



City of Surrey

Parks & Community Services Committee

Minutes

Parks Boardroom #1
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
WED, NOVEMBER 21, 2007
Time: 7:10 p.m.
File: 0540-20

Present:

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

Absent:

Councillor Gill

School Board Trustee:

T. Allen

Guests:

Camille Andrews, SSNAP
Rick Benson, OSAC
Varinder Dhaliwal, GAC
Ruby Rai, GAC
Peter Maarsman – President, Green
Timbers Heritage Society
Wady Lehmann – Founding Member,
Green Timbers Heritage Society

Also Present:

L. Cavan, General Manager, Parks, Recreation
& Culture
O. Croy, Mgr. Parks
Lisa White, Manager, Leisure Services
D. Vestergaard, Parks
Greg Ward, Manager of Urban Forestry and
Environmental Programs
H. Dmytriw, Legislative Service

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was

Moved by Gurpreet Rai

Seconded by Steve Moore

That the minutes of the Parks & Community

Services Committee meeting held on October 17, 2007, be adopted.

Carried

B. DELEGATION

- 1. Presentation by Surrey's Natural Areas Partnership (SNAP); Green Timbers Heritage Society.**
(DEFERRED from October 17, 2007 meeting.)

Peter Maarsman, President, Green Timbers Heritage Society (GTHS) introduced himself and Founding Member Wady Lehmann and provided a presentation regarding Surrey's Natural Areas Partnership (SSNAP) and Green Timbers Heritage Society. Following are the comments of the delegation:

- Have 3 partners: Ann Savenye from the White Rock and Surrey Naturalists, Dr. Roy Strang from the Sunnyside Acres Heritage Society and the Green Timbers Heritage Society.
- The Partnership have been in effect for 8 years and getting better with each year, with this year being the best year.

Peter Maarsman introduced Camile Andrews, Program Coordinator for SSNAP (Surrey Stewardship of Natural Areas Partnership) who provided the following presentation:

Camile thanked the committee and chair for the opportunity to talk about SSNAP and provided the following overview of the 2007 season:

- Urban forestry and environmental programs–
 - Objectives - to restore and enhance the urban forest
 - Provide environmental education
 - Encourage public to be environmental stewards
 - Habitat restoration education team consisting of post education students from natural sciences and environmental fields, volunteers from the ecological based program.
 - The education team worked for two years with over 1,000 kids and youth from all over Surrey – 4 programs–
 - *When frogs grow up*
 - *Forest forensics*
 - *The bug's world, mystery of the oceans*
 - Special events - Education team – Earth Day, Arbor Day World Oceans Day, International Bog Day, GVRD Country Celebration – Over 20 programs
 - Habitat restoration team - 7th year of SSNAP restoring natural areas–
 - Invasive species plan for removal – main issues for Surrey – replant with native plant species for wild life who rely on these species
 - Removed 25 truckloads of invasive plants and yard waste that ends up in parks adjacent to residential areas
 - Visited over 8,000 residents to provide information environmental refuse bags
 - Closed unsanctioned trails (unsanctioned trails are near salmon bearing streams and where deer drop their fawn).
 - Special enhancement program in with stewardship with youth squads–
 - Built amphibian cover structure
 - Built floating nesting island (Surrey Lake Park)
 - Burk Creek clean up – British Manor Park
 - Blackie Spit Park – habitat restoration project
 - SSNAP media attention
 - Eco rangers 2007 –
 - A volunteer program with 30 volunteers from the community commit to volunteer time – purpose to educate the public and to encourage appropriate park use in Blackie Spit, Bear Creek, Green Timbers Urban Forest, Sunnyside Acres Urban Forest.
 - Accomplished goals – 950 park visitors, 528 hours
 - Volunteers were given opportunity to work with special events, and habitat enhancement projects.
 - The delegate thanked the funders: Surrey City, HRDC and VanCity, WalMart.

- Thanked partners: Green Timbers Heritage, Sunnyside Acres, Colleen Gillespie, White Rock and Surrey Naturalists, and Surrey Parks Recreation and Culture.
- Season runs two programs in May, June, July and August. Eco program runs some in June but mainly in July and August when the youth are on summer break.

Chairperson Councillor Hepner thanked the delegation for the presentation.

Wady Lehman – the city committee from back in 1980 can be thanked for when a Referendum resulted in the absolutely surprising support from the public to maintain Green Timbers and Sunnyside Acres. It showed that Surrey has a heart. Chairperson Councillor Hepner commented that those lands will remain parks in perpetuity.

2. **Rick Benson, Chair, Outdoor Sports Advisory Committee** provided an update on their Terms of Reference.

File: 0400-01

- The Outdoor Sports Advisory Committee (OSAC) recently reviewed their Terms of Reference and felt it is now the time to provide the Parks & Community Services Committee with an update on the who, the what, and the things the Outdoor Sports Advisory Committee does.
- The Committee is made up of representatives from outdoor sports groups, School District 36, a maximum of two members at large, 16 members from rep soccer, baseball, cricket, athletics, and fast pitch softball, to name a few.
- Their mission is to promote cooperation and coordination with outdoor athletic service providers in the City of Surrey.
- Issue of the synthetic turf field by allocation by sport:
 - How we see breakdown by allocation of sport
 - Sharing of resources by different sport groups
 - To work through OSAC to share resources
 - Work with outdoor sports world to attract high level sports events to Surrey
 - Awareness of minority sports within Surrey and raising profile of those sports i.e. kabaddi, cricket, tennis for youth
 - Discussion / recommendation regarding the *No Smoking* policy within athletic parks
 - To hold semi-annual meetings to discuss future development and plans, issues and concerns within sports in Surrey, Canada Cup, and to continue to grow our profile with Surrey.
 - Host information kiosks
- Rick Benson extended an invitation to the committee members to sit in on OSAC meetings that are held the second Thursday of each month, except summer; a Christmas supper meeting is scheduled for December.
- The Chairperson discussed the benefits of holding a liaison meeting between the Parks and Community Services Committee and the OSAC on an annual or bi-annual basis to discuss any issues and bringing them to this committee.

- Committee members requested that the minutes of the OSAC meetings be electronically distributed to the GM, Parks, Recreation & Culture for information.
- Kabaddi field, opened at Sullivan a couple years ago, is used just for practice for cricket.
- OSAC passed a motion at the September meeting regarding consideration of a second synthetic field (regarding Hjorth Road). This sparked discussion within their group. To raise this issue, with the understanding that funding is not approved or a field selected for the 2008 funded synthetic field, that should a second synthetic field be approved it should go into South Surrey town centre:
 - Based on youth populations and participation, the feeling is that, within Guildford Town Centre area, one synthetic field was sufficient. It was felt amongst all members of all sport groups that it would make the most sense to choose Newton or South Surrey. Since there are future long term plans for a second synthetic field in Newton, it is easier for the overflow from the Newton area to travel to Hjorth Road, Tom Binnie, or Cloverdale to use those synthetic fields. To transport residents from South Surrey to the north part of Surrey is not so feasible.
 - South Surrey athletic field has the poorest grass field.
 - The recommendation from OSAC is to request a report from city staff outlining all details.
 - Council is in midst of budget discussions. Newton has a definite need and they are aware that an application is before the Province for Newton.
 - The Chairperson noted that the report that went to the Outdoor Sports Advisory Committee can be provided in the new year.

The Chairperson thanked Rick Benson and his committee and noted many complex issues are very professionally dealt with through the OSAC. In dealing with the various sports groups through the OSAC this helps make our jobs easier as it relates to outdoor sports. This is very helpful for us. If the OSAC didn't handle these issues the Parks and Community Services Committee work would be more difficult.

The report was received as information.

Discussion ensued and the following comments were provided by the committee members:

- Timing of field – Public needs to be aware of timing for tree removal and clearing of the Guildford lands relating to the nesting season. Some people are very happy to have trees removed considering the some of the negative behavior that takes place in the wooded area.
- Environmental groups think that there are too many sports fields in Surrey.
- The Manager, Parks advised that Parks has hired a specialist in wild birds to survey the field for wild life, nests and perches. If raptors nests are found, they may be relocated to adjacent Green Timbers Urban Forest Park (relocations have been successful on a number of occasions in the past). Clearing and grubbing will begin no later than the first week of February 2008– work to be completed by mid March due to the Migratory

Birds Act. The plan is for the tender to go out, the contract issued and the work to be done prior to the nesting season. The Wildlife Biologist has provided the opinion that there are no rare or endangered species in this area. The area is isolated on three sides by housing and park and a road on the south so many animals will migrate into Green Timbers.

- If budget is provided for second sports field, the design has the footprint for a second field. They will leave the second field as a casual playing field.. This will act as a buffer and a casual field as a spill over field (without goal posts). The potential for an all weather gravel field was also discussed and should be addressed in a future report.
- Preparation work for drainage for two fields and one temporary field would gain us some savings but not all the savings of building the two fields at once. Re-excavation would be required and there would be double handling of some materials. Manager, Parks to provide a report for the December meeting.
- Holland Park has a great lawn for special events and casual sports has been built to higher drainage standard. The second field at Hjorth would not be a full sand based field, but a soil-based grass field with a crown with minor drainage, or a gravel all-weather field. If grass, it would not be lighted, as a grass field would not stand up to such use. If gravel, it would be lighted for evening practice.
- South Surrey (field 9, due south of synthetic field) is a soil-based field – the worst field in the inventory, with poor drainage – a rugby field. This would be the location for the South Surrey artificial turf field.
- Time line – Council has said that in Guildford the synthetic field is to be built in Hjorth Road.
- There is a huge priority for a field in Newton and in South Surrey.

Staff is requested to provide a report regarding a feasible alternative back up plan regarding preparation work for the second field at Hjorth Road Park for the December meeting.

C. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. The **2008 Schedule of Meetings** for the Parks & Community Service Committee is to be determined.
 - Cancel March meeting due to the two week spring break
 - Since November 19, 2008 is four days post-election, change meeting date to December 1, 2008.

The following 2008 Schedule of Meetings was approved as follows:

January 23
February 20
March 19 – cancelled
April 16

May 21
June 18
July 16
August – no meeting
September 17
October 15
December 1

2. Invasive Plant Species Management Policy

File: 6130-01

That the Parks & Community Services Committee:

- a. Receive this report for information
- b. Provide comment on the draft *Invasive Alien Plant Species Management Policy*.

Following are the comments provided:

- Laurie Cavan, GM Parks, Recreation & Culture scheduled this Policy review for the same time as today's SSNAP Report to better understand the efforts and support for these initiatives. Introduced Greg Ward, Manager, Urban Forestry & Environmental Programs. The recommendations in his policy are very strong.
- Greg Ward thanked the GM, Parks for the compliments of being an expert and provided the following comments on the Invasive Alien Plant Species Management Policy:
 - Have a natural area team who manage the initiative.
 - 60% of our parkland is natural, containing forest, bog and old fields, land and will be so into perpetuity.
 - Referred to land is different from the land at Hjorth Road.
 - A major problem is that the movement of plants and animals around the world is not as well controlled as would be desirable, and has an effect on the eco system. Invasive species upset that eco system and can destroy natural species. This is a big issue second only to development.
 - Parks in the year 2000 implemented a program to deal with this global environmental issue of invasive species and the City is taking a leadership role.
 - This policy will also extend out to other parts of the Park Division to change practices – horticulturalists often use invasive species such as ivy which will take over entire areas and affect those areas. Changes to practices will not affect costs and there is lots of choice. Support of initiatives will effectively help in preventing spread throughout community.
 - Outreach program in the community that have an influence on urban forest. Three full-time people work with the public on the Alien Invasive Plants Initiative in addition to their other environmental work, to get word out to homeowners, through the website, leisure guides, other media. Much of the invasive material is introduced via back yard dumping/over

- fence. Trying to get compliance of the homeowners through education before regulation.
- Councillor Martin congratulated the SSNAP and SHARP on their programs and noted that their efforts are much appreciated.

The Report was received for information.

3. **Surrey Sport and Leisure Complex – Over 80 Fee Structure**

File: 1810-01; 5000-01

That the Parks & Community Services Committee:

- a. Receive this report for information;
- b. Recommend that Parks, Recreation and Culture maintain their current Fees and Charges Policy and fee structure.

Discussion ensued and following are the comments provided:

- Based on a recent newspaper article this issue fell under the umbrella of general policy of user pay.
- Requested this be added to agenda for general discussion. That particular gentleman did receive free access to that facility and after review fell under access for free due to income levels.
- Lisa White, Manager, Leisure Services provided handout and the following comments:
 - Have a strong commitment to the seniors programming.
 - We have implemented a lot of strategies to barriers regarding ability to pay – we look at individual incomes as a measure to determine if they can afford to pay. Individuals have to inquire.
 - Fees and charges policy – scale of fees for different ages. Looked at making changes – financial impact /participation levels – looked at a potential loss of revenue of \$80,000. Those individuals can afford to pay. If we make policy change to eliminate that income we would be eliminating and reducing programs that could be offered.
 - When we took over Surrey Sport and Leisure complex. To create a seamless system across Surrey – we anticipate concerns regarding 80+ year old seniors and to accommodate those who can't afford to pay. Unfortunately the particular senior wasn't caught at the front counter to enable him to continue free access.
 - Graph shows difference in fees from contract costs and city fee structure. There is now a different seniors membership fee scale to before.
 - Seniors: Age 60 years at the pools and 55 at senior centres.
 - Drop in fees that can be reviewed in future for a drop in seniors rate. Delta provides a seniors rate for 85 and over, but nothing provided for 80+ seniors anywhere else. Other cities have a seniors access program but none as good as Surrey has.
 - City to advertise our leisure program and can do more promotion into school newsletters, Surrey leisure access program, website. If individuals meet qualifications right away they can get right away. Otherwise there is

other criteria that needs review but needs to be a direct interaction.
Process must go through an individual person/an interactive process.

- We had specific revenue goals to be achieved for 2007 since taking over from contractor but ultimately will have universal fees across the city.
- Staff will come back to the Committee with options to consider regarding Veteran's opportunities to access Parks, Recreation and Culture Facilities.

It was
Moved by Cliff Annable
Seconded by Grant Rice
That the Parks & Community Services

Committee recommend that Council:

- a. Receive this report for information;
- b. Recommend that Parks, Recreation and Culture maintain their current Fees and Charges Policy and fee structure.

Carried

4. Community Wishing Well

File: 1400-03

It was
Moved by Councillor Mary Martin
Seconded by Steve Moore
That the Parks & Community Services

Committee receive this report as information

Carried

5. Outdoor Sports Advisory Committee Motion

File: 5920-01

It was
Moved by Councillor Mary Martin
Seconded by Gurpreet Rai
That the Parks & Community Services

Committee receive this report as information.

Carried

E. STAFF REPORTS

1. Laurie Cavan, GM Parks, Recreation & Culture provided a verbal update:

Verbal Updates – Nov. 21st, 2007

You[th] Speak Up! Forum

This forum was organized by Surrey Leadership Youth Council (SLYC), a diverse group of Whalley youth who are interested in making a difference in the community. This City of Surrey youth council was created as part of a pilot

project to get more youth participation in social and community planning in Surrey; this was initiated with Planning and Development.

The forum took place on November 2, 2007 provided a venue for young people from Whalley to share their ideas about how to make Whalley more Child and Youth Friendly. There were 35-40 youth participants at the workshop that worked on community maps, identifying all the different parts of the community that youth interact with. They then looked at these parts of the community through five different lenses: Youth Voice, Transportation, Built Environment, Recreation and Health/Safety to identify what is working well for youth, as well as areas of concern and ideas to address these issues.

Moyo (Mobile Youth Outreach)

The Moyo bus was out in full force on Halloween night with 10 staff heading out on the town to connect with and encourage positive activities for youth.

Moyo, working alongside RCMP and Safe Schools was out in the parks until midnight targeting the known hot spots. The evening went well as the parks were quiet that night, the RCMP were out in full force which resulted in great communication between them and the Moyo team. Candy was given out and the youth responded well – this shows the great connection we are making with our youth!

Kids Conference

On Saturday, November 17th Fleetwood Community Centre hosted a Kids Conference that focused on Grades 1–7. Morning and afternoon workshops were interactive and focused on choices, social responsibility, self-esteem, environment, science, Child friendly cities, nutrition/healthy cooking, Tiny Town, Creative toolbox, Interactive Art, Literacy words and fun!

All the workshops were quality and interactive...they were kept to 30 minutes so the children would stay involved. With 360 participants we felt this was a very successful event that we hope to build on.

Pickleball Tournament

The first every 55+ Pickleball tournament in Surrey was hosted by South Surrey Recreation Centre on Nov. 10, 2007. The tournament was full with over 50 participants playing in 5 different divisions. Most players played in excess of 6 games each making their \$20-\$35 entrance fee very affordable. The day included a social lunch break and tons of prizes donated by local businesses.

Seniors Wellness Fair

The Seniors Wellness Fair was held Nov. 8th at the South Surrey Recreation Centre. Dr. Art Hister was the keynote speaker and drew a very large crowd of about 400 seniors to his session on "How Seniors Can live Happier, Healthier and Longer. Pamela Barinoff, a nutritionist also presented on Ageless Body, Ageless Mind. The event attracted over 650 people throughout the day and included a free flu clinic, wellness displays and demonstrations.

Cultural Capital of Canada Sponsorship

Coast Capital Savings has been secured as the presenting sponsor for Cultural Capital of Canada, Winterfest, Canada Day, and the Mayors Ball.

It was
Committee receive this report as information.

Moved by Councillor Mary Martin
Seconded by Grant Rice
That the Parks & Community Services
Carried

F. CORRESPONDENCE

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Calendar of Events
File: 7710-01

H. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting of the Parks & Community Services Committee is to be Dec. 19, 2007,

I. ADJOURNMENT

It was
Committee meeting do now adjourn.

Moved by Councillor Mary Martin
Seconded by Steve Moore
That the Parks and Community Services
Carried

The Parks and Community Services Committee adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Certified as true and correct:

Margaret Jones, City Clerk

Chairperson Councillor Hepner,
Parks & Community Services Committee