



City of Surrey

Parks & Community Services Committee

Minutes

Parks & Recreation Boardroom #1
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2007
Time: 7:00 p.m.
File: 0540-20

Present:

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

Absent:

S. Moore
C. Annable

School Board Trustee:

T. Allen

Also Present:

L. Cavan, General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture
Lisa White, Manager, Leisure Services
Owen Croy, Manager, Parks
Jamie Rennie, Arena Operations Manager
D. Vestergaard, Parks
H. Dmytriw, Legislative Service

Guests:

Variander Dhaliwal, GAC

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the November 21, 2007 Parks & Community Services Committee to be adopted.

It was

Moved by Councillor Linda Hepner
Seconded by Councillor Mary Martin
That the minutes of the Parks & Community
Services Committee meeting held on November 21, 2007, be adopted.
Carried

B. DELEGATION

C. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. **2008 Synthetic Turf Field Allocation**
File 6140-20Hj

Discussion ensued and the following comments were provided:

- The following points have been raised at previous meetings:
 - Two fields: Newton and South Surrey are important to consider.
 - Finance Committee has committed funding for one synthetic field per year for the next 5 years
 - Statistics show that Newton ranks high for grass field closures
 - Surrey's growth and the huge soccer membership is highest in the Lower Mainland, especially in terms of youth soccer. Summer soccer cultural tournaments also contribute to the large numbers of soccer players. The City is presently able to accommodate cultural tournaments, many of which are adult based.

- Newton is one of the areas that may be more attractive to the community as opposed to South Surrey. Newton community could be better served at Tom Binnie Park or Hjorth Road Park.
- Awaiting response from the Provincial Government regarding the application for a second synthetic field in Newton.
- Recommendation: The GM of Parks, Recreation and Culture discuss with the GM of Finance the possibility of borrowing funds from the 2009 budget to tender three fields at the same time: Hjorth, South Surrey and Newton *if* the Infrastructure Grant does not come through. Outcome of the discussion will require the Finance Committee endorsement and authorization of Council; appropriate reporting to follow the outcome of discussions.
- Chairperson Hepner requested reports from the Manager of Parks regarding potential time lines for starting the design process and the building of three fields simultaneously in 2008.
- The Manager of Parks noted that the Hjorth Road field and South Surrey artificial turf field could be tendered simultaneously (as were Tom Binnie and Tamanawis fields), but would not likely be tendered as a single construction package.
- Part of the Lands at Hjorth Road Park is subject to rezoning. If approved by Council in January, the land clearing will begin immediately to ensure no disruption during the bird nesting season. If this window is missed, the land clearing will be pushed to July, and the field would not likely open until 2009.
- GM, Parks Recreation & Culture to make every effort to make it happen.

It was Moved by Councillor Mary Martin
Seconded by Councillor Terry Allen
That the Parks and Community Services

Committee:

1. Receive this memorandum as information;
2. Recommend to Council that one Synthetic Turf Field and one gravel All-weather Field be constructed in Guildford at Hjorth Road Park, funded from the 2007 Capital budget; and
3. Recommend to Council that the new Synthetic Turf Field funded from the 2008 Capital budget be constructed in the South Surrey Athletic Park.

Carried with Councillor Tom Gill, and
Sargy Chima opposed.

2. **Hjorth Road Park – Environment & Tree Assessment**

File: 6140-20-H

It was Moved by Councillor Mary Martin
Seconded by Terry Allen
That the Parks and Community Services

Committee receive this report as information.

Carried

3. Guildford Athletic Club Letter on table

File:

Letter provided on table, dated December 11, 2007, from Guildford Athletic Club acknowledging the Surrey Parks, Recreation and Culture staff, City Councillors and the Parks & Community Services Committee for the outstanding work with regards to the proposed artificial turf field project at Guildford Athletic Park and providing the Guildford Athletic Club's approval of Hjorth Road Park as the optimal site for this new artificial turf field in Guildford.

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

- Capital budget funds to be used to build a field house and change rooms. A field house would be in the best interest to serve the community needs as the current strain on washroom facilities is quite intense.
- GM, Parks, Recreation & Culture commented that she would discuss with the GM, Finance and the Chair of Finance to see if there is any financial opportunities within the City to simultaneously bring the second project (Newton) on stream.

It was

Moved by Councillor Mary Martin

Seconded by Terry Allen

That the Parks and Community Services

Committee receive this letter as information.

Carried

D. NEW BUSINESS

- Terry Allen advised that he had been approached regarding the use of Stetson Bowl for a large football program at Lord Tweedsmuir High School and questioned if there is the opportunity for a joint use agreement for the field and how is the field constructed.
- Chairperson Hepner noted that a request received today from Lord Tweedsmuir High School for a meeting has been forward to GM, Parks, Recreation & Culture.
- Owen Croy, Manager, Parks has tried in the past to transition the field between rodeo use and field play use. Originally, it was thought possible to temporarily load granular material onto the field for the rodeo and then quickly offload the material from the field, allowing the field to be brought back into a playable condition with one or two weeks. Unfortunately, when this was tried a number of years ago, the rodeo staff was unable to get the ground cover materials off quickly enough and the field subsequently was not rehabilitated until August and the baseball season was lost. At that time, the cost was \$50,000 to do the temporary field conversions, and the cost would likely be much more now if a natural grass field was being considered.
- Terry Allen requested that the Manager, Parks do the investigation, and to advise the school board and they could solicit sponsors to pay for the transition, providing Council is willing to approve the joint use.

- GM, Parks, Recreation & Culture to arrange for a delegation to request to appear before Council.
- GM, Parks, Recreation & Culture to provide copy of Storm Water Management Initiative as it relates to Robson Park Pond (an engineering initiative) to Grant Rice.
- GM, Parks, Recreation & Culture noted that ongoing playground upgrades are part of the ongoing capital allocated for such.
- \$200,000 has been spent on renovations to the North Surrey Recreation Centre over previous years.
- The Strategic Plan is in early draft stage and will not come into Council's review for a number of months yet. Initial funding will be reflected in the 2009 budget.

E. STAFF REPORTS

1. Laurie Cavan, GM Parks, Recreation & Culture Verbal Updates - December 19, 2007

Heritage Services

The current Museum exhibit: Celebrating the Tree of Life will close on Friday. The high school participants received many positive public comments, the media coverage was excellent and the artistic skills of the installations depicted the variety of cultural interpretations of the historic trees of life concept. Participants were from six high schools studying the grade 12 Civilizations curriculum.

The Heritage facilities: Museum, Archives and Stewart Farm have an operational closure in the month of January to undertake maintain and exhibit changes. The facilities open on February 5 for programs, tours and general admission.

On December 17, 2007, Council accepted a donation offer from the Friends of the Museum and Archives Society. The Museum and the Stewart Farm will no longer charge general admission fees or collect admission donations beginning in February 2009. All members of the public - individuals and groups - will be exempt from the fee charged to visit the exhibits. The Friends Society will use the interest from the Museum Endowment Fund to offset the required annual revenue. Programs, tours and workshops will continue to require pre-registration and will continue to charge the appropriate fee.

Cultural Olympiad 2008

Surrey Art Gallery and Main Stage Theatres have been selected as partners for two cultural projects. Each project will receive \$5,000 from VANOC for a total of \$10,000.

Forty-Part Motet is a beautiful sound installation created by Canadian artist **Janet Cardiff**. This will be presented at the Surrey Art Gallery January 12 – March 23, 2008.

Rhythms of the World is a variety show celebrating a cross-cultural fusion of world rhythms, music and dance. This is being presented at the Surrey Arts Centre Main Stage Theatre on March 15, 2008.

"Art by Secondary School Students" Exhibition

The Surrey Art Gallery and Surrey School District #36 have been collaborating since 1983 to present exhibitions of student artwork. Exhibitions of elementary and secondary students artwork have been presented on an annual rotation at the Gallery as part of the School District's Fine Arts Festival *des Beaux-Arts*. This year's secondary school exhibition will be held Thursday, January 17, 2008 from 6:00 – 7:30 at the Surrey Arts Centre, Main Lobby. Please feel free to attend this

Surrey Children's Festival Teachers Guide

The plans for the *2008 Surrey Children's Festival* are well underway, the dates for this year's event are May 29, 30 and 31, 2008. We have a new theme this year, "*Journey Beyond Imagination - Come Make History With Us!*" in recognition of the Province of British Columbia's 150th anniversary.

The Teacher's Guides have gone out to all of the local schools. On page 2 of the guide you will see how staff align the performers with the school curriculum. In 2006 the two school days were booked to 96% capacity so the teachers have certainly recognized the value and quality of the Festival.

BC Seniors Game

The City of Surrey was not successful in the bid to host the 2009 BC Seniors Games. The City of Richmond was the successful bidder. Surrey hosted these games in 2001. This is Richmond's first opportunity so we wish them the best of luck.

WinterFest 2008 Event Highlights:

February 9, 2008

Central City Plaza

13450 - 102 Avenue

- Headliners: State of Shock and Daniel Wesley
- Event Features:
 - Free Festival and Main stage entertainment
 - Outdoor skating rink in front of Central City Plaza
 - Winter Wonderland fun zone with real snow
 - Interactive Sport Simulators
 - Fitness Zone
 - Cultural Capitals of Canada launch featuring Delhi to Dublin and a choreographed fire show!
 - Cultural Capitals of Canada Zone with a cultural stage - SFU Mezzanine area
 - Kid's Craft Zone
 - Sustainability / Environment Zone

The trees will still be lit and snow will be brought in from Whistler to help set the mood.

2. Ice Allocation Policy

File: 8000-20

Jamie Rennie, Arena Operations Manager, provided a presentation on Surrey's Centralized Arena Operations, attached as Appendix A.

Discussion ensued and the following comments were provided:

- Olympic size rinks – 200 feet long by 100 feet wide.
- Olympics 2010 will be playing on NHL size rink – 200 feet long by 85 feet wide.
- Concern was expressed on how the Olympics will affect access to ice and if there is an affordability issue to accessing ice to play hockey and learning to skate.
- Skate and Score Program provides the gear for those who want to get involved. Staff working with parents and children to find equipment for them. An Edmonton equipment swap program provides an option for good used gear. The recreation centre, through the Rotary Club, provides used equipment for those who can't afford equipment for whatever sport they want to get involved in. Sponsors are lined up for an equipment swap and the City is now looking for space. Hope to have it up and running in the Newton/Whalley area soon.
- Hockey registration costs between \$300-\$400 to play – a barrier to participation. Leisure Access Program provide free access to public skating and skate rentals. Surrey Minor Hockey also has a program to assist children that are economically challenged to access their program.
- Ice is open to public schools – there is ice time on Friday nights high School hockey program– but is not a school board sanctioned program. This is run by PRC staff; starts up in early October and runs through March.
- Cloverdale Arena received new boards and a new ice system in 1995.
- North Surrey Recreation Centre was developed in 1960's. Work was done on Arena One boards in 2006. There are no plans for major upgrades this year but basic maintenance improvements can be done. Lacrosse is a summer user of the facility.
- Lisa White, Manager, Leisure Services can provide information for Access Program applicants (T4's and other information and documentation is requested to support the applications). The following strategies are used to communicate with the public to increase awareness of and information of the programs to the public:
 - Surrey food bank
 - Surrey Association for Community Living
 - Working with the school district
 - Putting notices in school newsletters
 - Various Ministries that connect with low income families
 - Leisure Guide
- Manager, Leisure Services is currently reviewing and reducing barriers for youth to access the program.

It was
Moved by Councillor Mary Martin
Seconded by Sargy Chima
That the Parks & Community Services
Committee receive the Ice Allocation report for information.
Carried

Chairperson Linda Hepner thanked Jamie Rennie for his presentation.

F. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter, dated November 16, 2007, from Kirk Handrahan, Executive Director, Regional and Infrastructure Development branch, **Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund** regarding the request for funding to assist with the artificial turf field project that was referred to their office was received by the Parks & Community Services Committee
2. Letter, dated November 28, 2007, from Rob Matthies, **Solar Power Roadshow** regarding request for endorsement for *edu-fun fishing conservation activity* was received by the Parks & Community Services Committee and referred to Parks staff for review by environmental staff. World Oceans Day, BC Rivers Day at Brownsville Park, and Earth Day celebrations are events that may support the Solar Power Roadshow event. Will bring a report back to the committee at a future date.
3. Letter, dated December 11, 2007, from Varinder Dhaliwal, Director, **Guildford Athletic Club** regarding the synthetic turf field at Hjorth Road Athletic Park was received by the Parks & Community Services Committee.

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. **Surrey Featured in International Publication** **File: 6300-01**

The *City Trees* report in the *Journal of the Society of Municipal Arborists* was complimented on being a fabulous report.

It was
Moved by Councillor Mary Martin
Seconded by Sargy Chima
That the Parks and Community Services
Committee receive this report as information.
Carried

2. Calendar of Events
File: 7710-01

3. 2007 Parks and Community Services Committee Members

Chairperson, Councillor Hepner thanked Sargy Chima for her contributions to the Parks & Community Services Committee over the past 3 years. Steven Moore was also thanked for his contributions to the committee.

4. Surrey Sports Centre Water Slides

Gurpreet Rai thanked Lisa White and staff at the Leisure Services for investigating the water slide regulations.

H. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting of the Parks & Community Services Committee scheduled for January 16, 2008.

I. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Councillor Mary Martin
Seconded by Councillor Tom Gill
That the Parks and Community Services

Committee meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Parks and Community Services Committee adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Certified as true and correct:

Margaret Jones, City Clerk

Chairperson, Councillor Hepner
Parks & Community Services Committee

APPENDIX A