



City of Surrey

Parks & Community Services Committee

Minutes

Parks Boardroom
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2007
Time: 7:04 p.m.
File: 0540-20

Present:

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

Absent:

G. Rice

School Board Trustee:

T. Allen

Also Present:

L. Cavan, General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture
L. White, Manager, Leisure Services
R. Ryan, Manager Bus. Ops. & Ath. Fields
B. Paterson, Acting Manager, Parks Planning, Research & Design
S. McKinnon, Manager, Arts Services
D. Vestergaard, Administrative Coordinator
H. Dmytriw, Legislative Service

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was

Moved by Councillor Martin

Seconded by Cliff Annable

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

Carried

B. DELEGATION REQUEST

C. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

E. NEW BUSINESS

**1. Proposed Closure of the Newton Athletic Park Pavilion Concession
Located at 7395 – 128th Street, Surrey**

Laurie Cavan, GM, Parks, Recreation & Culture introduced Richard Ryan, Manager Business Operations & Athletic Fields who discussed challenges by the sports groups at Newton Athletic Park. Following are the comments provided:

- Groups are now facing challenges in maintaining income.
- The Pavilion was constructed in 1989 and includes public washrooms, change rooms, offices, storage areas, meeting space, concession and a small pre-school room on the upper floor. The concession is a small component of the building. This was the only outdoor athletic facility concession that was operated and staffed by the City.
- In 1996 the Surrey Youth Soccer Association (SYSA) took over operation of the concession and then in 1998 took over operation of the entire building.

- Surrey Youth Soccer funded a significant \$100,000 expansion of the building 5 years ago (2002) to the north to provide additional seating capacity and reconfigured access to the food services area.
- SYSA has been running the concession at a loss for a number of years. Revenue has been dropping off during summer months. Increased labour costs, electrical and gas costs, an increased number of ethnocentric soccer tournaments that operate and provide their own food and give it away, resulting in reduced patronage of the building concession; changing demographic usage with changing food preferences resulted in the soccer club not running the concession during most of summer 2007.
- Traditionally summer soccer and softball tournaments have provided the majority of revenue to the concession operation.
- Surrey Youth Soccer are proposing to decommission the existing concession and remodel the space into two separate self-contained areas. One for a small registration office and the other for a small training room for team coaches, referees and technical directors. Vending machines would be installed to dispense beverages and basic food items.
- Three Options for consideration:
 - (a) Retain the concession facilities for use by other tournament organizers.
 - (b) Issue an RFP for operation of the concession.
 - (c) Approve Surrey Youth Soccer's proposal to decommission the exiting pavilion concession and convert the space into a small office and training room.

Further discussion ensued and the following comments were provided:

- SYSA did seek financial assistance from the City to share the capital cost of remodeling the existing concession, although no dollar amount was requested. The City can make a capital request through the capital budgeting process, however, this request would need to be prioritized against the many other urgent community needs relative to athletic facilities.
- There would be some capital cost associated with SYSA's proposal to convert the concession into two separate rooms. This would not be excessive as it is primarily framing and sheathing and would not involve any modifications to load bearing walls.
- The South Surrey Athletic Park Rotary Fieldhouse concession has a limited time of operation—less than 5 months per year. The Rotary Fieldhouse was built and a small concession added at a later date.
- Cloverdale Athletic Park has a small concession that appears to have worked out quite well for the user groups. This is a very busy park in summer with many ball tournaments contributing to concession revenue.
- Bear Creek Park concession has two primary concession seasons: football and summer track meets. The North Surrey Minor Football Association runs the concession during football season and track & field groups run the concession during summer track meets. The concession is small, about 1/8 of the footprint of Newton. Bear Creek track pulls in large crowds, meets and parents so the concession likely generates significant revenues during the summer months. Schools have made it work for that usage. It is drastically smaller than Newton Athletic Park but caters to events that tend to utilize concession services to a greater degree.

- Demographics have changed in the Newton area drastically over the years and many of the summer tournament groups no longer seek the traditional concession services that have been provided at Newton Athletic Park in the past. There has been an attempt over the last two years to have tournament operators pay a fee for operating their own concession rather than utilizing the Pavilion concession. This approach hasn't worked as many groups do not consider their provision of food to constitute a concession and much of this food is given away to tournament participants free of charge.
- SYSA is the largest outdoor sports association (for registration) in Surrey. The concession was operated by a paid concession manager for the last few years, however, SYSA could no longer justify the expense based on declining concession revenues. Not many associations have a full time person running a concession. The group is not addressing the situation lightly as they have been operating at a loss for a number of years, despite being open most nights and every tournament.
- The operating agreement of the building would not change drastically; the concession is a minor part of the building amenities.
- A committee member observed that this was a well laid out report with detailed facts.

It was

Moved by Steve Moore

Seconded by Councillor Martin

That the Parks & Community Service Committee recommends that Council:

1. Approve Surrey Youth Soccer's proposal to decommission the existing Pavilion concession and convert the space into a small office and training room; and
2. Request in writing from the Surrey Youth Soccer Association that they have initiated and support this request.

Carried

2. **Park Naming – Kwomais Point Park (Proposed)**

File: 6140-20K

Laurie Cavan, GM, Parks, Recreation & Culture provided the following comments:

- Camp Kwomais was purchased by the City for parkland, this spectacular 16 acre park property overlooks the Straight of Georgia. Based on the long historical association of the name for the site, both as an early First Nations gathering area, and later as the name used by local settlers in the area the suggestion was made to name the park Kwomais Point Park.
- In our desire to move ahead with the planning for the park, a name was proposed, however, we subsequently feel the decision to name the park should be deferred and that Council and the people of the community should be involved in the naming process for this new park.

Discussion ensued and the following comments were provided:

- This area has always been known as Camp Kwomais. Do not see the point of changing the name from Camp Kwomais, except there may be information we may not know. Recommend that we consider the history of the park.
- Locals also refer to the area as Ocean View Park.
- The purchase is an interesting acquisition for the City. The City prides itself on community consultation and perhaps we should have some level of consultation with key stakeholders regarding the property naming.
- The suggestion was made to decommission the name “Camp Kwomais” as there is an identity as a camp. Newcomers might think it is still a camp. That is why we were going to drop the “camp” component.

It was

Moved by Steven Moore

Seconded by Linda Hepner

That the Parks & Community Services

Committee recommends the issue of naming the park *Camp Kwomais Park* be referred back to staff develop a consultation process related to naming and to be consistent with the existing Naming Policy.

Carried

E. STAFF REPORTS

1. Laurie Cavan, GM, Parks, Recreation & Culture introduced and welcomed **Bob Paterson, Manager of Parks Construction** who provided his annual presentation on park development and construction projects currently underway. Following are the comments provided:

Bridgeview Park – re-development of the west side of the park – pathway circuit, two backstops, one dedicated ball field and one soccer/ball field.

East Clayton Parkette #3 – Development of a neighbourhood park that includes a tot lot, pathways and landscaping that includes grass mounds and extensive tree plantings.

Goldstone Park – now under construction – current works include the development of two sport fields, parking lot and playground and it is hoped that next year a small water playground, games court, tennis courts and washroom will be developed. The entire site will be landscaped and planted with trees this fall/winter season.

Guildford Skate Park – this facility located at the Guildford Recreation centre is now completed and fully operational. It was built after extensive consultation with local skate boarders and while primarily designed for skate-boarding it is designed for use by BMX bikes as well.

Hillcrest Park – Sport Field is complete and the field is now scheduled for play. The field is designed for both baseball and soccer. It is hoped that the west side of the park will be completed this fall/winter for passive use.

Holland Park – Construction of the hard landscape features including the King George Plaza, Central Plaza and the Concrete Pathway System are now nearing

completion. Parks crews are working hard to place and spread soil for turf and shrub bed areas prior to fall rains that can prevent further work from being performed. The construction schedule has been impacted by the 'red hot' construction industry that has made acquiring materials, sub-contractors and utility installations more difficult.

Port Kells Bike Park – Developed this summer with input from local cyclists. This initiative is part of the overall plan to develop bike parks throughout the City.

Tamanawis Artificial Turf Field – This recently completed field has been built specifically for field hockey but can be used for other sports as well.

Tom Binnie Artificial Turf Field – This field features an in-fill type turf similar to Cloverdale and South Surrey sport fields as opposed to Tamanawis, which is a carpet turf.

Hjorth Park Artificial Turf Field(s) – The Parks Division is now proceeding with a Public Consultation process in early October to develop a field at this park, with the possible option of constructing a second field adjacent to it. Work will proceed on the project in early 2008.

Tom Binnie Field House – Parks, Recreation & Culture has received 8 proposals for the construction of this field house and should be awarding a contract in October to allow construction to commence this year to meet a spring opening timeline.

Bakerview Park – The playground at this park received a major facelift with the installation of new play equipment funded by contributions from the local community in memory of Charlie Schill totaling \$21,000, a \$10,000 contribution from the Semiahmoo Rotary Club. The City financed the balance of the playground cost.

Major Renovation of the Bear Creek Playground – The Parks Division has been proceeding with renovations to the playground in a phased approach, over the last 3 years. Existing equipment had become worn and in some cases, no longer meet current CSA standards. The pictures show the equipment that will be in this coming fall.

South Surrey Athletic Park Playground Project – This playground is being built through a joint funding process between the City and the Peace Arch Rotary Club. The Club has contributed \$25,000 to Phase 1 of the project and the Club has agreed to provide an additional \$30,000 towards the completion of Phases 2 and 3 in 2008. The playground will be located immediately west of the Rotary Field House.

Renovation of Whalley Ball Diamond #1 - This diamond is currently receiving a major renovation to improve the surface of the diamond and to improve the drainage and irrigation systems. The goal is to allow for greater use throughout the year.

Landscaping of Traffic Medians and Streets – Parks Development continues to work with the Engineering Department to beautify Surrey's arterial and collector roads throughout the City.

Other projects – Bob Paterson noted that he did not mention many smaller projects that have been completed or currently under construction. He also did

not mention some other projects that are now in the planning and detailed design stage including Sunnyside Park Expansion and Redevelopment, Joe Brown Park Development, Cloverdale Off-Leash Park, Tennis Courts at Fraser Heights and Latimer Lake Development.

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

2. Cultural Capitals of Canada

Laurie Cavan, GM Parks, Recreation & Culture provided a verbal presentation on Cultural Capitals of Canada. Following are the comments provided:

- The Government of Canada established the Cultural Capital of Canada program in 2002. City of Surrey applied for this grant in 2006 (for cities with a population of over 125,000) and won the 2008 award as Cultural Capital of Canada--funding of up to \$2 Million from the Federal Government/Heritage Canada. The City of Surrey to contribute \$667,000 plus in-kind and sponsorship. Funding needs to be expended in 2008. The award recognizes the municipality for special accomplishments that harness the arts and culture, First Nations, and ethno cultural communities.
- Council appointed a task force to include Mayor Watts, and Councillors Linda Hepner, Mary Martin and Judy Villeneuve.
- Will offer 5 lectures on Inspired Ideas Speaker series by high profile speakers, there will be a youth component that includes youth delegates and a youth conference. The speakers series is proposed to be held at Bell Centre.
- Civic Treasures Award Program –12 cultural leaders will be recognized, Council will approve the proposed program.
- Green Timbers Forest Interpretation Centre – project will offer centre heritage and interpretive programs.
- Vaisakhi – Harvest the Fun Celebration – incorporating dance into a festival of dance.
- Surrey's Fusion '08 Festival – a 3-day celebration - July 18-20, 2007. (Multicultural Advisory Committee and sub-committee will provide advise regarding the festival) at Holland Park and City Centre Plaza (Note: do a 10 year weather check).
- Catalysts, Connections & Intersections – 6 public art projects for Surrey – Councillor Villeneuve is involved.
- Glocal – Me and My World – a youth and new media initiative.
- Progress to date:
 - Met with staff and project leaders
 - Resubmitted budget and critical schedules to Heritage Canada
 - Begin to confirm dates and bookings
 - Marketing and corporate sponsorship

- Confirmed Dan Neilson as project lead and coordinator (funded within grant application)
- Wade Davis is confirmed as speaker
- Will be speaking with youth to see who is interested
- Speaker series is something that not been done much in Surrey so really need to ensure there is a market for what we want to put forward.

Councillor Hepner thanked Laurie Cavan for her report.

It was
Committee receive this report as information.

Moved by Councillor Martin
Seconded by Sargy Chima
That the Parks & Community Services
Carried

Committee member Steve Moore departed the meeting and did not return.

3. VERBAL REPORT

Laurie Cavan, GM, Parks, Recreation & Culture provided the following a verbal report:

Summer Camps

CLS staff coordinated a full week of training for all summer leaders including High Five Training on *healthy child development*. Staff feedback was extremely positive to network and build ideas that could be incorporated back into their camps. This was done with the support of social well being funding.

We had great success in our summer camps, more registrations (9%). This means that we were more efficient in our camp offering, which resulted in an increase of participation for improved quality programs. A total of 12,354 children attended summer camps.

The Go For 20 Challenge

This campaign has reached it's one year anniversary! We started the campaign back in July 2006. To date we have had 9,708 people sign up for the *Go For 20 Challenge*.

You will be hearing more about the next steps in the *Go For 20 Challenge* in the fall. This campaign has been very successful, it appears that Active Living has generated concrete measurable results evolving out of a sustainable initiative.

Surrey Sport & Leisure Complex - Aquatics

SSLC re-opened as a city operated facility on September 5, 2007 and is offering a full range of Aquatic and Fitness programming. Some new features:

- City wide acceptance of memberships
- Consistent swim lesson program between facilities
- Sharing of staff and city resources between facilities.

Response from the public has been very positive, in particular to the city wide acceptance of membership passes.

We've hired approximately 100 new staff. Most front line and instructional staff are from the previous operator and have come to us as very knowledgeable and positive employees.

We have received many positive comments and some complaints about cleanliness in the change rooms as we take specific steps to clean and maintain these areas. We've hired professional for the floors and will be doing so shortly for the walls.

Youth Fest

Youth Fest is happening September 22, 2007 at the Guildford Recreation Centre 4:00 pm to 12 midnight. The one addition that we have added this year is transportation. We will be using the CLS bus and the Outreach bus to pick up youth at all recreation centres. Hopefully this will enable getting more youth across the city to events in other areas. There will be two youth staff (one driver and one staff) on each bus to ensure a safe ride to and from the event.

Canoe Carving Project

Over the past few months the Surrey Art Gallery has been collaborating with the Kla-how-eya Aboriginal Cultural Centre on a canoe carving project and we have reached a significant stage in the process. Members of the Parks and Community Services Committee are welcome to observe the canoe steaming process scheduled to take place Saturday, September 22, 2007.

The steaming process requires great care and skill. Those engaged in the process include elder Maurice Nahanee (process supervisor), Mike Dangeli (head carver), Daniel Levasseur (assistant carver) and crew – they will need to give all their attention to the process, including the safety of those engaged in it. Therefore, this is not an openly public event and will not be advertised or promoted through the media. The artist Mike Dangeli is inviting some friends and relatives whom he knows will contribute their good energy and prayer to the process also some of the members from the Katzie band and from Kla-how-eya are expected to be here.

Discussion ensued and the following comments provided:

- The GM, Parks, Recreation & Culture noted that the City of Surrey took over the management of the Surrey Sport and Leisure facilities.
 - There is the need to review the type of products used as current products look to be in poor condition, i.e. tiles in change rooms. Different products stand up better over time.
 - Public feedback is that regular users are very happy to have the flexibility of using monthly passes at other facilities other Surrey facilities across board.
 - Staff are delighted with the new management and newly renovated facilities.
- Java Hut is still being run privately.
- Staff will be closely monitoring the financial performance of the facility and operations/customer service to deliver a well run, fully utilized facility.

- Grant of Inclusion – received grant through Inclusion Now – measuring up to do an assessment of the community of where to make improvements to accessibility for physical and mental disabilities. Hoping for more opportunities for grants depending on availability of budget.

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

F. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter dated July 25, 2007 from **Penny Priddy, Member of Parliament for Surrey-North**, regarding Expansion of Bear Creek Park Pavilion.
2. Letter dated August 15, 2007 from **Lisa White, Manager of Community & Leisure Services**, to Penny Priddy, Member of Parliament of Surrey-North, regarding Expansion of Bear Creek Pavilion.

Discussion ensued and the following comments were provided:

- The Mayor will be meeting with Bear Creek seniors two weeks from now.
- A report was provided to the seniors in September 2006.
- Expanded the park hours in Bear Creek for seniors.
- Seniors are looking for a second floor on the pavilion for more space.

It was Moved by Councillor Gill
Seconded by Councillor Martin
That the Parks & Community Services
Committee receive the letters as information.
Carried

Terry Allen, School Board Trustee, personally thanked the Parks, Recreation & Culture staff for the terrific job they have done regarding Bear Creek Park.

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. **Calendar of Events**

H. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting of the Parks & Community Services Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, October 17, 2007 @ 7:00 pm in the Parks, Recreation and Culture Boardroom 1.

I. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Councillor Gill
Seconded by Cliff Annable
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