



# City of Surrey

## *Parks & Community Services Committee*

### *Minutes*

PRC Boardroom #1  
City Hall  
14245 - 56 Avenue  
Surrey, B.C.  
**WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 2008**  
Time: 7:03 p.m.  
File: 0540-20

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**Present:**

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

**Absent:**

**Also Present:**

L. Cavan, General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture  
O. Croy, Manager, Parks, Rec & Culture  
J. Reston, Support Services Manager  
Dan Nielsen, Manager Cultural Capitals  
Hugh Norris, Business Operations & Athletic Fields (Acting Manager)  
H. Dmytriw, Legislative Service

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**A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

It was

Moved by Councillor Martin  
Seconded by Barinder Rasode

That the minutes of the Parks & Community Services Committee meeting held on June 18, 2008, be adopted.

Carried

**B. DELEGATION**

1. **Bob Petersen, Surrey Canadian Baseball Association** provided a presentation regarding improvements at Lionel Courchene Park and Holly Park and the benefits to community sports and local neighbourhoods.

Bob Petersen introduced Brian Davis, President, and Trevor Haqq of Surrey Canadian Baseball Association.

The following comments were provided:

- The league play most games out of Lionel Courchene Park and want to discuss the possibility of additional development for the parts of the park we use. The league has slowly expanded and have used Holly Park but are having a hard time to play on that field. Have met with city over the years and here today to discuss the undeveloped area at the south-east corner of Courchene Park. (A coloured aerial map of Lionel Courchene Park was provided on table.)
- Would like to see at least one more diamond, a mini soccer field and parking. Due to insufficient parking, those parking on the streets get ticketed. Davidson School parking lot is gated parking and is locked after school hours.
- There would be some issues regarding additional development of the park but not a whole lot of money. The fields are nicely tended but the fencing is deteriorating badly and needs to have some refurbishing:

- The corner of the diamond at the pitchers warm up area (bull pen) backs onto the bleachers of the next diamond--the fence height needs to be extended.
- There should be fencing between the Bantam area and Tadpole field.
- T-Ball diamond fence is only 4" high – needs safety fencing to contain fly balls
- There is no fencing along the parking lot and walkway (its amazing that more people don't get struck by fly balls!).
- Baseboards are old and need to be upgraded.
- There is some netting behind the backstop to catch back foul balls.
- There is a small concession eating area but the undergrowth could be removed in an effort to rid the area of the rodent problem.
- Provincial tournaments have been hosted at Lionel Courchene Park.
- Batting cage was built from funding, association and volunteers. It is used heavily and provides a positive effect for the kids that play for them.

Committee member comments:

- William F. Davidson Elementary and Johnson Heights Secondary schools use the fields during the day.
- Fences:
  - Pee Wee area – 225' and 200' in the corners
  - Bantam area – 285' in centre, 250' in the corners
- The T-Ball diamond was put in by the City 3 years ago in the spot with the most space available. The undeveloped area would have room for a T-ball diamond and a soccer field but the pitchers mound would have been right in middle of the soccer field.
- Due to the difference in grade (15-20 feet) between the two upper fields and lower fields, could not do a quad diamond configuration. The batting cage is also located in the middle between the diamonds.
- Any changes would not require decommissioning of any soccer fields. Soccer goal posts are in the midst of the ball diamond but the fields are used by both since they don't play during the same times.

The delegation commented further:

- Holly Park had 450 kids playing years ago, but are now down to 325 kids. Midget have played out of Whalley Ball park under lights for the past 10 years. They played at Hillcrest this year. Have 3 teams in midget. Not enough time allocated for fields. 18-20 year olds provide the potential of more teams. There is the possibility of having their own midget diamond, but this didn't fit into Lionel Courchene.
- There is a possibility of converting Holly Park to a midget diamond. It has a big parking lot, concession, washrooms, and a lot of space and is big enough to put a midget diamond into.
- The Chair was provided with a colour copy of the Holly Park dimensions.
- Slow pitch may be played at this park but not sure.
- Holly Park photos were viewed. The concession is not currently being used. The park is used for practice on Mondays and Thursdays. Viewed the existing back stop area. The potential of using Holly Park as a midget park has been questioned in the past but never at a Parks & Community Services Committee meeting.

- In the past, there were three different associations playing out of Hillcrest. There is a need for more diamonds.
- The league would like a full sized diamond of their own.

In response to queries the following information was provided:

- Regarding the current photo of field conditions, baseball games have not been played out of Holly Park for 5 years now. Most of the soccer is being played on the mini fields.
- The idea is to renovate this field for baseball. It could be used by midget and juvenile ball and for various associations as an overflow for Cloverdale and Whalley. There are a lot of adult groups who do not have fields to play on. There is a shortage of diamonds in the city for senior level ball. Ball dies off for kids after 17. There are many 18-20 year olds would like to play.
- The Tadpole level was well used but is now at Lionel Courchene Park.
- Holly Park is not being used at all now for baseball. The location of the park would bring more life to the area.
- They are hoping to work with the schools to bring in kids to winter ball, to the batting cage, etc.
- The Surrey Canadian Baseball Association has initiated a program for those kids who can't afford to play. Through provincial programs offered by Kids Sport no one ever gets turned down if they want to play:
  - o At Johnston Heights two kids who joined the team late are now playing summer ball for the *all star* season.
  - o First year T-ball - are providing ball gloves for them.
  - o The rotary clubs have taken up the project to gather up used sporting equipment and repair it for any kids in need.
- Observation was made: it is a well-known fact that hardball and baseball groups take a high degree of ownership of a park when they play. Softball, fast pitch and senior ball are all there. This is an opportunity to promote senior ball. "*If you build it they will come*" is certainly true of ball.

The Chair advised the delegation that the City has just adopted its new Capital Plan for Parks with funding set aside to establish new infrastructure. We will be reviewing this within those parameters and what we can finance here.

The GM of Parks, Recreation and Culture will come back with a report regarding these concerns.

2. **Mike Pajic, VP Bayside Athletic Association Rugby** provided a presentation regarding relocating the rugby association from South Surrey Athletic Park to Crescent Park and creating two rugby fields in the park and building a field house.

Steve Black, OSACS (Outdoor Sport Advisory Committee for Surrey) provided the following comments:

- Canada is a world rugby power – some consistently ranked in the top 15 and women in the top 5. A lot of players have come out of South Surrey representing at World Cup. Juniors are increasing by great numbers every season. Grades 5-7 are the top club in the country with the most rugby played at that age and older players are wanting to continue playing rugby.

- Bayside is a major contributor – 70 current and former internationals, more national representative athletes than any other Surrey sports organization
- Bayside is building from the ground up – 452 members:
  - o 103 men and women
  - o 107 junior age boys and girls – consistent provincial champions
  - o 135 minis – 2<sup>nd</sup> highest level in Canada
  - o 107 over 40's
- They want to:
  - o Move to Crescent Park:
    - South Surrey Athletic Park is running out of room
    - Crescent Park is under utilized
    - More efficient use of Crescent Park creates space for all groups without cost of building new park
    - Note: Crescent Park is first choice but will consider other locations
  - o Improve the Park:
    - Improve grounds – improve drainage and renovate fields
    - Build top tier facilities – turf practice field, change room and hosting facilities
    - Include other user groups – running/walking groups, crickets, rock climbing, tennis, lawn bowling, ultimate, field hockey, field lacrosse, etc.
- Provided layout color photo of potential layout on table – one field north south orientation and one east west orientation. Training facility 50m x 50m would be a field of dreams.
- Fieldhouse – a longhouse concept – for post-match functions. This brings community together and increases participation.
- What they are doing to get there:
  - o Hosting fundraising events (\$110,000 currently in the golf fund)
  - o Recreational facility partnership fund – applied for a grant with the City of Surrey
  - o In-kind contributions from corporate donors
  - o Speaking with Surrey Parks, Recreation & Culture, Crescent Park Association, other user groups and local residents
- Obstacles to be resolved:
  - o Sports groups that are impacted include cricket, softball and baseball using fields. Mini soccer could be accommodated. Cricket in Crescent Park is not their preferred priority but will take it.
  - o Local community would like to be included in future plans for Crescent Park
  - o Other parks recognized as better options
- What the project will bring to Surrey:
  - o Venue for hosting high profile competitions:
    - National's Championships
    - International and representative matches
    - BC matches in the National Competition
    - Touring teams from abroad
  - o Improved community infrastructure
  - o Elite athlete development

- The sheer numbers in soccer has supplanted the turf rugby field. Rugby is very big with the South Surrey high schools. Crescent Park does not have a soccer or rugby field any longer. The shower and change room are located some distance from the pitch.
- In 1993-94 the Crescent Park clubhouse was designated as a rugby clubhouse.

Staff will take a look at the whole package to do an analysis.

The Committee made the following comments

- The Cricket Association appeared at the last PCSC meeting. Their player numbers are similar. The synergy may be stronger by working together with them.
- There is the capacity of building numbers at both facilities. Currently are training for 1.5 hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays, but would be able to hold practices every day of the week plus the ability to play on Saturdays and Sundays. Could have two to three teams per age group.
- A field of dreams: east west orientation and two grass pitches with the turf practice fields between. Could run junior and senior programs in two or three slots in the evenings.
- Area residents have been canvassed regarding utilizing a field house for weddings, parties, etc. Fund raising initiatives would build something of that nature. Acquiring liquor licenses as needed would be ideal.
- The Manager of Parks noted that there is no sanitary sewer service to this area of the park. The existing septic field would have difficulty serving the volumes of gray water a shower/change room and major clubhouse facility would require.
- Are happy with the current practice facility in South Surrey but soccer will be wanting those fields. Desire two fields be built up to specifications for play along with temporary change room facilities or upgrading of current caretakers facility to be usable.
- The 50m x 50m fields would be lit for practices only. International soccer fields are wider and longer (69m x 144m), but can be lined for soccer and used for dual play. Rugby posts are somewhat permanent; cricket wickets are oriented north south but they can work around the posts by changing the angle of play.

The Chair thanked the delegation for their presentation. Staff was requested to provide a report to this committee.

## C. STAFF PRESENTATIONS

1. Dan Nielsen, Manager of the City's Cultural Capitals of Canada Award provided an Update on the projects:
  - Thanked the committee for having him here.
  - Goals and objectives: To promote arts and culture in Surrey.
  - Enable us to invest more into arts and culture
  - Designed a program under the umbrella of Fusion
  - 8 projects:
    - o Inspired Speaker Series – 2008:

- Wade Davis, National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence spoke to the value of unique cultures throughout the world. Many, including young people were very inspired by his speaking.
- Susan Aglukark – Inuit singer/songwriter
- Civic Treasures Award Program
  - Recognizes 12 cultural leaders in Surrey,
  - Medallion – the centre is a mosaic of colours. A formal recognition by Mayor and Council will be held at the Surrey Arts Centre on September 11, 2008.
- Kla-how-eya – the Canoe – named “Hesquel” means strength of the eagle. 106,000 have been able to see the canoe. Been to Children’s Festival, Fusion Festival.
- Green Timbers Urban forest – use of building for office space for staff
  - school based programs
  - summer camps
  - self guided tours
  - heritage component
- Vaisakhi - Harvest the Fun celebration
- 6 Public Art projects at locations: Green Timbers, Serpentine, City Centre, Bear Creek, Cloverdale, and Semiahmoo
- Glocal: Your World In Motion [www.glocal.ca](http://www.glocal.ca). A digital media project–freeware, a simple photo becomes a piece of art. Well received at the Canada Day celebrations in Surrey and Ottawa.
- Surrey’s Fusion Festival:
  - 3 day festival, July 18-20, 2008 at Holland Park.  
[www.fusionfestival.surrey.ca](http://www.fusionfestival.surrey.ca)
  - Great media promotion: Global News, 1410, The Beat and Jack FM, for example.
  - Delegations from China and Korea will be on hand.
  - Aboriginal: Children of the Rainbow and the Canoe.
  - Fire Show on Saturday evening after the Chieftains.
  - Over 20 different cultural organizations in 60 pavilions, including 20 ethnic varieties of food.
  - Great corporate sponsorship.
  - School project – Sullivan Heights Secondary to document on film the happenings of the cultural capitals of Canada.
  - “Legacy building” with the Public Art and Fusion Festival.
  - Had a presence at Canada Day in Ottawa with 6 artists from Surrey who demonstrated their artwork.
  - Partnerships formed with School District 36 and SFU Surrey with photo documentation and student leadership involvement. School District media relations staff have been helpful in promoting the project to students and teachers.
  - Support from Corporate Sector – presenting partner was Coast Capital Savings.
  - Local papers have provided editorials and stories promoting the projects.

Committee member comments:

- Barinder Rasode complimented the staff on the quality of the work. It is commendable that the young people hang onto the cultural component of their ancestors.
- For future reference it was suggested that that kids could have a mini passport stamped with a flag of each country when visiting the many country pavilions at the Fusion Festival. They could then take this to their schools to show their classmates.
- There is a special *kids zone* set up at the festival.
- There is a community resource section at the Fusion Festival to learn about the resources available to help support diversity (Option, PICS).
- Opening ceremonies will at 2:30 pm on Saturday, July 19, 2008 hosted by Mary Rukavina and her staff.

#### D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. **Current and Future Cricket Field Facilities (Newton)** – a Revised memo from Acting Manager, Business Operations & Athletic Fields, dated July 8, 2008 was provided on table.

Document was revised (pg 2, 2<sup>nd</sup> para, under *Meeting the Demand*) as the memo was to clarify things in two areas:

- a. Reference to meeting the demand talked about: Is it possible for project to be accelerated, and how to be achieved. If, to advance the project, it would need to be funded out of general revenues and through the capital planning process, be prioritized against all other capital needs in the city (ie: fire, police, engineering, etc.).
- b. Original memo stated that funding was from the NCP, but only a small portion (\$196,000) of it came from the NCP for this. \$2.5 Million+ will be the cost.

It was

Moved by Councillor Martin

Seconded by Cliff Annable

That the Parks & Community Services

Committee receive this document as information.

Carried

Staff provided further comments:

- Based on the delegation relative to rugby, we are not planning a significant change. This report to go to the cricket group. Right now rugby remains in Semiahmoo and cricket remains in Crescent Park. To continue to advance development of a park in west Newton based on the NCP as this is where the cricket group most desire a field/park.
- Owen Croy, Manager of Parks addressed the comment by the cricket club of how the City was managing Sullivan Heights Park. The cricket group has split into two organizations with each organization wanting this field. They have not been able to come to an agreement between them. Presently the allocation of the field is made to the two organizations, to ensure equitable access on a Surrey

- resident/registered participant basis. If the Cricket associations can come to agreement on only one group getting the use of Sullivan Heights Park, the City would then consider providing permits to only the one association.
- City staff were approached by Cricket to ask if they could build a cricket-only building on the site; this was agreed to by staff, provided that Cricket pay all costs for development of the Cricket Clubhouse. However, as time went by, they were not able to advance resources to meet their needs.
  - The original design for the Fieldhouse at Sullivan Heights Park was for a second floor but the cricket group was unable to contribute funds at that time when the decision had to be made.
  - Staff have had many discussions with the cricket group. Their demographics is more anchored in the Newton, Guildford, Whalley communities rather than in South Surrey. Travel time is not optimal. If they have a park dedicated to cricket they would like to build a clubhouse for functions as well. The City supports athletics but have not yet seen any contributions for funding from the cricket community. We would have to get community support for a field house expansion, as this is currently a community park. Adding social aspects would bring in many more autos to the park that the park is not set up to handle but the City would work with cricket to provide space for the construction of a facility that would meet their needs.
  - The City provides base level service. Additional enhancements of facilities are the fundraising responsibility of the community sports groups. We are cautious about providing facilities in some areas over others and discourage a two-tiered facility approach.
  - Rugby is willing to contribute to a project someplace. The City does not build meeting rooms for their purposes but will put in those additions at 100% of their cost.

Cliff Annable noted that the community clubs contributed substantially for the additional amenities. Partnerships to ownership works well.

Laurie Cavan to send a copy of staff report with a letter attached with Councillor Hepner's signature.

## **E. OLD BUSINESS**

### **1. Kla-how-eya Sweat Lodge site**

- Owen Croy – sweat lodge has not yet been granted permission to build. The Grosvenor Road old school site was recently transferred to Surrey Development Corporation. At other sites, there were concerns regarding the impact on adjacent residential areas of ceremonial chanting during the night and smouldering fires for heating rocks from making steam. They want to be located on a major transit line. Mr. Vandenbosch has met with them; Tom Oleman has been representing this issue in the past, but there is now a new representative with different ideas. We continue to work with the group, but things have been shifting somewhat on both parts.

**2. Fee Discounts for Seniors**

- Grant Rice commented that earlier this year a recommendation was made for staff to come forward with a report with regards to discounts for seniors vs. families or young people who are less able to pay. These people may have the financial ability to pay but the majority of their income is going towards their debt/mortgage. Seniors may be more debt free. Are we subsidizing an age group that does not necessarily need subsidy as much as the other? We should try to find some kind of commonality through age groups.
- Laurie Cavan to provide a report regarding current initiatives for family programs, Leisure Access Program and a number of initiatives for low cost fees for families; relative to indigency as well.

**3. Kabaddi**

- Councillor Gill questioned if 90 days notice is really required for police and security permits as some groups have accomplished this in a shorter time frame.
- Councillor Hepner stated that she helped to draft an information brochure regarding this issue a number of years ago. Many factors need to be considered. We should reconsider transit and ambulance as well as the event itself. We await a report regarding this.
- Councillor Gill is seeking information with which to respond to questions put to him by the public.
  - The Kabaddi field has no more than 5-6 tournaments per summer, and is only played in summer.
  - The Government made a campaign to give money to that park and is a relatively new amenity to Surrey.
  - Site selection was a result of not knowing how successful Kabaddi would be in the city. Urban sprawl has been a factor but questioned whether the site location is practical considering the cost, and is the site used to its full potential.
  - Engaging the youth at this facility is preferable to the alternatives.
  - The parking lot at Sullivan Heights Park was constructed under a joint use agreement, but is managed by the City.
  - Kabaddi games are well underway by the time Church is done and is used for overflow parking for the school as well as parking along 146<sup>th</sup> Street.
  - The Kabaddi field is a modest size in relation to soccer.
  - The Province paid for the bleachers.
  - What would be the cost to relocate this venue elsewhere; what other considerations are there and a possible alternate use for that amenity?
- City staff were requested to prepare a report to include location, parking, future direction and how to handle its ongoing popularity, and how to do differently in the future.
- After receipt of the report, this committee would be interested in having a kabaddi delegation come to this committee for a discussion on what is going on from their perspective.

**F. NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Parking lots at School/Park Sites** – Parking gates at the School sites are often locked and cars are parking in front of homes. The neighbours are not happy. This issue may necessitate the added cost to unlock parking lot gates. Staff were requested to provide a full report.

**F. STAFF REPORTS**

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

It was Moved by Councillor Martin  
And seconded by Barinder Rasode  
That the Parks & Community Services

Committee:

- a. receive this report as information; and
- b. Recommend to Council to approve the naming of the park site at the former Camp Kwomais as “Kwomais Point Park”.

Carried

2. Laurie Cavan, GM Parks, Recreation & Culture provided the following a verbal update:

### **Parks & Community Services Committee – Verbal Updates – July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

#### **Western Divisional Synchrony Championships**

The Aquasonics have been asked by Synchro BC to co-host the 2009 Western Divisional Synchronized Swimming Championships at the Surrey Sport and Leisure Complex Pool. This prestigious swim meet will take place March 25<sup>th</sup>-29, 2009.

#### **Focus on Seniors Workshop**

The first Focus on Seniors Workshop that took place at the Fleetwood Community Centre on June 14, 2008 was so successful that two more workshops have been scheduled for the fall. These will take place at the Newton Seniors Centre and the other event at a South Asian hall. The dates will be confirmed.

#### **OPTIONS Young Parent Family Drop In**

This program is being jointly offered by Surrey Parks, Recreation and Culture and OPTIONS at the North Surrey Recreation Centre. This program is for parents aged 24 years or under, who have preschool aged children and would benefit from a summer parent-child play based drop-in program. This program will run from July 9 to August 27, 2008.

## Youth Engagement

Our Youth Engagement in Social and Community Planning project is going to be used as a case study by SmartGrowth BC in an upcoming publication in the fall, "Planning Guidelines for Healthy Communities". We will be used as an example of good practice in engaging youth in community planning to contribute to healthy communities.

SmartGrowth is a non-governmental organization devoted to fiscally, socially and environmentally responsible land use and development.

## US Short Track Speed Skating

A Welcome Reception and Community BBQ was held Monday, July 14, 2008 at the South Surrey Arena. The US Short Track Speed Skating team practiced here for the first time last summer and have returned for another camp. As well as using the Olympic size ice for their practice, they will also use the sport field at the South Surrey Athletic field for off-ice and dry land training. The public was invited to view the team's practice and mingle with the athletes and the Olympic Mascots at the BBQ.

3. **The US Short Track Speed Skating** Team held their training camp at the South Surrey Arena the week of July 13–20, 2008. The Welcome Reception and community BBQ was well attended by the public, dignitaries, and the Olympic Mascots. The coach stated that they have never received such a warm reception before and felt very welcome in Surrey. They also complimented Surrey on the athletic fields which they used for dry land training.
4. The South Surrey Athletic Complex is very busy this week with the SoftBall City hosting the Canada Cup Games and the US Short Track Speed Skating practices at the arena.
5. An event to celebrate the Canadian Women's Soccer Team enroute to the Olympic Games in Beijing is being hosted tomorrow, July 17, 2008. Surrey is quickly gaining a reputation for hosting world class sporting events.

## G. CORRESPONDENCE

## H INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Calendar of Events  
File: 7710-01

**I. NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting of the Parks & Community Services Committee is Wednesday, September 17, 2008.

**J. ADJOURNMENT**

It was

Moved by Grant Rice  
Seconded by Rick Benson  
That the Parks and Community Services

Committee meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Parks and Community Services Committee adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Certified as true and correct:

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Margaret Jones, City Clerk

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Chairperson, Councillor Hepner,  
Parks & Community Services Committee