



# City of Surrey

## Parks & Community Services Committee

### Minutes

PRC Boardroom #1  
City Hall  
14245 - 56 Avenue  
Surrey, B.C.  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2008  
Time: 7:01 p.m.  
File: 0540-20

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**Present:**

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

**Absent:**

Councillor Martin

**School Board Trustee:**

T. Allen

**Also Present:**

L. Cavan, General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture  
O. Croy, Manager of Parks  
L. White, Manager, Community & Leisure Services  
H. Norris, Acting Manager of Business Operations and Athletic Fields  
D. Vestergaard, Administrative Coordinator, Parks, Recreation & Culture  
H. Dmytriw, Legislative Service

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**A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

It was

Moved by Terry Allen

Seconded by Cliff Annable

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

Carried

**B. DELEGATION**

- 1. John Woolgar, General Manager**, to provide an update on the Tong Louie Surrey Family YMCA.

Ill – Deferred till June 18, 2008.

- 2. Dave Mann, President, Metro Vancouver Cricket League** request to appear as a delegation to provide a presentation regarding the sport of cricket and to lobby for practice facilities for the sport  
File: 7710-01

Dave Mann was unable to attend, he will be ~~deffered~~deferred to the next meeting.

**C. STAFF PRESENTATIONS**

**D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES****1. Parks Venues with Spectator Seating**

File: 6140-20

It was Moved by Councillor Gill  
Seconded by Rick Benson  
That the Parks and Community Services  
Committee receive this report as information.  
Carried

Committee members provided the following comments:

- High profile events - Parks, Recreation & Culture have identified that working with some kind of public/private partnerships for entertainment for high profile events is something we would like to achieve for the City. This is in the 10-Year Plan.
- Two potentially viable partnership locations have been identified:
  1. Cloverdale Fairgrounds
  2. Somewhere within North Surrey City Centre
- Many BC amateur sports are funded partially by private donations and partially with grant money from the Province, e.g. Kabadi.

**2. Fraser Heights Recreation Centre**

File: 8000-30

It was Moved by Councillor Gill  
Seconded by Gurpreet Rai  
That the Parks and Community Services  
Committee:

- a) Receive this report as information; and
- b) Forward the presentation by Harnish Dhanji to Professional Environmental Recreation Consultants (PERC) for consideration in the Parks, Recreation and Culture 10-Year Strategic Plan.

Carried

Committee members provided the following comments:

- When new community centres are being planned, gym and cardio equipment should be considered: These are primary use elements.
- The building is designed for future add on, but deferring the project until sufficient budget is available may be more advantageous than phasing it in.
- The high school was built prior to the community centre. There are lots of models of schools in the province that show the big success of schools being adjacent to community centres. There is opportunity to look to this in the future.
- The Fraser Heights gym is booked with multi-use programs. The facility is well utilized. Sharing recreational facilities and gym space with schools has been a challenge. Students and teachers struggle to get access to regular hours for all students, which puts recreational use as a second priority.

- Community and Leisure Services utilizes school gymnasiums when they are not in use which is a seasonal allocation and therefore, is not sustainable. School gymnasiums are a great compliment to outreach recreational activities.
- The Bell Theatre is an example of difficult scheduling when sharing between public use and school use. The Minister of Education's main goal is full utilization 7 days per week; the school district utilizes the Bell Theatre to the best of its ability.
  - Security also proves to be a challenge.
  - Another example of partnership in gyms is the partnership with Princess Margaret School. This has its challenges as recreational programs is not a priority in the allocation of gymnasium hours and therefore, the City does not get the use it needs to meet the communities wants in the evenings and weekends. The City provided funding for the second gym, equipment and washrooms. There are always challenges at the sites, but we work to the best in all scenarios.
  - The Parks, Recreation and Culture staff work with the community on identifying priorities. There is pressure on the Fraser Heights gym facility and a desire for more programs. Second phase design possibilities are there as funds become available.
  - An all weather field is situated between the Fraser Heights school gym and the recreation centre. The school Board owns that field. If the buildings get physically connected that all weather field would be decommissioned. Trees would be compromised.
  - Parks, Recreation and Culture staff have explored the option east of the tennis courts fronting onto 104 Street. Planning staff carried that evaluation and balanced the needs to come up with a configuration.
  - Delegations to 'Council of the time' were questioning why Council was in the business of sports facility.
  - Every town centre will have one recreation centre for that overall community. City staff do not have a specific *catchment area formula* to determine services to community centres. The Fraser Heights community lobbied the City for their recreation centre.
  - Cloverdale does not have a large community centre, no basic recreation facility despite a population of 90,000. The City is trying to meet the minimum needs where people across the community are not being served.
  - Drop-in registration indicates the distance that people are traveling to get to the facilities.
  - Private fitness centres alleviate the pressure on that area and each complement the services provided by the other.
  - Laurie Cavan, GM, Parks, Recreation & Culture will bring the *Future Programming and Acquisition Report for the Grandview Area* to the next Parks & Community Services Committee meeting.

**E. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Invitation for Surrey to Host the BC Disability Games in 2011 or 2013**

File: 8200-20

It was Moved by Councillor Gill  
Seconded by Barinder Rasode  
That the Parks & Community Services  
Committee recommend to Council that:

- a) The City of Surrey apply to host the BC Disability Games in 2013; and
- b) Prepare a Corporate Report for Council's consideration that outlines the financial commitments associated with host the games that include a minimum financial commitment of \$20,000, plus \$20,000 in additional in-kind services and facilities as stipulated in the bid guidelines and a staffing budget of \$25,000 for a part-time term coordinator position.

Carried

Committee member comments:

- The 2013 date is being considered based on post Olympics exhaustion in 2011. There will be a lot of demand around the Paralympic Games and we would like to use this opportunity to utilize the full potential of the skills of the volunteers.

**F. STAFF REPORTS**

- 1. Laurie Cavan, GM, Parks, Recreation & Culture provided the following verbal update.

**Verbal Updates – May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008:**

**Historica Fair Committee Members:**

The 2008 Surrey Historica Heritage Fair was very successful, held on May 9, 2008. Committee members worked diligently over the past eight months to ensure that participating teachers and students had a rewarding and enriching educational experience.

It was wonderful to welcome School District 36 teachers, students and parents to the Surrey Museum and Surrey Archives. The Fair programme was well organized, diverse and provided a range of opportunities for students to learn about Canadian and Surrey history. The partnership between School District 36, the City of Surrey through Heritage Services and the Cloverdale Library brings together a wealth of knowledge and experience to support the planning and co-ordination of a Regional Heritage Fair in Surrey.

**Surrey Based Mobile Youth Resource Centre:**

Pacific Community Resources has partnered with the City of Surrey's Mobile Youth Outreach (MOYO) to create a unique new service for the youth of Surrey. The result of this partnership will be the creation of a Surrey based Mobile Youth Resource Centre – a first for the City of Surrey. A shuttle bus donated by TransLink will be modified into a mobile youth centre in early June. The exterior of the bus will be “tricked out” with decals and signage appealing to teens and the community at large. The interior of the bus will have large LCD monitors & gaming stations for youth, a “Youth Services Brochure and Information Wall”, a kitchen/storage area for non-perishable foods and hygiene products and seating for youth who congregate within the areas. The bus will utilize a “one stop shop” concept. If youth are in need of programs, have questions about various issues/circumstances, or simply want someone to talk to, the bus' team of highly trained youth services staff – comprised of integrated teams of community agencies, the Surrey School District and the City, will be on hand to assist. This has all been made possible with financial and in-kind donations from the City, Surrey Ministry of Children and Family Development and TransLink.

**Outdoor Pools - 2008 Season**

The 2008 Outdoor Pool season is under way. Bear Creek Pool and Sunnyside Pool opened Monday, May 12, 2008, Greenaway opens Monday, June 9, 2008, and the remaining pools open Saturday, June 28, 2008.

**Hargobind Wrestling**

Surrey's local Hargobind Wrestling Association has submitted their interest in hosting a second international wrestling tournament at the Guildford Recreation Centre. Last year's event was a tremendous success with approximately 160 male and female elite athletes from around the world competing for medals and prize money.

The Association has made preliminary plans to facilitate this event on November 7 and 8, 2008, and anticipate being sanctioned by FILA (International Federation of Associated Wrestling Styles) this year.

**Surrey Children's Festival Volunteers**

We are happy to report that there are currently 250+ Surrey Children's Festival volunteer applications that have been confirmed.

**Children living in areas with more street trees have lower asthma prevalence**

A new study published in the Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health has found a link between reduced asthma rates in children and neighbourhoods with more trees. Street trees were associated with a lower prevalence of early childhood asthma.

See <http://www.lin.ca/resource-details/10640>

**PRC 10-Year Strategic Plan Open House dates:**

Thursday, May 29, 2008  
6-9pm  
Surrey Sport & Leisure Complex  
16555 Fraser Highway

Saturday, May 31, 2008  
1-4pm  
South Surrey Recreation Centre  
14601-20th Avenue

Staff and project consultants will be in attendance to hear comments and concerns. The full Plan will be available on-line at [www.surrey.ca/PRCstrategicplan](http://www.surrey.ca/PRCstrategicplan) beginning May 27, 2008. Comments can be submitted online from May 27 – June 13, 2008.

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

Discussion ensued and in response to queries the following comments were provided:

- The Open House will have display boards with an abbreviated version of the plan for individuals who wish to peruse the information. Consultants will be in attendance to interpret the storyboards.
- The Plan is broken into immediate, mid term and long term. Programming, facilities, existing facilities with time lines, and expanding services will be presented in as clear a manner as possible. Has a section on trends, population growth, and how cultural diversity may influence a community.
- Report is on the website, is over 100 pages. The City is seeking feedback and comments from the public. Groups that have been consulted with over the past will receive direct invitations and there will be an open invitation on the website.
- There is a comprehensive maintenance program along with annual inspections. A lifecycle analysis has been done of all outdoor pools and the pools are well maintained.
- The City is responsible for capital upgrades in the outdoor pools. Any major failures will be carefully look at.
- The Operator is responsible for all ongoing operating costs, checks and balances to ensure quality maintenance. The Operator has a vested interest in maintaining a good pool.

## G. CORRESPONDENCE

Letter, dated May 20, 2008, written by Councillor Hepner to Board of School Trustees regarding Potential Joint Use Projects was provided on table.

Committee member comments:

- Terry Allen, School Trustee commented that the School Board had an in-service meeting around the Stetson Bowl, Earle Marriot field and Erma Stevenson Elementary School. This was presented on table a week ago. Tuesday will be the next in-service. This issue is still of interest. The School District will have a \$2.5 Million shortfall in the 2009 budget and will be functioning from 2008 year's surplus dollars in order to keep ahead.
- The School Trustee's concern is that the Lord Tweedsmuir staff had not received authorization from the Board to lobby for resources to be spent on Stetson Bowl.
- If something of joint-use interest is to be put to the Parks & Community Services Committee (PCSC) then it should be discussed between the Board and the PCSC before hearing the delegation, and generally, if the interest is school-based, such delegations should be referred to the School Board to be heard before hearing them at the PCSC.
- Terry Allen was more than satisfied with the information regarding Stetson Bowl. The costs for Stetson Bowl re&re would be in the region of \$60,000.
- There is a process in place for the PCSC to liaison with the School Board to determine their financial commitment *prior to* responding to a delegation request to PCSC. It is of primary interest to the City to ensure we build on the relationship with the School Board.
- PCSC is answerable to sports/athletic associations.
- Over the last 6months the City has received requests from school representatives to provide partnerships for school projects. In each case (Johnston Heights and Earle Marriot) City staff has suggested that they go to the School Board first. It was understood that the Lord Tweedsmuir school delegates had already met with the School Board but they had met with senior School District representatives, not the School Board.
- We have all learned a lesson here but we also don't want to miss this opportunity. The School Board has a list of priorities and Earle Marriott is one of them. The Semiahmoo High School parking lot is on is city-owned land, and the field to the north of the parking lot is within the city park, constructed within a storm water detention pond. The school has no fields of its own. The school gym is for daytime use by its students and faculty and in past an agreement was made with Surrey Parks, Recreation & Culture that the gym be available on evenings and weekends for Parks and Recreation programs.
- The Rugby Association should see the City first regarding seeking rugby fields in Surrey.

## H. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Calendar of Events  
File: 7710-01

## Holland Park Opening

The City of Surrey's first urban park opening ceremony will be held on Saturday, May 31, 2008 at 1:00 pm. It will be a fantastic day and staff are really excited about it! Public art is on display. This is a great opportunity to test Holland Park to see how it hosts a special event.

Discussion ensued and in response to queries the following comments were provided:

- There are no benches in Phase I. There is lots of places to sit in the park as the park has been designed with low retaining walls at seating height.
- Phase 2 will have opportunities for benches and site furniture.
- Detailed design work now to begin in fall, washrooms by next summer. The building with washroom will have storage space for tables and chairs for seniors, and equipment for animation (if a private partner comes forward) for a playground, then this will move ahead.
- \$30,000 allotted for extra gardens, with the funds provided by Terasen Gas.
- Spirit Square features will be added in 2008-2009.
- Phase 3 will add tennis courts and other facilities such a childrens' playground.

Chairperson Councillor Hepner noticed people active using the park for the first time today. This gives the park a sense of being an urban "happening" place.

## 2. Cultural Capital of Canada – Civic Treasures Award

The City is seeking nominations as part of the 2008 Cultural Capitals of Canada. If people know of anyone in the community they would love to see a nomination come forward.

## I. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. The Rotary Club and local shopping centre merchants have hired a night security in South Surrey Athletic Park in a successful effort to reduce crime and vandalism in the area. Incidents of wire theft have dramatically reduced.
2. School Trustee Terry Allen thanked Council for inviting the volunteers to the Volunteer Banquet and commended staff on their efforts in providing this very pleasant event.

## J. NEW BUSINESS

### 1. Strawberry Hill Park field

Significant feedback was provided from a soccer association regarding the field and removal of goal posts from **Strawberry Hill Park field**.

- Removal of goal posts was to discourage pickup games that were happening.
- It is much better to have youth enjoying a sport and doing something positive.

- As a result of the Parks solutions at this location, the group is looking at setting up mini fields for the young youth.
- This field is allocated to youth – younger children.
- On a given night 200 kids use the field.
- No washroom on site. Washroom needed for the young kids.
- Allocating what's good for neighbours.

Discussion ensued and the following comments were provided:

- Dedicate the site to very young youth.
- Older youth concerned with field.
- The Strawberry Hill field is used by some Summer Soccer Association; groups, allocated by permit 5-8 pm, during the week for practice. Ages 6-13. Learning basic control skills. Field is uneven; is there funding for a top layer of sand to level it up?
- Manager, Parks commented that there are two elementary schools at that site. The field takes a beating in the summer and therefore not being allocated for higher game play. Parks is putting a new focus on better quality fields that are not co-located with schools.
- Hugh Norris, Athletic. Field Operations Coordinator reported that that field is sand based. The upside is the field has good drainage for winter play but use patterns changed it into a summer allocation, thereby not allowing the turf a proper rest period. This makes it more difficult to keep it in good condition. Had not heard negative comments about the field condition until tonight.
- With regards to the goal posts, Parks is trying to find a balance between appropriate play and enough play. With only one goal post on the field we were attempting to prevent a lot of rogue play on it. Youth practice on the field now. The City could put a couple smaller, portable goals posts in that can be locked up to the backstops. This will help to keep unauthorized play out of the park.
- Strawberry Hill field has no lighting.
- Complaints received during daylight arise when large tournaments happen and there is a huge volume of people in park, noise, parking issues. With the tournaments being moved out and with young youth on the fields, resident complaints will be taken care of and the goals posts will not longer be necessary.
- Houses existed on the north side prior to the field. The Park came after the second school on east side of site. Councillor Gill requested a history of Strawberry Hill Park be provided to the committee.
- 5-6 soccer associations fall under the Surrey Soccer League umbrella. The need for car parking is low. The games draw lots of crowds and we don't want to lose this. Only younger groups utilize the field. We want to maintain the field and not cause disturbances to the neighbourhood.
- This field is slightly larger than a regulation so by creating 2 mini fields, and by gaining access to school washrooms this would keep the field for the youth resulting on less wear and tear on the fields.

## 2. Surrey Farmers Market

- Two week from today (on June 4, 2008) the Farmers Market opens at the location across from SFU City Centre – parking lot C.

3. **Surrey Website**
  - Website needs to be updated. A lot of stale information is still on the website. GM, Parks, Recreation & Culture to pursue this issue.
  
4. **Surrey Association of Sustainable Communities Workshop - May 10, 2008**
  - Keynote Speaker – Jim Diers, was the Director of Neighbourhoods in Seattle for 14 years. Jim Diers held breakout-working sessions after speaking.
  - Kelsey Swanson spoke to Accessibility and City Programs.
  - Block Watch - 5 minute speech to advise of what is available.
  - Four Grade 7 youth from Old Yale School spoke out on what they would like to see in their neighbourhood. Their ideas were small, but ideas that would make a neighbourhood friendlier or attractive to themselves. The costs in long run were insignificant. Would like to see them speak as a delegation to this committee.
  - The Beautification Coordinator was also there. A portion of the million dollar capital fund to be diverted to a narrow stream such as a new neighbourhood garden for \$2,000 or \$3,000 for something unique to each neighbourhood. A lot of groups don't have any dollars in the kitty. There are certain things people are willing to give sweat equity to. A matching grant for a community garden, etc to revitalize their area. There is a lot of interest from the various community groups.
  - The Vaisakhi Event falls under the Cultural Capital of Canada umbrella.
    - Despite all the marketing done the poor public turnout (200 people) was disappointing. Media, press, ads in Georgia Straight, website, handbills, presentations to School District, partnerships with schools. The event just did not catch the attention they had hoped for.
    - The calibre of performances was phenomenal and was taken aback by the fact that English bands performed. *RJ1200* plugs to youth in Burnaby; *Red FM* pulls a great crowd. This event catered to youth in Surrey but was astonished at the lack of turnout. We need to revisit the marketing plan to determine how best to ramp up the marketing to target the desired groups to ensure public awareness of events.
    - The \$20 cost for tickets may have been a difficulty. Free events really make a difference.
    - Only certain locations can be used for free events or security becomes an issue.
  - The Speaker Series was hosted at Bell Centre. This was a unique event. Will change the venue to a smaller venue in future.
  - Fusion Fest '08 – *Red FM* is already advertising this upcoming event along with *JackFM*, *Global TV* – free media coverage. People from all over are expected to attend the event. Suggest including *RJ1200* in the media covering the event as the South Asian Youth are into this station.

The above is good feedback and much appreciated by staff.

## I. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting of the Parks & Community Services Committee is Wednesday, June 18, 2008.

**J. ADJOURNMENT**

It was  
Committee meeting do now adjourn.

Moved and seconded  
That the Parks and Community Services

Carried

The Parks and Community Services Committee adjourned at 8:20 pm

Certified as true and correct:

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Margaret Jones, City Clerk

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Chairperson Linda Hepner  
Parks & Community Services Committee