



Parks & Community Services Committee – Minutes

Parks Boardroom 1
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 2010
Time: 6:55 pm
File: 0540-20

Present:

Chairperson: Councillor Martin
Councillor Gill
C. Annable
R. Benson
C. Girardi / KC Gilroy
J. Grewal
G. Rai

Absent:

S. Hundal

Also Present:

L. Cavan, General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture
O. Croy, Manager of Parks
T. Mack, Parks Planning, Research & Design Manager
S. McKinnon, Manager, Arts Services Div.
L. Bowie, Community Leisure Services Manager -
North Surrey
L. White, Manager Community & Leisure Services
D. Vestergaard, Administrative Coordinator, Parks,
Recreation & Culture
H. Dmytriw, Legislative Service

School Board Trustee:

T. Allen

Councillor Martin opened the meeting by thanking everyone from all departments for the events of the 2010 Olympics Torch Relay and the 2010 Olympics. There were 250,000 people that visited Holland Park during these events. An incredible 17 days of events, and are proud of the efforts and work and accomplishments by City of Surrey staff.

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was

Moved by C. Annable
Seconded by Councillor Gill
That the Parks & Community Services

Committee minutes of January 21, 2010, be adopted.

Carried

B. DELEGATION

1. Joint Use of Space Study

File No. 8000-30

Don Hunter, Professional Environmental Recreation Consultants (PERC), hired jointly by the City and the School District 36, appeared as a delegation and provided an overview of the Joint Use of Space Study and to gather information and comments from the committee members related to the analysis of the Study.

The purpose of the Study is to determine the potential for more efficient and effective use of shared facilities in a sustainable manner to meet community needs. It is understood that the goal of the City of Surrey and S.D. 36 is to provide the highest level of community use in the areas of greatest need for these taxpayer-

funded facilities within the current operating budget allocations of both agencies, and to research opportunities to work closely with School District 36 with Mike McKay and Terry Allen in building a strong foundation and for both parties for access to joint use facilities.

The following comments were provided:

- PERC is based in Surrey for the past 25 years with Bill Webster and five individuals.
- Project is on schedule and on time; is a considerable amount of work.
- Purpose of study is for the City of Surrey and School District 36 to determine the potential for more efficient and effective use of shared indoor facilities in a sustainable manner to meet community needs. Also to explore potential for future joint facility development. Did not focus on the outdoor. Were requested to take a look at potential future joint projects.
- Goal of the Study is to provide the highest level of community use in the areas of greatest need for taxpayer-funded facilities within the current operating budget allocations for both agencies. There is an existing successful Community School Partnership with the City of Surrey and S.D. 36 at 17 schools in the most vulnerable neighbourhoods.
- Key components:
 - Review of applicable provincial legislation current programs.
 - Look at best practices in joint school-municipal sharing of facilities and programming.
 - Looked outside of BC to the US and two other provinces to see models of community school partnerships programs.
 - Looked at all applicable inventories and current joint use agreements and policies.
 - To look at programming in district and city to see how joint partnership is working now; programs in arts, heritage, parks and schools and municipalities.
 - Develop guidelines for more effective and efficient use of facilities.
 - Recommendations for improvements to policies, procedures and potential for future joint development projects.
 - Energy efficiencies.
- Methodology:
 - Phase 1 – start-up meeting and background review.
 - Phase 2 –
 - Gathering and analyzing deliverable elements
 - Interview 30+ individuals and groups from City, District, other organizations (e.g. Early Childhood and United Way).
 - Phase 3 -
 - Synthesis and drafting of report
 - Consulting team synthesis meeting
 - Report to Steering Committee and Working Group for review
 - Draft report developed.
 - Phase 4 – Final Report due April 16, 2010 and presentations to Council and Board of Trustees of S.D. 36.

Committee comments:

- Laurie Cavan noted that this study is focused on the current pressures on indoor facilities. The study will also recommend future joint facility development to maximize the utilization of tax dollars. We can look at outdoor facilities and sports facilities as phase two of the study but we are starting with this as the focus and priority.
- Committee member noted that the scope of the work is of concern and would like to see it expanded to outdoor facilities. There are synergies available and would like to go in this direction with a collaboration of current amenities that are available and that don't require the ongoing operating costs such as security. Less security is needed for outside amenities and should be looking at the full gamut of what currently exists.
- GM, Parks, Recreation and Culture noted that if we wanted to look at outdoor elements then we would have to change the scope of this report that is under development. We want to build on the success of programs and partnerships already in existence. There are opportunities for sharing indoor facilities. Can look at the scope of external facilities but would require expansion to this existing contract now underway. Could be phase two. Can look at the making the outside amenities as a priority in 2010.
- Terry Allen, School Trustee noted that the relationship with the school district is important, has grown, and the cooperation between both sides has grown hugely. There is limited use of the gyms and these facilities are underutilized. The mandate of the Ministry is 24/7 utilization but cost is an issue. Having current facilities sit empty benefits noone. Best practices would include utilization of space without a huge cost on the district and would be of benefit to the whole community. Use of school facilities always needs a custodian there, which is a big cost to user groups.
- Suggestion was made to look at the increasing demand on summer camps and programs that need both indoor and outdoor facilities. This is a great opportunity for utilizing the school district facilities and gymnasiums.

Don Hunter commented that the first step is to take a look at indoor facilities. PERC's mandate is to look at the best use of indoor facilities but can look at how they relate to outdoor space and use in more detail in a second phase. A redevelopment of a particular school usage of space and facilities would require looking at both its indoor and outdoor use.

The GM, Parks, Recreation and Culture noted that the final report will be provided to the committee. Staff to consider the suggestions from the committee in future work plans for 2010.

The Chair thanked Don Hunter for his presentation.

2. Semiahmoo Animal League Inc. (SALI)

File No. 0930-01

Keryn Denroche, Semiahmoo Animal League Inc. (SALI) and Board members Loretta Voth, Coleen Romano, and Jacquelin Wright appeared as a delegation to introduce SALI and to request the City of Surrey's assistance in finding and

acquiring 35 acres of land in order to develop a members only off-leash dog park and a therapeutic children's farm.

The following comments were provided:

- Keryn Denroche holds a Bachelor in Science and Human Leadership Degree.
- SALI was incorporated in 2008 and received charitable status in 2009.
- Serves Surrey and White Rock.
- Mission - to honour, respect and protect the human/animal bond.
- Goal - for people to improve the lives of animals and for animals to improve the lives of people.
- Vision - a vibrant human community with a rich, rewarding partnership and co-existence between people and animals.
- Modeled on two principles: People make the world a better place for animals and Animals make the world a better place for people.
- Models: sustainability, ethical standards, business structure with specialty in human leadership -
 - Animal assisted therapy
 - Horticultural activities
 - A haven to children and animals
 - SALI's farm is for 3-12 years children identified as at-risk
 - Animals are key agents for healing
 - The animals were rescued, assessed and only accepted if good natured
 - Kids learn they are worthy of care and capable of caring
- All workers are volunteers except for the live-in staff needed for the 24/7 care. They serve as role models, mentors, and require a one year commitment from the volunteers. Many are practicing vets, child therapists, master gardeners, nurses, pediatricians and teachers and retirees. Retirees provide grandparent like role model. All receive 40 hours of training.
- Volunteers and children work in the gardens and care of the animals in a natural progression from plants to larger farm animals and then to smaller animals like chickens. Children come once per week for one hour, 4 groups per day; and have a waiting list.
- No time for boredom structured for success and spontaneity. Benefits include intervention, healing for at-risk, a part of preventing violence. An alternative outdoor environment, back to nature, nurturing and bonding between animal and child.
- A recognized recovery treatment, restorative touch with plants and animals. Each activity has a purpose.
- Have received written endorsements from Dr. Randall Lockwood and Matt Logan.
- Credentials provided in information package.

Reason for being here tonight is the delegation are seeking an in kind lease of 35 acres of land from City of Surrey for a therapeutic children's farm and members-only off-leash dog park.

- All proceeds from SALI Dog Park sustain the SALI farm. The private off-leash dog park is modeled after Bark Park in Kansas, Missouri. The farm is based on the Forget Me Not Farm model in Sonoma, California.

- The Canadian pet market is a \$4.5 Billion industry with business strategies and with certified and professional dog walkers. South Surrey has more dogs per capita than any other area in Surrey, with an estimated 17,000 dogs (low estimate).
- On line survey results show that 48% walk their dogs daily off-leash; 32% in non-designated parks; 43% walk for less than 15 minutes and 45% live in the South Surrey area. 71% agree they would pay to use a *membership only* park if it is non profit; 44% of City of Surrey survey respondents support an increase in non profit parks.
- Lease of 35 acres of land for a dog park -
 - Financial overview – over the years dog park revenue increases, fund raising and donations increase. Grant income becomes zero in 2014.
 - By 2014 the major infrastructure would be complete and proceeds from dog park memberships would sustain SALI farm.
 - Benefits of private dog park versus public dog park include double gated electric entry, swimming pond and memorial garden, agility course, and a dog wash.
- Qualification and rules provide a protocol for complaints, annual general meeting, social and animal rescue events, and sense of pride. There is no tax burden or expense to the city.
- Vision – vibrant humane community with rewarding partnership and stewardship. We believe that *if we build it they will come*.

In response to queries the following information was provided:

- The 35 acre SALI farm is modeled after Bark Park and run by Wayside Waifs, which is 10 acres. Fee is \$95/year. SALI are looking at \$325/year. The 30 acres would attract that extra dollar amount and could have a clean man-made water pond, agility course, etc.
- It is very hard to obtain research figures in Canada. The research done was in terms of population demographics and who would be willing to pay and the 'how much' was based primarily on the community and from talking to the dog community and off-leash walkers. Have not marketed the price points and do not know where the land is coming from. SALI's first approach was to come to the City.
- Per the last official Master Plan, one official off-leash dog park is required for each community within the City. There are two official off-leash dog parks in the south Surrey area: Dogwood Dog Park, Blackies Spit, and unofficially: East Beach.
- Tannery Park is one acre in size. The largest dog park is Dogwood Park, much of it is in a forest area.
- Residents in some communities have a reluctance to accept off-leash dog parks since barking occurs.
- Acquiring land for this area would cost \$ 15-\$25 Million for that sized parcel in its entirety. The City can acquire a number of pieces of land but only when there is a willing vendor, and only within available budget. In the larger parks of south Surrey, such as Redwood Park, Crescent Park and South Surrey Athletic Park most parks have recreational facilities that take up most of the areas of these parks. Staff can bring a report back to this committee.

- Farmland in the ALR varies in price from \$40,000–\$125,000 per acre depending on the drainage. There are stipulations with farmland on what can and cannot be done on the land. In the Mound Farm Master Plan, for instance, proposals for non-agricultural purposes such as equestrian trails and dog off-leash areas was turned down by the Agricultural Land Commission. Staff will look into those kinds of issues.
- There is a continuing problem with people allowing their dogs to run off-leash in parks and not cleaning up their dog's excrement. A real health issue concern in all athletics fields.

Staff are carrying out a 2010 study and test public interest and need for additional off-leash dogs parks and will bring a report to the Parks and Community Services Committee.

The Chair thanked the delegation for their presentation and requested staff report back to the Committee on the delegations requests.

3. **Surrey White Rock Pesticide Free Coalition**

File No. 5280-01

Surrey White Rock Pesticide Free Coalition delegates appeared to advise Parks and Community Services of the benefits of eliminating the use of pesticides in the City of Surrey. (Andrew Schulz was unable to attend the meeting).

Melodie Tomiyama, B.Sc., CMMB provided the following comments:

- There is the need to educate the public on alternative pesticide use.
- What is a pesticide? A substance intended to kill or suppress plants that are unwanted.
- Synthetic pesticides are potent - designed to kill.
- Cosmetic pesticides:
 - Non essential use for enhancing the appearance of parks, lawns, gardens.
 - Lead to serious illnesses such as leukemia, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, neurological disorders, pancreatic, prostate and lung cancers, brain cancer, kidney cancer.
 - Unsafe and should not be used in play areas. Regulatory deems there is significant risk. Skull and crossbones are on the packaging for a reason.
- Many pesticides banned in other countries are still used in Canada
- Canadian Cancer Society calls for a ban on cosmetic use of pesticides on the cautionary principle.
- Hundreds of parents do not want their kids to play on fields that are sprayed.
- For the health of kids playing safely in parks precautionary principles must be applied.

Susan Watkins, Special Education Teacher/Child Care Worker:

- Knows something of the connections between learning and Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) and pesticides. Has been looking at a lot of studies between kids and disabilities. A recent study from National Academy of Science in the USA: pesticides cause 25% of development problems in children.

- Neuro toxins are in the pesticides we put on our lawns and playgrounds and this affects the nervous system. Can permanently alter biological systems.
- Developing brains are affected by pesticides; trace pesticides can have a tremendous effect on kids.
- Kids living in areas where there is a pesticide ban, no traces are found in systems. Kids living in areas where pesticides are used, traces are found in systems.
- Lack of adequate federal and provincial regulations has brought forth a surge of grass roots with cosmetic pesticide bylaws. Delta, Richmond and White Rock have passed strong pesticide bylaws.
- Cancer Society States Surrey should be next and should be phasing out pesticide use.
- Coalition listed municipal candidates and supported bylaw.
- Important to note that bylaws are in place – landscaping businesses are thriving and green businesses thriving. Home Depot and Rona voluntarily pulled their pesticides. A Best Practices Review would cost 50 cents to a \$1.00 per person per year.
- The health of our citizens is a priority. The delegate thanked the Parks and Community Services Committee for being a parks committee that are responsible.

Doreen Dewell – M.Sc. and Biology:

- Teaches college biology and science.
- Personally has not used pesticides for as long as she can remember.
- Has a deep knowledge of the environment and how humans are impacting it.
- United Nations has stated that 2010 is International Year of Biodiversity. Canada has a biodiversity strategy promoting healthy ecosystems. Human health and biodiversity--future generations will face future costs.
- We all should reduce impact on environment.
- Pesticide control, pollutants and toxins are in the environment; found in marine blubber mammals in amounts so high that it is considered environmental waste. Pristine glaciers and lakes in the far north are contaminated.
- Why are pesticides a hazard when released into environment? Pesticides are chemicals that kill living things. Living things themselves that are themselves large factories of cell factories with complex compounds like enzyme; pesticide exposure over time can damage the structure of the cell machinery. Pesticides destruct, block or inhibit in plants, animals and humans.
- To minimize pollution contributing to extinction, we must cease using pesticides.

The Chair thanked the delegation for their contribution.

It is understood that the province is working on mandates for uses in the next few months. The Province's Bob Lucy and a consultant have wrapped up the receipt of comments from the public on February 15, 2010 on additional regulatory actions that may be undertaken by the provincial government; a report will be available in the next three weeks. A white paper may be produced and to be available for government analysis, with the current focus on sales and prohibition of use

pesticides in public spaces and private lands. Introduction of provincial legislation is up to the government.

Owen Croy, Manager, Parks clarified that the City does not use any pesticides, synthetic or otherwise, on playgrounds in the City of Surrey. In 2008 and 2009 the amount of herbicides used on over 200 playing fields amounted to less than two litres and was used for spot spraying, in a fenced area, for persistent weed infestation. Additional information on pesticide regulation by-laws will be provided to Council at a later date.

C. REQUEST(S) FOR DELEGATION

D. OUTSTANDNG BUSINESS

- 1. Beer Garden Applications**
File No. 0360-20 BGRC

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION:

It was

Moved by C. Annable

Seconded by G. Rai

That the Parks and Community Services

Committee recommend to Council that they approve the recommendation for the Beer Garden Review Committee that:

- (1) 37 beer garden days in the City of Surrey be approved; and that
- (2) All organizations receiving approval for beer gardens provide details of which charitable organization or community project will receive proceeds from their event.

Carried

- 2. Radio Controlled Flying Club of BC**
File No. 0930-01

It was

Moved by R. Benson

Seconded by C. Annable

That the Parks and Community Services

committee receive the Radio Controlled Flying Club of BC report for information.

Carried

E. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Healthy Food and Beverage Initiatives**
File: 8000-01

It was Moved by C. Annable
Seconded by G. Rai
That the Parks and Community Services
Committee receive the Healthy Food and Beverage Initiatives report for
information.

Carried

Lori Bowie, North Surrey Community & Leisure Services Manager provided a presentation on Healthy Food and Beverage Initiatives.

The following comments were provided:

- Healthy Vending in Surrey recreation centres to promote stay active, eat healthy.
- Creating healthy recreation environments by encouraging childhood physical activity and influencing healthy eating by offering healthy snack choices in vending machines.
- Nutrition guidelines for public buildings similar to BC schools.
- Healthy options encouraged through vending machine banners with labels of choose most, choose sometimes, and choose least. People are conditioned by their environment and when the environment is not supportive of healthy, people tend to not make healthy choices.
- Changing the recreation environment to "making healthy choices, easy choices" through vending, food services concessions, recreation programs (external and internal), events, meetings and celebrations, fundraisers, workplaces.

In response to queries the following information was provided:

- Next step will be to look at the parks concession stands to encourage healthy food choices.
- Schools have experienced over \$30,000 in lost revenues due to the changes in the snack programs, considerably impacting the funding for programs offered. Healthy living costs more.
- Hot lunch programs are offering healthy meals at affordable price points.

2. 2009 Grants & Sponsorship & Revenue Enhancement Report

File: 1855-01

It was Moved by R. Benson
Seconded by C. Annable
That the Parks and Community Services
Committee receive the 2009 Grants & Sponsorship & Revenue Enhancement report
for information.

Carried

F. STAFF PRESENTATIONS -Update

GM Parks Verbal Updates – March 2010

Torch Relay

The City of Surrey was alive with the Olympic spirit and Canadian pride in February 2010. Surrey hosted the biggest games-time celebration south of the Fraser. Daniel Igali, 2000 Gold Medal winner at the Sydney Olympics, started the festivities by carrying the torch into Holland Park to light the cauldron with an estimated 20,000 residents cheering him on. Prior to Daniel carrying the Torch Chief Superintendent, Officer in Charge Surrey Detachment, Fraser MacRae received the torch from former Olympian Brittany Reimer and carried it past the RCMP building and City Hall. Estimated attendance at Holland Park 25,000; great turn out at Cloverdale Museum as well.

Celebration Site

The Surrey 2010 Celebration Site was a 13-day FREE winter festival that featured live entertainment, live Games broadcasts, arts performances and various family activities. Live acts included Blue Rodeo, 54-40, Marianas Trench, Sam Roberts, Serena Ryder, the internationally famous RCMP Musical Ride and much more. It is estimated that approximately 250,000 visited the site.

Hjorth Road Park Artificial Turf Field – project is now well underway, lights have been installed, concrete curbing and fencing constructed, drainage 50% complete, gravels for field ordered. Entire project is approx. 50% complete.

Hjorth Road Park Field House – project approximately 85% complete, plumbing and doors now being installed, anticipated completion at end of March 2010.

North Surrey Community Park – carrying out detailed design for a lighting system for passive use of the track. A discus cage is on order for installation at the field. Delivery and installation is estimated to be completed by May 2010.

Newton Athletic Park Artificial Turf Field – project has now commenced with initial site preparation now underway.

Newton Athletic Field House – renovation and upgrades now fully complete.

Greenaway Park Tennis Court Replacement – now in detailed design stage, construction to commence in April 2010.

Sunrise Pavilion – In the process of constructing a gravel parking lot for approximately 16-20 cars.

Clayton Off-Leash Park

In the first week of February 2010 the Call Centre received numerous complaints that dogs were being poisoned at the park by someone who was adding anti-freeze and/or oil to puddles that had formed in the park. Results of testing showed no contamination by anti-freeze or petroleum products. A slightly iridescent coloration on the surface of some puddles is a result of natural decomposition of organics that are incorporated in the soil that the water is standing over.

The park was re-opened once the test results were in. There is fresh clean water available at the site. Due to the potential for fecal coliform in standing water, people are urged to

have their pets use the fresh water source rather than letting their animals drink from puddles.

Chuck Bailey Recreation Centre

As a part of the legacy from the partnership with the Olympics, the City of Surrey has opened the new Chuck Bailey Recreation Centre in North Surrey. This state of the art building was the logistics centre prior to the Olympic Games and now provides over 20,000 square feet of recreational space to local residents. It consists of a national-calibre gymnasium that will host registered and drop-in sports programs for all age groups, a brand new youth lounge and multi-purpose rooms for preschool and children's dance, cooking, and educational programs. There will also be multi-purpose space for yoga, dance and martial arts programs for all ages.

Canada Cup

Canada Cup 2010 will **not** be held. It has been a very well attended event for the City of Surrey over the last 17 years, and certainly put the City on the map as far as world women's softball goes. Countries still recognize the Canada Cup as one of the top two or three events for softball.

Canada Cup 2010 already had many international teams applying to come for early July when the ISF gave the World Championships to Venezuela on the same dates, and the European Cup to follow shortly after, therefore making it impossible for teams to play at the Canada Cup. A smaller tournament held by the White Rock Renegades may be held at this time.

Rick Benson added that during this time the White Rock Renegades will form a new committee to host the 2010 Canadian Open Fast pitch International Championships. This will include a Future U19 Division and a Showcase 16U Division. This will be held July 5-11, 2010.

Surrey Urban Screen

The Surrey Urban Screen is a new outdoor projection venue, hosting outreach exhibition programs by the Surrey Art Gallery and premiered with "Glocal" on February 11, 2010. "Glocal" draws from a database of over 50,000 images contributed by people from all over the world, projected off the exterior architecture of the newly completed Chuck Bailey Recreation Centre.

"The Great Mozart Hunt" with Surrey City Orchestra

Just a reminder to the Committee that "The Great Mozart Hunt" will be taking place this Friday, March 12, 2010 at the Sheraton Vancouver Guildford Hotel at 8:00 pm. Tickets are still available - \$25 for the concert only or \$65 which includes a buffet dinner and concert.

New Museum Manager

The Heritage Services Division welcomed Sophie Hayde to the position of Museum Manager. Sophie joined the Parks, Recreation & Culture Department and Heritage team on February 15, 2010. Sophie has an extensive background in museum management and heritage services.

New Exhibition at the Stewart Hall

Building Surrey, 1890's – Present: Architecture, People & Places That Shape the City
Exploring Surrey's built heritage, the exhibition highlights the rustic log cabin to the futuristic design of Central City including building history, land use, and architecture styles that have shaped Surrey.

Senior's Forum – Saturday, April 24, 2010, 9:30 am -3:00 pm @ Guildford Recreation Centre

As part of our series of Forums for Senior and their caregivers, this forum will raise awareness of issues impacting seniors as well as provide valuable information about legal, safety and support resources available to seniors and their caregivers in Surrey.

BC Budget – we are currently in the process of analyzing comments regarding the budget announcement that the 2010/2011 budget for arts and culture will be fully restored to 2008/2009 levels however, there are concerns that the 'mystery' \$10 Million allocation is not fully defined or allocated to any existing funding organization, such as the BC Arts Council.

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Calendar of Events

File No. 7800-01-01

2. Committee Orientation Package 2010

File No. 0540-23

Orientation package is being provided to all committee member volunteers for information with the request that pages 21/22 (extra copy provided) be signed and returned to the City Clerk Legislative Services office.

3. Good Citizen Award

Information provided on table.

The Good Citizen Award is given each year to an individual who has demonstrated outstanding service for the betterment of our community. Nominations are requested for submission prior to April 6, 2010 for presentation at the Volunteer Recognition event in April 2010.

4. Corporate Report Ro27, "Build Surrey" Program - provided on table for information.

5. Spotlight on the Arts Magazine, March 2010 edition provided on table.

H. OTHER BUSINESS

I. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting of the Parks & Community Services Committee is scheduled for April 21, 2010.

J. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting of the Parks & Community Services Committee adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Certified as true and correct:

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Chairperson, Councillor Mary Martin
Parks & Community Services Committee