendance and thanked the committee for the opportunity to provide an update on the Tong Louie Surrey Family YMCA. He has been working with Surrey for 8 years, the Surrey MYCA opened 5 years ago this coming September. The update included the following comments and information:

- Last October 2006 the YMCA had 11,500 members enrolled.
- Surrey YMCA is the fourth or fifth largest in Canada
- 20,000 program registrants
- 6,000 pool visits
- Childcare has 85 spaces with 350 on a wait list
- 2008 Summer Experience will include 3,800 girls for Girl Power – a leadership development program
- Health & Fitness - 2.3 Million people have accessed facilities since 2002
- New and innovative programs for all ages:
 - COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disorder in partnership with Surrey Memorial Hospital
 - Waterworks (arthritis)

- 8,000 swim lesson registrations in 2005
- YMCA community extension
- Day camps
- Soccer
- Basketball with Steve Nash
- Babysitter training
- Partnership with the YMCA of Ecuador in HIV/Aids prevention
- To promote healthy ideas of the day
- Friday teen night
- Saturday family night
- Lisa Wight and her team have been very helpful in dealing with issues with the local business community
- Expansion 2006:
 - \$1Million infrastructure with 5200 sq.ft. added space for
 - Fitlinxx interactive technology
 - More space for senior and youth fitness
 - More space for youth programs including dance, martial arts, and gymnastics
- YMCA International is a movement that was started in 1844, now involving 130 countries worldwide
- Mandated purpose of YMCA is to meet community needs and develop people in spirit, mind and body
- Ecuador Bldg Project - 2006, Santo Domingo da la Colorados
 - Infrastructure and 350,000 people
 - Project included 21 members who, over 11 days, built three preschool learning centres in three barrios.
 - Facility is used for preschool in the morning, for school in the afternoon, and by the families in the evening.
 - Showed photos of facilities being built, the ribbon cutting for the finality opening. The entire village and locals came out in their Sunday best and provided a feast for the volunteers.
- Learning for the YMCA community development
- Volunteerism
- Philanthropy
- Surrey or Santo Domingo, Ecuador

John Woolgar thanked the Surrey City and Parks for helping us to deliver services to the city of Surrey. Delegations from other YMCA's in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island are talking about the Surrey model, partnership, community development and recreation.

The following questions and issues were raised:

- Funding goes through CIDA - HIV Aids program down there.
- Partners with youth.
- To contribute to YMCA or through Ecuador partnership.
- 2 to 1 CIDA funding not eligible for building but work with programs.

Councillor Martin thanked the delegation and Lisa White, Manager, Community & Leisure Services for working so closely with the YMCA. Look forward to next year's report.

2. Guildford Athletic Club

Virinder Dhaliwal was in attendance to provide a presentation on behalf of the Guildford Athletic Club. The following comments and concerns were made:

- The delegation thanked the Parks & Community Services Committee for being able to provide their presentation this evening and for the work put in towards the Guildford Athletic Field to date.
- Follow up on the Artificial Turf Field – meeting of April 18th, provided by the following members of Guildford Athletic Club:
 - Michelle Dallow provided information and distributed a presentation on table regarding Guildford Athletic Club and field.
 - Michelle has played soccer and softball at Hjorth Road Park since she was a child, and has two young boys in soccer.
 - The Guildford Athletic club membership includes 1,350 softball and soccer players, 3 Executives, 5 softball and 7 soccer representatives.
 - 75% of GAC membership live outside of Fraser Heights
 - Hjorth Road Park is central to the area
 - Many players walk as there as the families own no cars.
 - Terry Downtan - Director of softball and a Coach noted that the Guildford Athletic Club is the only large sports organization to offer two sports, softball and soccer, to the youth:
 - Having sufficient parking at the park would increase the capability of the club hosting tournaments.
 - Has two daughters who been playing soccer since they were 6 and now at age 16 are coaching soccer.
 - Satan Sharma has been the Field Allocation Coordinator for the past 5 years, has been coaching boys soccer for the past 7 years, and has two sons who play soccer.
 - The task of field allocation coordinator is like a second job.
 - Max field utilization will be best achieved at Hjorth Road Park.
 - In 2006-07 almost 60% of games were cancelled due to field closures associated with inclement weather.
 - Referees prefer job postings to Cloverdale due to Guildford field closures.
 - Turf fields will allow for minimum game cancellations due to weather.

- At the April 18, 2007 meeting the decision was made to defer construction based on site facility and community feedback.
- At a meeting with the Club, Parks staff outlined the criteria for site selection, and the club members in attendance felt strongly that Hjorth would be the best site for a turf field.
- Due to adjacent land development there is a narrow window of opportunity. Waiting can cause construction costs to increase.
- Turf will allow for the Guildford Athletic Club to host more club jamborees and large scale soccer tournaments.
- Guildford desperately needs a turf field and Hjorth Road Park is the Club's home park.

The following questions and concerns were raised:

- The delegation was questioned if they believed that the Guildford community would support tree removal from the park.
 - The delegate noted that she has lived in the area most of her life. Saving Green Timbers Urban Forest was fought for by the locals years ago, and provides a huge forest right in the neighbourhood. Given the notorious history of the forested area west of Hjorth Road Park, the local residents would love to see the trees removed. The removal of the trees from around Hjorth Road Park would make it a safer haven for children, the playgrounds and the people who live in this parklands area.
- The GM, Parks, Recreation & Culture addressed the delegations' concerns about losing the funding. Council has stated the funds are for the Guildford catchments area and would not be lost.
- There are three fields on the Fraser Heights side. The fields are all sand based and during most of the past three winter months, due to the elevations, the snow and the frost has not melted and the fields have been closed due to ice. The fields on the south side are used. On the north side there is a mini field and a regular field. Drainage is poor on the mini-field, and that field is often closed down during wet winters.
- Eventually, if turf is installed at Hjorth, this would offer the opportunity to put a program in place to have poor drainage repaired. Building a turf field at Hjorth Road Park would give an opportunity to decommission other fields for renovation. Parks, Recreation and Culture cannot currently do a complete renovation.
- Staff noted that field renovations are a part of the ongoing park maintenance but large-scale renovations would still be dependant on budget availability within the annual capital park renovation fund.
- Almost 1,200 youth play soccer at Guildford. Only 25% of registrants come from Fraser Heights.

It was

Moved by Gurpreet Rai

Seconded by Tom Gill

That the Parks & Community Services

Committee receive the Guildford Athletic Club presentation and folder containing letters from local residents as information.

Carried

Councillor Hepner thanked the delegation for their presentation and the delegation departed.

C. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. Guildford Synthetic Turf Field - Site Feasibility Analysis

File: 5920-01

Staff memo dated May 8, 2007 from the General Manager of Parks, Recreation & Culture regarding the further analysis of site feasibility on Fraser Heights Park and Hjorth Road Park with respect to the development of artificial turf fields at these respective locations.

The following comments and concerns were noted:

- A Site analysis would take time. Preliminary indications of soil results and costing differences to be provided at the next meeting of the Parks & Community Services Committee.
- GM, Parks, Recreation and Culture has been in communication with the staff from the school district. A letter has been drafted to the Chairman of the School Trustees, Shawn Wilson, regarding the timing and any inferences that location would influence committal of resources. The school district is to make a commitment by the end of June. Information was sent directly to the Board Chair in an effort to alleviate any delay in decisions that may result by presenting to Council.
- Terry Allen, School Board Trustee advised that the funding is there to commit and in the April 28 preliminary budget which is set to start in September for 2008. He may call for a special meeting of the School Board to deal with this issue.

It was

Moved by Cliff Annable

Seconded by Terry Allen

That the Parks & Community Services

Committee receive the Guildford Synthetic Turf Field Site Feasibility Analysis as information.

Carried

D. STAFF PRESENTATION(S)

1. Outreach & Community Services

Sheila McKinnon, on behalf of Tara Cleave from Outreach & Support Services, provided a presentation regarding the various services and programs provided and that align with Access Awareness Week. The delegation from Outreach & Support Services was received at the May 14, 2007 Council meeting. Sheila McKinnon thanked the Committee for the opportunity of providing a presentation and sharing the following information about the work done toward disabilities:

- Vision - individuals with disabilities were previously institutionalized; over the past couple of decades most organizations have taken on the philosophy of integration.
- Mission - to develop and promote Surrey parks through swimming, dance, team spirit partnerships and active living through integrated recreation, adapted recreation programs, and facility accessibility.
- Accessibility highlights for 2006:
 - Partnerships
 - Volunteerism – 2,341 volunteer hours in 2006
 - Education and training – through staff and volunteers
 - Community - fire fighters charitable society funding to enjoy physical and social recreational experiences
 - Committee involvement
- Internal:
 - Leisure Access program
 - Fees and charges
 - Kidz Conference
- External:
 - Inter-agency
 - Transition Advisory
 - Community Living Advisory
- The Future - 2010 Legacies:
 - Document - “Measuring Up” - a tool kit for communities to assess themselves
 - Expand Spirit volunteer programs
 - Facility accessibility
 - Special needs policy

Chairman, Councillor Hepner noted that the Mayor’s Task Force on 2010 Olympics would provide a presentation at a future meeting. Spirit BC was started a few years ago. All are called Spirit volunteers. Act Now BC has not recently been contacted regarding this.

Councillor Hepner thanked Sheila McKinnon for her presentation.

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Sunnyside Park Master Plan

File: 6140-20/S

A staff memo dated May 4th, 2007 from the Parks Designer with information on Sunnyside Park Master Plan was presented. Ted Urich, Parks Designer provided the following comments and information:

- Sunnyside Park is a neighbourhood level park located at 27th Avenue and 154th Street in South Surrey, 9.4 acres in size.
- In 2002 Parks acquired 12 residential properties to the east of the existing park. Acquisitions have happened quite quickly with one property left to be acquired.

- The Parks Designer has been involved in the process over the past year.
- 2006-2007 – met with the stakeholders. Sunnyside Park is a home field for the softball stakeholders, and prime users of the softball facilities.
- Sports in South Surrey is growing rapidly, particularly softball.
- The challenge is to create a community park to provide more space for softball in the future, while still meeting the needs of local residents.
- Master Plan – 2006
 - Engineering Department to realign Cranley Drive, allowing Parks to consolidate properties (to be completed in Fall 2007).
 - Presented preliminary plans to get community input.
- Master Plan – April 2007
 - Plan has the existing swimming pool, playground, and features new and renovated softball diamonds, cedars and a Douglas Fir that is a landmark in the neighbourhood.
 - Master Plan presented at April 2007 open house.
 - 133 attendees.
 - 73% support shown.
 - Neighbourhood greatly in support of this plan.
 - Format will be four diamonds in a quad, and will feature a water park, playgrounds, sports box, picnic area, tree stands and replanting to preserve natural areas, more parking at the park and a few other amenities.

Discussion ensued and the following concerns and comments were made:

- At the first open house two options were presented.
- Combined two concept plans, the Master plan and the original survey for the presentation - 76% strongly supportive of the concept plan as presented.
- The configuration did not change, and the Concept Plan was the one supported by the community. Parks has tried to create a plan that both served to create softball and community options.
- The Concept Plan was reviewed by the advisory committee to bring field lacrosse and box lacrosse to the table. Field lacrosse is in shortage but was found not essential in this area of Surrey, lacrosse can use fields elsewhere in Surrey. White Rock is the home base for the White Rock softball group, and is the primary stakeholder in the area. Sunnyside Park only allows for softball, not soccer.
- South Surrey –White Rock Softball Minor Softball Association is the primary association representing the South Surrey area, and Sunnyside Park is home base for the softball group. Sunnyside Park only allows for softball, not soccer.
- Owen Croy, Manager, Parks, attended the last Open House. He noted that those people who identified themselves as community members were very supportive of the plan. Many comments related to traffic flow and parking have been brought forward and parking will be dealt with as part of the plan.
- Was surprised at the overwhelming support shown by the community for the plan compared to most plans in past years.
- Due diligence by the City with regards to demand, population and public wishes:

- Parks looks at growth, request and availability of resources in that city and the age groups being served. At Softball City, adults use the fields in the evenings, but this plan at Sunnyside is geared more for younger players. The South Surrey area is really pressed for a youth softball park in this community.
- Demands for soccer resulted in recent investments within the community to grow soccer with turf field in that community.
- Parks looks at requests at community groups for participation growth in a sport over the past 5 years so know that youth softball in high demand in that area.
- Parks compared all sports with registrants and field times.
- Youth softball and baseball in South Surrey has the lowest level of access of any organization. Have not built any softball facilities in the area since Softball City was built.
- Low level access:
 - o Redevelopment of Sunnyside Park.
 - o Converting other baseball diamonds into softball diamonds at Tamanawis.
 - o Renting Softball City during season and allocating back to youth sport associations free of charge. Typically, 3 diamonds are booked at Softball City for adults and for the Renegades at \$90 per hour, and this is cost prohibitive for the younger players. Parks has been trying to address this shortage.
- How other facilities deal with shortages:
 - o Ice is kept in South Surrey during the summer.
 - o Centennial Park is turned into lacrosse in summer.
- Parking: 93 spaces in two new lots. 70 spaces on street. Still 17 parking spots short.
- The Tennis courts at Sunnyside Park are currently amongst the best courts in Surrey.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

It was

Moved by Cliff Annable
Seconded by Sargy Chima
That Parks & Community Services

Committee:

1. receive this report as information.
2. indicate to Council that the Parks & Community Services Committee support the Sunnyside Park Master Plan as presented, and
3. recommend Council receive a staff presentation on the Sunnyside Park Master Plan at Council-in-Committee.

Carried

The Chairperson thanked the Parks Designer for his presentation.

F. STAFF REPORTS**Verbal Updates – May 16th, 2007****Laurie Cavan, GM Parks, Recreation & Culture
Surrey Children's Festival**

May 31st – June 1st Surrey is hosting its 3rd annual Children's Festival at Bear Creek Park and Surrey Arts Centre. There are plenty of free activities, along with ticketed performances, scheduled for this 3-day event

Newton Community Festival

The Newton Community Festival is a chance for Newton residents to come together to celebrate cultural diversity and pride in their community. The event is organized by community residents with assistance from Leisure Services staff and is now in its 12th year.

This year's event will include two stages of entertainment. The first stage will include different bands showcasing their talents, while the second stage will include performances from local dance and martial arts groups. The parking lot between Newton Wave pool and Newton Arena will be full with vendors and community organizations offering goodies and information to festival attendees. Clowns, face painters, a bouncy castle, games and balloons help to round out the carnival atmosphere. We hope you are able to join us at this year's event on Saturday June 9th, 10am-3pm.

Whalley Community Festival

The 9th Annual Whalley Community Festival is taking place on Saturday, June 16th from 12:00 noon until 6:00 pm. This year we welcome Chilliwack to the main stage, as well as, The Wheat and the Barley and many other great performers. In the Kid's Zone there will be plenty to do for kids of all ages.

Partners in Parks Celebration

This event provides an opportunity to thank and recognize the many volunteers, donors and sponsors for their volunteer participation in keeping our parks clean, safe, healthy and beautiful and to foster community spirit and pride in our parks. Taking place at the Bear Creek Park Pavilion on Saturday, June 16th from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm gives an opportunity for interactions in a relaxed and celebratory atmosphere.

Darts Hill Garden Open Houses (held on April 29th & May 6th)

Attendance for both days totaled 1,095.

23 new members were recruited for the Darts Hill Conservatory Trust Society.

Donations to the garden totaled \$888.

Beecher Place Information Centre

Beecher Place Information Centre will be open daily from 8:00 am – 4:30 pm starting May 18th until September 3rd. Beecher place is located on Crescent Beach, beside the washrooms.

Last year, hundreds of residents and visitors came through the centre to learn more about the city. This is an ideal location to promote the many parks, recreation and culture programs, special events and facilities.

BCRPA Awards

The BCRPA has awarded the City of Surrey the 2007 Environmental Leadership Award for our Environmental Extravaganza submission. As well, our submission of Urban Reality won for the Program Excellence Award.

Surrey Archives

The **Archives** is in the process of having its shingle roof replaced. This project will be completed by the end of May.

Surrey Museum

The **Museum** parking lot is being used as the marshalling grounds for the Rodeo Parade on Saturday, May 19, 2007. The parade starts at 10:00 am.

Historic Stewart Farm

The Historic Stewart Farm is hosting the annual Victoria Day celebration on Sunday, May 20, 2007 from noon to 4:00 pm. The event features performances by the Morris Dancers, old-fashioned crafts and games, and the birthday cake for Queen Victoria's celebration.

Bob Ashmore

Bob Ashmore - Naming of Facility at Whalley Athletic Park in recognition of him. (Bob Ashmore passed away in April at the age of 92.) Owen Croy has been in discussion with the executive of the Whalley Little League and separately with Tom Lawry re type of dedication, signage or plaques to be mounted and staff are awaiting a written response. Staff support this initiative and awaiting a response in order to formalize. Mr. Ashmore was a long time Surrey resident who volunteered in both coaching and ball park maintenance for over 50 years.

Proposal for an Arts Addition to the South Surrey Recreation Centre

We received a proposal from the White Rock and South Surrey Arts Society wanting the development of an arts facility comprised of an Exhibition Hall, kitchen, 2 storage rooms, 3 program rooms, pottery and kiln room. They have indicated they have \$250,000 to contribute towards the project. Staff will be reviewing the proposal.

The Glades

The fundraiser for Peace Arch Hospital Auxiliary Mother's Day Tea at the Glades was very well attended on Mother's Day with over 1,000 attendees.

The Chairperson thanked the GM, Parks, Recreation and Culture for her update.

The GM, Parks, Recreation and Culture will meet with the South Surrey White Rock Arts Society regarding the arts addition to the South Surrey Recreation Centre. To request square footage and original design drawings as the recreation centre was originally designed for future expansion, in order to look at the context of Phase 2. Councillor Hepner has advised them that this would have to be in priority mix of the Master Plan in late fall and suggested to go on line to measure the importance of that facility.

Councillor Martin noted that the Society should be congratulated for their efforts on their fundraising. They are very optimistic and anxious to get going on the art addition to the South Surrey Recreation Centre and requested that a letter be sent to commend them for their fund raising donation.

Councillor Hepner spoke with the Potters Guild today and it is her understanding that the Camp Kwomais property is up for sale. The Potters Guild can still use the facility for the near future months. It will be months, possibly years, before anything gets done. The Potters Guild to do that and to contact Laurie Cavan, GM, Parks Recreation & Culture. There was a reluctance by the Guild to invest \$5,000 in upgrades. Their previous lease base was \$200 per month. If they could have a home base for more than a year then this was worthwhile for them. Mr. Colliers has also advocated on their behalf. The Potters Guild location issue has been solve for now.

G. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

H. CORRESPONDENCE

1. 2007 Guildford Artificial Turf Field File: 5920-01

Letter dated April 27, 2007 from **Glen R. Hilder, Principal, Erma Stephenson Elementary School**, regarding the proposed development of the turf field in the Guildford area.

It was

Moved by Councillor Martin
Seconded by Cliff Annable
That Parks & Community Services

Committee receive this letter as information.

Carried

2. James MacKay, Community Developer (Bridgeview) Pacific Community Resources File: 0220-05

It was
Moved by Councillor Martin
Seconded by Cliff Annable
That Parks & Community Services
Committee receive this letter as information.
Carried

I. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Calendar of Events June 23 – July 8 – Charity Classic
2. Copy of Memo to Mayor & Council from the General Manager of Parks, Recreation and Culture re: “News Report about Surrey Metro Soccer”
File: 5920-01

It was
Moved by Councillor Martin
Seconded by Cliff Annable
That the Parks & Community Services
Committee receive this memo as information.
Carried

J. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

Charity Classic - Host of Hospitality tent – June 18 – 24, 2007

It was
Moved by Councillor Martin
Seconded by Cliff Annable
That the Parks & Community Services
Committee receive this as information.
Carried

K. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting of the Parks & Community Services Committee is scheduled for
Wednesday, June 20, 2007 @ 7:00 pm in the Parks Boardroom 1.

L. ADJOURNMENT

It was
Moved by Councillor Martin
Seconded by Sargy Chima
That the Parks and Community Services
Committee meeting do now adjourn.
Carried

The Parks and Community Services Committee adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Certified as true and correct:

Margaret Jones, City Clerk

Chairperson (Councillor Hepner)
Parks & Community Services Committee