

City of Surrey

Council Chamber
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27,
2004**

Time: 7:00 p.m.



Parks & Community Services Committee Minutes

Present:

Chairperson: Councillor Tymoschuk
N. Beuk
M. Connor 7:13 p.m.
M. Martin
Councillor Higginbotham

Regrets:

Councillor Villeneuve
R. Soares

Also Present:

U. Mital, City Manager
L. Cavan General Manager, Parks, Recreation
& Culture
O. Croy, Manager of Parks
S. McKinnon, Manager Arts & Community
Development Services
J. Lamontagne, Manager, Planning, Research
& Design
J. McLeod, Manager Long Range Planning &
Policy Development
K. Swaele, Legislative Services

School Board Trustee:

P. Glass

A. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

1. Appointments

The Chair noted the following appointments made by Council at its Regular Council Meeting, held September 27, 2004:

- (a) Councillor Tymoschuk, Chair of the Parks and Community Services Committee.
- (b) Councillor Higginbotham, Member of the Parks and Community Services Committee.
- (c) Accepted Councillor Steele's resignation from the Parks & Community Services Committee to allow her to undertake the duties of Chair, Police Committee.

2. Resignations

The Chair advised that Baljinder Sandhu has resigned from the Committee due to work commitments, which require him to spend an extended time out of the country.

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was Moved by Trustee Glass
Seconded by Councillor Higginbotham
 That the minutes of the Parks & Community Services Committee
 meeting held on September 15, 2004, be adopted.
Carried

Mary Anne Connor arrived - 7:13 p.m.

C. DELEGATION - REQUESTS TO BE RECEIVED

It was Moved by Trustee Glass
Seconded by M. Martin
 That the delegation requests concerning the running track location at the
 South Surrey Athletic Park from the South Surrey Athletic Park Users and Bayside Rugby be heard following the
 delegation from the residents.
Carried

D. DELEGATION

1. South Surrey Athletic Park – Running Track Location - Residents

S. Malli, B. Hoholuk, and D. Bradley were in attendance to present their concerns on the proposed location of the new running track and other facilities at the South Surrey Athletic Park.

B. Hoholuk, 14581 – 18 Avenue, stated that she was expressing concerns on behalf of neighbours and had submitted a petition with 160 plus names of individuals who were concerned about the proposed location of the running track. Ms. Hoholuk noted:

- That they strongly oppose the location because of traffic, noise, security and visibility concerns.
- That the Park is well used and parking is inadequate to handle the current demand, which spills over to the neighbourhood.
- That distance to parking is a concern as the parking lot at Semiahmoo High School is quite distant making it inaccessible to seniors and those with mobility difficulties.
- That there are no arrangements for washrooms, and children using the park for a track meet must have access to washrooms.
- That current noise from Football games is amplified before 8:00 a.m. on Sundays with no consideration to the neighbourhood, despite requests from residents.
- That football may want to place their home field in the inner track area which will result in a noise nightmare.
- That the direction of wind will blow leaves onto the track requiring leaf blowers for clean up.
- That there is a lack of visibility at the track which raises safety concerns.

S. Malli, 14645 – 18 Avenue advised that their family is heavily involved in and supports sport in the community, but they do not support the location chosen for the running track. Ms. Malli continued:

- That they attended the September 14 open house but noted that the track will be out of site and below street level, which raises safety concerns.
- That they met with the RCMP at the track and learned about Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED).
- That CPTED is followed by many cities, and the City of Surrey uses its principles in planning.
- That CPTED reduces fear and the opportunity to commit crime, and the City has not done due diligence on this site.
- That the location is heavily treed on three sides with a large bank on the fourth, making it completely secluded.
- That the track should be in a place where athletes of all ages feel safe and which encourages the use of the park and track by having it in a safe environment.

Ms. Hoholuk continued by reading from the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Guidelines, as they would relate to the proposed running track site.

D. Bradley, Advocacy Chair, Soroptomists International, 9016 Alexandria Crescent, stated:

- That she has looked at the area, and given the demographics it is important that proper safety be in place.
- That it is important that women of all ages and youth are comfortable going there and can walk the track in a well lit place where help is available for health reasons or if an individual feels unsafe.
- That she supports having these kind of facilities, as women may not feel comfortable walking treed trails, but will feel comfortable at a track.
- That the track should have adequate security in place to ensure safety.

B. Hoholuk advised that with creative design and compromise the track can be built to satisfy all user groups and that in suggesting alternative locations they have kept in mind safety by putting the track at street level. Ms. Hoholuk continued:

- That one suggested location for the track could be the detention pond north of Semiahmoo High School.

- That this would require relocation of the artificial field, which could be located where the track is currently proposed.
- That this location would maintain the space for all facilities.
- That alternatively some facilities could be shuffled to accommodate the track on the north side of 20th Avenue across from the skateboard park.
- That this would require a couple of soccer fields being relocated to the currently proposed track location.
- That by putting the track north of 20th, visibility and parking concerns would be met, and the facility would be closer to the washroom and change facilities.
- That relocating the soccer fields would reduce nighttime lighting impact as soccer is a daytime sport.
- That traffic and parking would continue to be a problem.

Ms. Hoholuk noted that the residents agree that a track facility would be a fabulous addition to the South Surrey Athletic Park and it is not their desire to remove any facilities from existing user groups. But they do want to see the track built in a safe and visible location with minimal impact to the surrounding neighbourhoods.

In response to questions the delegation stated:

- That they do not have a problem with Canada Cup parking at Softball City, as it is much further up.
- That by suggesting the detention pond area, soccer would be retained and rugby re-engineered to be constructed at the proposed track location.

The Manager, Planning, Research & Design commented that in order to accommodate the running track a few trees will be removed on the north side, but no trees will be removed between the running track and residential area.

2. Receipt of On-Table Correspondence - South Surrey Athletic Park – Running Track Location.

It was Moved by Councillor Higginbotham
Seconded by M. Martin
That the on-table correspondence concerning location of the South Surrey Athletic Park, Running Track location, be received.
Carried

3. South Surrey Athletic Park – Running Track Location – Users

Ross Davidson, Peninsula Athletics and Darryl Jones, Semiahmoo Soccer were present to express their support for the proposed location of the new running track at the South Surrey Athletic Park, on behalf of other South Surrey Athletic Park Users.

Ross Davidson, gave an overhead presentation and noted:

- That there are approximately 3,750 families using the South Surrey Athletic Park, not including those who will use the track and field.
- That the Peninsula Athletics Society represents Track & Field in South Surrey and was formed in 1995 as a registered non-profit charity.
- **That in determining location of the running track there was an open dialogue with user groups, Surrey Parks & Recreation, and the Outdoor Sports Advisory Committee.**
- That rugby, football and soccer are in favour of the proposed location but do not want to lose any fields because of their own high enrollments.
- That anticipated track facility usage includes **recreational fitness activities for local residents, year-round use by elementary and secondary schools, the Track and Field Club, and Track Meets**
- **That school track meets are estimated at 6 day-time week days per year (May- June), Club track meets 1 weekend period per year (Summer), and the ability to hold Provincial/National track meets would put the City of Surrey on the map.**

- That it is not a long walk from the Semiahmoo High School and there is an access road through the baseball diamonds.
- That the facility will be a 400 metre 8 lane rubberized surface for field events, with a north-south orientation.
- That there would not be room for field events on the north side of 20th Avenue.
- That the North-South orientation is critical as South Surrey will become a prominent area for track athletes.
- That washrooms are not on the blueprint now, but user groups are willing to fund expansion.
- That the hillside provides a good area for bleachers.
- That the alternative locations mean a loss of Urban Forest (Bike Park) and loss of sports fields (1 built, 2 lost, in all cases).
- That alternative locations have a significant impact on future football/soccer/rugby facility plans (e.g. artificial turf facility)
- That relocation to 20th at 148th would involve the cost of re-engineering the current drainage system and a costly upgrade of the underlying base.
- That no “noise” = no sports = no Community Activity.
- That the football P.A. system is not used 45 weekends a year and they are sensitive to local residents' concerns, as evidenced by the recent curtailment of early-morning games using the P.A. system.

Darryl Jones 929 – 164A Street, advised he is President of the Semiahmoo Soccer Club and noted that the Soccer Club and other user groups have made a number of commitments relative to new washrooms, change rooms, and more storage. Mr. Jones continued:

- That they realize residents are concerned about parking, which is a challenge because the park is so well used.
- That the Semiahmoo High School parking lot is now available and will provide another 500 spots.
- That the proposed location for the running track lends itself to the most effective usage, and sport field usage inside the track for soccer and football will serve as a back up practice and game facility.
- That relocation would have a significant impact on future football, soccer, and rugby facility plans such as the proposed artificial turf.
- That each year the City of Surrey encourages user groups to financially assist with maintenance of the fields, and over the last few years they have spent \$40,000 in assisted maintenance, and relocation of the field would mean a loss of that investment.
- That there is definitely a concern with safety, but with adequate planning and design most of the concerns can be addressed.
- That the Rotarians have been running the field house for several years and have built security into their field house which could be expanded to the facility across the street.

In response to questions the Manager, Planning, Research & Design noted that staff are trying to address the concerns of the residents concerning washrooms and noise. As part of the project a lighting system will be installed similar to that at Newton Athletic Park, which has different intensities for different levels of activity. The Manager, Planning, Research & Design continued:

- That the project started in 1996 as part of the Master Plan prepared for the South Surrey Athletic Park.
- That an extensive public process was undertaken at that time.
- That the running track was originally planned around the football field and required extensive clearing of buffers, which was not a suitable solution.
- That a number of meetings were again held in 2000, and based on these meetings the Parks, Recreation & Culture Commission approved in principle the South Surrey Athletic Park concept plan, which included the running track at the present location.
- That Council has approved funding and a public process was again initiated in September, 2004.

3. South Surrey Athletic Park – Running Track Location – Bayside Rugby

Peter Holt, of Bayside Rugby was present was present to put forward the views of Bayside Rugby on the

proposed location of the running track at South Surrey Athletic park.

Peter Holt, 13427 Marine Drive advised that he is also a member of the Outdoor Sport Advisory Committee. Mr. Holt continued:

- That the two rugby fields at the South Surrey Athletic Park are the best in Canada.
- That the Parks & Recreation staff have worked well with the sports and athletic communities to accommodate major and minor sports.
- That the Parks & Recreation staff have involved all sports, and worked through conflicts to come to the conclusion that the proposed location is the best one for the running track.
- That the area proposed for the running track has been underutilized for many years. That last weekend the Bayside Juniors held a major jamboree event with 600 people and there were no problems experienced with the washrooms.
- That soccer was also being played at the same time as the jamboree, and they agree that parking is an issue.
- That the impression the area is benign at the moment is wrong as it is very dark and secluded now, and subject to crime.
- That lighting and people being around the area would be an improvement.
- That the location could not be used for rugby as it is not big enough and trees would have to be lost.
- That like soccer, rugby has paid for maintenance and amenities to maintain the existing facility, and it would be a shame to lose that investment.
- That rugby has been part of the South Surrey Athletic Park since inception and activities at park are in direct proportion to the increase in population.

4. Cloverdale Community Football Association

Request from Yeera Sami, President, Cloverdale Community Football Association to appear as a delegation, concerning field allocation at Cloverdale.

The request for delegation from the Cloverdale Community Football Association was withdrawn and the matter has been resolved.

E. STAFF PRESENTATION

1. Connecting with Surrey's Culturally Diverse Community

The General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture provided a presentation on Connecting with Surrey's Culturally Diverse Community. The presentation included:

- That the population of Surrey is 395,000 and growing at 10,000 plus per year.
- That Surrey has high levels of immigration and a wide range of income levels.
- That the average age is 35.6 as compared with 38.4 in BC).
- That 37% of Surrey's population is visible minorities comprising the following:
 - 60% South Asian
 - 13% Chinese
 - 8% Filipino
 - 5% SE Asian and
 - 4% Korean
- That the 1995 Master Plan identified gaps in service and participation levels with limited contact or connection with ethno-cultural organizations.
- That a Task Force Report on Intercultural Inclusivity was struck and over a 20-month period included 79 community meetings, a public survey, focus groups with staff, and a multicultural mandate.
- That the Task Force was completed in January 1997 and recommended:

- More contact and communication with groups.
 - Staff diversity Training.
 - Print Communications and registration forms that addressed diversity.
 - Program diversity.
 - Development of diversity policies.
-
- That in response a staff team was created to implement the recommendations and the value of inclusivity was integrated into the strategic plan and values.
 - That the 2000 intercultural marketing plan builds on existing connections to the community, identifies implementation strategies, and is based on information from staff and diverse community stakeholders.
 - That the Plan identified barriers such as affordability, transportation and childcare needs.
 - That specific barriers included language, a perceived attitude of “lack of welcome”, limited space to hold diverse cultural events and specific needs for park amenities to meet diverse cultural needs.
 - That the Department has responded to the barriers by creating community connections and partnerships within the ethnic community and use of the ethnic media.
 - That some print material has been produced that is not time sensitive, which provides translation and directs individuals to translation resources, both internal and external.
 - That the winter guide includes welcome in different languages and directs individuals to where they can get a translation of the document.
 - That program development has a service delivery model that is decentralized by Town Centre, and which recognizes distinct cultural and economic differences.
 - Some key programs include pre-school ESL and ESL Parent and Tot at Bear Creek Park Pavilion and several schools, lifestyle programs for preschoolers and parents, open house programs with multi-language hosts.
 - That low-cost after school programs with multi-language help have been created for girls only, which gives them a chance to develop stronger self esteem, excel and plan their own activities.
 - That family-oriented low cost events provide entertainment from diverse cultures.
 - That Bridgeview School has a phonics first kindergarten readiness program that helps kids build skills for kindergarten.
 - That the 1999 Cultural Strategic Plan recognized the City's ethnic diversity as one of its greatest assets.
 - That cultural program examples include the Children's Festival and the Art Gallery circuit, which is available in English, Punjabi, Chinese, Spanish and French.

The General Manger continued by reviewing some of the culturally diverse programs and services and noted that the Art Gallery had received the BC Recreation and Parks Association award for program initiatives organized with the South Asian and First Nations communities. She also noted that the Surrey Delta Immigrant Services Society had awarded the Surrey Arts Centre the 2003 Cultural Diversity Award in the Business Corporate Category.

The General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture presented a short video, which presented feedback from multi-cultural users of Surrey facilities, and noted development of facilities such as kabaddi and cricket fields to recognize the unique sport and spectator needs of the multi-cultural community.

The Parks & Community Services Committee expressed congratulations to the Parks, Recreation & Culture Department for the culturally diverse programs and initiatives being undertaken to provide cultural diversity in the City of Surrey.

Trustee Glass acknowledged the wonderful contribution made by Councillor Steele to the Parks, Recreation & Culture Commission and the subsequent Parks & Community Services Committee and asked that this contribution be formally recognized.

Trustee Glass left the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. Proposed Workshop on Roles and Responsibilities of Parks & Community Services Committee

Inter-Office Memorandum from Chair, Parks and Community Services Committee suggesting an informal session

to review the Terms of Reference of the Committee, to be held 6:00 p.m. November 24, 2004.

The Committee agreed to hold a workshop on the 24th of November at the Occasions Meeting Room. The Chair encouraged all members to draw up ideas and comments for the workshop.

G. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

H. CORRESPONDENCE

I. INFORMATION ITEMS

J. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

N. Beuk mentioned the Let Me Sign show which would be held November 4 – 14 at the Surrey Arts Centre.

K. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parks & Community Services Committee is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. November 17, 2004.

L. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Councillor Higginbotham

Seconded by M. Martin

That the Parks and Community Services Committee meeting do now

adjourn.

Carried

The Parks and Community Services Committee adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Margaret Jones, City Clerk

Chairperson (Councillor Tymoschuk)