



City of Surrey

Parks & Community Services Committee

Minutes

Parks Boardroom #1
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 2008
Time: 7:00 p.m.
File: 0540-20

Present:

Chairperson: Councillor Hepner
Councillor Gill
Councillor Martin
C. Annable
R. Benson
G. Rai
B. Rasode
G. Rice

Absent:**School Board Trustee:**

T. Allen

Also Present:

L. Cavan, General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture
O. Croy, Manager, Parks
D. Vestergaard, Admin Coordinator, Parks
H. Dmytriw, Legislative Service

Group Photo taken.

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The request was made to amend the following:

Item E.1: Discussion: move third bullet to be part of Grant Rice comments.

It was

Moved by Terry Allen

Seconded by Mary Martin

That the minutes of the Parks & Community Services Committee meeting held on January 16, 2008, be adopted as amended.

Carried

B. DELEGATION

1. Jessie Dosanjh, Universal Athletic Club, appeared as a delegation and provided a presentation regarding the issue of track lighting and a throwing cage at the North Surrey Track.

The following comments were provided:

- The Universal Athletic Club is affiliated with the BC Athletic Association and is non-profitable.
- The athletic club has been training at North Surrey Secondary School (NSSS) with no lights and no safety cage for 6-7 years. Other track and field clubs are working with Universal Athletic Club, but each club has their own field with their own equipment. Other fields having lighted tracks and safety cages include Richmond and South Fraser.
- The BC high school track meet is coming up and the athletes need to train in preparation. Athletes from all the track clubs need an appropriate facility where they can train safely.

- Throwing of javelins and discus at same time as track training can be dangerous.
- Athletes cannot train in winter due to lack of visibility.
- Councillor Tom Gill has heard these concerns and recommended to Jessie Dosanjh that the Universal Athletic Club come as a delegation to PCSC with their request for lighting for the track and a throwing safety cage. The Universal Athletic Club have not presented before Council.

The following information was provided in response to questions by the committee members:

- There are approximately 100 athletes from five clubs in training. The majority of the athletes are from Surrey, all are members of the BC Athletics Association.
- Training takes place between 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm daily.
- Bear Creek Park and other facilities have lights and safety cages. Javelin and hammer throw need a safety cage. Hammer and discus cages would be tall but the hammer will not be thrown as it is too dangerous. A throwing cage will be outside of the soccer field.
- Each athlete learns each skill (hammer throw and juvenile events) between the ages 9-15. Each group rotates between the different events as part of a designed program.
- Bear Creek is difficult to go to since the club equipment is housed in a storage trailer at North Surrey Secondary School. Bear Creek is unsafe for the fast trainers to use due to public use of the course.
- South Fraser track is also very busy.
- North Surrey is a joint use track but is under-utilized.
- Lighting would not only be beneficial to the club athletes, but is also a public safety feature and would benefit other user groups, such as soccer groups.
- If North Surrey Track had lighting some of the current Bear Creek users would likely go to North Surrey.
- Other locations throughout Surrey that have clubs at their facilities include White Rock Ocean Athletic and the Langley Mustangs.
- March 11, 2008 is the annual general meeting for the OSAC (Outdoor Sport Advisory Committee). The Universal Athletic Club will attend.
- The request is for funding for a throwing cage and lighting. The throwing cage and lighting are not dependant upon each other. Lighting at two corners of the field would be sufficient.

Chairperson, Councillor Hepner thanked the delegation for their presentation.

The issue was referred to staff and requested to provide information on throwing cage costs and to review the request for cages and lighting for track in terms of priority and the capital budget program. The purpose of the lighting should be safety and visibility on four corners and for team sports. Staff requested to provide a report and recommendations to Council.

C. STAFF PRESENTATION(S)

D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**1. Stetson Bowl at Cloverdale Fairgrounds**

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

Discussion ensued the following comments were provided:

- There are a large number of baseball players in British Columbia who make this a big sport.
- The Premier Baseball League (PBL) is interested in a venue in Surrey. Baseball requires natural grass to play. Removing the dirt used for the rodeo at the Stetson Bowl to bring in natural grass has been unsuccessful and a high cost. PBL do not require an indoor facility; PBL are interested in the Stetson Bowl location for seeding. The location has washrooms and concessions. The Premier Baseball League are scheduled to present to Council as a delegation.
- Staff have not had a formal discussion with the Rodeo for managing the site or booking it for use but anticipate that they would be willing to share the facility with schools and the City.
- Staff met with School staff from Lord Tweedsmuir High School staff on Monday. The next step is to present the business case to demonstrate why the School Board should provide funds. Curt Thornton, the School Principal and school staff are still keen as this is seen as integral to the school athletic program and teaching. Lord Tweedsmuir Secondary School has only one field on the south side of the school so they use the turf field from time to time. They feel they can make a business case to the School Board.
- It was suggested the City is to provide some materials and documentation on grant writing to look to other governmental levels for support for extensive renovations to Stetson Bowl.

Terry Allen, School Trustee, thanked the city staff for the information provided and noted that this will provide the opportunity to take this issue to the School Board. The School Board could raise funds. The Chamber of Commerce has contacted the School Board. This report will be helpful to ensure a magnificent facility gets utilized for more than a May long weekend. If we could find the sponsors to develop the facility, it has the potential of be heavily utilized. Terry Allen will pursue this issue from the School Board's side and report back to the Parks & Community Services Committee.

E. NEW BUSINESS**1. Surrey's WinterFest Celebration**

- Surrey's WinterFest Celebration was introduced to replace the First Night event.
- The WinterFest was a large scale event to celebrate the Spirit of BC Week and rolled in with the launching of the Cultural Capital of Canada to present a huge stage for lots of cultural events rolled into the one event.
- City Council supported this event.
- The event drew a large crowd with an estimated 10,000 people attending. It was very successful. Comments received were all very positive. Attendees had not expected the event to be for all ages. The entertainment was for free and performers included the Juno Award recipient and some well recognized bands. Many attendees arrived via Skytrain.
- Funding - \$20,000 from the City and the balance came from corporate sponsorship. The City's Special Events Unit does an excellent job (housed out of Parks, Recreation & Culture). This ties in with Council priorities of bringing events to the City of Surrey and improving the city image.
- Will move foreword to next year with a similar event.

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

2. 2007 Grants & Sponsorship / Revenue Enhancements

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

Discussion ensued and the following comments and concerns were provided:

- This past year we were quite successful.
- Two grants were applied for last year: (i) Local Motion – did not receive, and (ii) Enviro Canda – did not receive.
- Applying for grants is definitely a learning experience and the plan is to apply the lessons learned towards next year. The department has a position that lends a lot of support in the grant process.
- The BC Infrastructure for Newton Recreational complex was a very late announcement and the City is very fortunate to receive the grants.
- Spirit Square Grant will go into Holland Park. \$500,000.
- There are many factors necessary to being successful in the grant approval process. This provides an opportunity to share the expertise and history of application for grants with non-profit and sports associations/coaches through

workshops. This may also provide an opportunity to look at the more successful ones.

It was
Moved by Councillor Hepner
Seconded by Gurpreet Rai
That the Parks & Community Services
Committee request staff to run grant writing workshops and explore a potential
partnership with Simon Fraser University.
Carried

3. Beer Garden Applications Approval

- Laurie Cavan, GM, Parks, Recreation & Culture – last year provided a summary report of applications and approvals for the 2007 (copy of the 2007 Beer Garden License Days report provided on table):
 - The RCMP recommend approvals will likely be approximately the same number of approvals as last year, which have been a fairly consistent number over the last five years.
 - The number of groups running beer gardens increased to nine groups in 2007. This group is smaller as the groups themselves consolidated the beer gardens.
 - Beer Garden revenues go to charity.
- There will still be the same number of tournaments requested at Bolivar Park this summer. The City was doing a great deal of maintenance on site. Bolivar Slowpitch Society to fund the site work..
- The City built the facility and the overall city strategy was for adult slow pitch to be located in one park to make other ball diamonds across the city available for junior level players. At that time, the City hosted a public meeting regarding Beer Garden Licenses. Those in attendance were in favour of granting licenses due to concerns raised of the likelihood of illegal consumption of alcohol at the park. By-law enforcement officers monitoring the park over the summer found the beer gardens to be in relative good order.
- Most tournament ball parks are located in industrial areas which keeps them separate from residential areas. Bolivar Park has a residential area up the hill from the Park. Given the proximity to a residential area, the public should be heard with regards to the number of beer licenses issued and the impact of the beer garden on the neighbourhood.
- Beer Garden Application process – the applications are reviewed by the Beer Garden Review Committee who is composed of one representative each from PRC, RCMP and the City Clerk's office. The Beer Garden Review Committee makes license recommendations to Council by way of the P&CSC.
- City staff to come up with a process for future to ensure the due diligence needed for public process to deal with the number of applications and to ensure staff have ample time to receive and process the beer garden applications.

It was Moved by Terry Allen
 Seconded by Councillor Martin
 That the Parks & Community Services
 Committee hold a meeting on March 26, 2008, 7:00-8:00 pm to discuss beer
 gardens for 2008 and to deal with concerns.
Carried

F. OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Councillor Martin noted there was to be a **Ringette Tournament at the North Surrey Arena** on Thursday, March 6th, 6:30 – 7:00 pm. Cliff Annable offered to check his availability in order to say a few words on behalf of the Committee.
2. **Fleetwood Aquatic Centre** – BC Provincial Safety Regulations prohibited use of the *big slide* by those children who were under four feet tall. Gurpreet Rai thanked Lisa White and Laurie Cavan and city staff for providing a slide for use by those children who are under four feet tall.
3. **Environmental Compensation for Impact at Hjorth Road Park**
 Ditch that has been orange coded, determined to have nutrients downstream therefore required environmental compensation– were looking for something in the catchment with a 2-1 ratio. Hawthorn Road Park fed a different tributary, but in Greenbelt 35F found enough area for additional habitat for the 2-1 ratio. The Environmental Review Committee (ERC) signed off on the project.
4. **Hjorth Road Park**
 Trees were removed before start of nesting season. Some trees that could be, were saved and will be removed with a tree spade. To proceed with tendering on the project.
5. **June 14th – Senior’s Neglect and Abuse Forum**
 Fleetwood Community Centre is confirmed for June 14th for the Senior's Neglect and Abuse Forum. Parks, Recreation and Culture Staff are working with Councillor Steele and a Planning Group.
6. **SS Artificial Turf – open house** – was very well attended with 80 people. Proceeding with east-west alignment and preparing tendering documents.

 Do not need to build a retaining wall with this alignment. . Concerns regarding parking were discussed and the impact on field house rental events. GM, Parks, Recreation & Culture will direct staff to look at parking issues and provide a report.
7. **Brochure – Past, Present, Future** – publication by Heritage Services.
8. **Land Exchange between City of Surrey and School District.**
 Chairperson, Councillor Hepner thanked Director Terry Allen, School Board Trustee for his efforts in the land swap. Press release provided on table:

February 21, 2008. Kensington Prairie Elementary site goes to City of Surrey as part of largest land swap in the history of the City or Surrey School District. Trade valued at \$18.5 Million.

Terry Allen noted that he has been on the School Board for 6 years and has never seen the level of cooperation between this Council and the School Board. Thank you. Chairperson Councillor Hepner thanked the School Board Trustee again and observed that preservation of the Kensington Prairie school site is a good thing.

It was

Moved by Terry Allen

Seconded by Councillor Gill

That the Parks & Community Services

Committee continue to build on the level of cooperation between the School Board and the Council through a liaison meeting between the School Board, the City Council and the appropriate reciprocal resource senior City staff in attendance.

Carried

F. STAFF REPORTS

1. Laurie Cavan, GM Parks, Recreation & Culture was in attendance and provided the following verbal update:

Parks & Community Services Committee – Verbal Updates – March 5, 2008

Arts Presentation Canada grant application

We are pleased to report that we have been successful in getting a \$40,000 grant from Arts Presentation Canada for the Surrey Children's Festival. This is up significantly from past years. In 2006 we received \$15,000 and in 2007 we received \$20,000.

City's Permanent Art Collection Value Tops \$1 Million!

Thanks to the recent addition of 24 art works from 6 generous donors, valued at \$47,700 the City's permanent art collection is now valued at over \$1 Million dollars!

Hjorth Road Park – Artificial Turf Development

We are doing the environmental compensation work required due to the construction of the field and the impact on a creek bed at Guildford Heights Park. The work has been approved in principal by Environmental Review Committee and the DFO. Final drawings will be reviewed with them.

Surrey Sport and Leisure Complex – Water Slide

A new slide has been installed at the Surrey Sport and Leisure Complex for children under 4 feet tall. This is due to the new BC Provincial Safety regulations prohibiting anyone under 4 feet to use the bigger water slide.

Surrey Early Years Festival

The Surrey Early Years Festival is a collaborative, creative, cultural, healthy approach to linking children 0-6 years and their families to community resources and services. This free family event is taking place Saturday, April 26th from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm at the North Surrey Recreation Centre. Welcoming message start at 11:00 am (hand-out information).

Newton Artificial Turf

There were no concerns were raised at the Open House on February 28th regarding the location of the field that was approved by Council in the original grant application. We have proceeded to tender.

South Surrey Artificial Turf Field

The representative from Peace Arch Soccer Association has signed off on the East-West alignment of the field, so staff are now preparing the tender.

Surrey's Stories

Telling the story of Surrey's Past, Present and Future. This brochure comes out twice a year; each article is written by a community member in the various heritage areas. This publication is coordinated by Heritage Services. (Hand out booklet).

G. CORRESPONDENCE

H. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Calendar of Events

File: 7710-01

I. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting of the Parks & Community Services Committee will be a special meeting on Wednesday, March 26, 2008 at 7:00 pm- 8:00 pm to deal with beer garden applications only.

The following regularly scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, April 16, 2008 at 7:00 pm.

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by MM

Seconded by Rai

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:

Jane Sowik, Acting City Clerk

Chairperson, Counillor Hepner
Parks & Community Services Committee