

City of Surrey

Council-in-Committee

Minutes

Council Chamber
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2003
Time: 5:30 p.m.



Present:

Chair: Councillor Bose
Mayor McCallum
Councillor Villeneuve
Councillor Tymoschuk
Councillor Steele
Councillor Priddy
Councillor Watts
Councillor Hunt
Councillor Higginbotham

Absent:

Staff Present:

City Manager
Acting City Clerk
General Manager, Planning & Development
City Solicitor
General Manager, Engineering
General Manager, Finance, Technology & HR

A. DELEGATIONS

- Tom Dunn**
Judy Williams
Paul Andreassen
The Federation of Canadian Naturists
File: 4020-20; 0550-20-10

Judy Williams, the Federation of Canadian Naturists, and Paul Andreassen, President, Skinnydippers Club, were in attendance regarding the cancellation of their use of the Newton Wave Pool.

Ms. Williams reported the following information:

- That after nine months of incident-free swims, it was puzzling to have the swims cancelled without recourse or chance for rebuttal.
- That this was a violation of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.
- That Parks, Recreation & Culture Commissioners and Councillors knew about the nude swims in off-hours.
- That the Federation of Canadian Naturists and the Skinnydippers Club (Club) are not here to question By-law No. 13480 or its intent, but its interpretation.
- That the Club has not knowingly broken a by-law.
- That the City Solicitor has misinterpreted the intent of the by-law.
- That "proper bathing attire" is not defined.
- That in Saline, Michigan, naturists successfully lobbied against a mayoralty-imposed nude swim ban.
- That there was no wording in the by-law specifically banning nudity in Surrey pools.
- That the organizers from the Club plan carefully to ensure comfort levels for both the textile public and for naturist/nudist patrons.
- That windows are covered with opaque paper or tarps; and a table placed at the entrance to ensure people don't wander in off the street.
- That persons are requested to pre-register to enable hiring the appropriate number of lifeguards in advance of nude swim events.
- That they wish to settle the problem without controversy and stand up to their ideals.
- That Surrey is a safe, family-oriented community, and the organization has tried to work with staff and Council.
- That the Club has steadfastly declined interviews.

It was

Moved by Councillor Watts

Seconded by Councillor Hunt
That the petition submitted by Ms. Williams be received.
Carried

- That 26 letters in favour of nudist swims at public swimming pools have been gathered.
- That nudist swim events are commonplace and other countries, such as Germany, have clothing optional swims.
- That children of naturists tend to have better self images than their textile counterparts.

A brief videotape was then viewed.

Mr. Andraesson then provided the following comments:

- That he wished to protest the unwarranted cancellation of their pool rental agreement with the Newton Wave Pool.
- That he was disappointed that the Parks, Recreation & Culture Commission did not accept their application to be heard.
- That Newton Wave pool staff wanted to rent the pool for private nude swim use.
- That the Newton Wave pool staff gave their assurance there would be no problem with the proposed use.
- That there have been accusations of violating Articles 42 and 43 of Surrey By-law No. 13480.
- That Article 43 states “No person shall dress or undress in or adjacent to any bathing beach or swimming pool except in places specifically provided for that purpose” and it was stated that the group does use the change rooms.
- That Article 42 states “No person shall enter or bathe in any water at any bathing beach or any swimming pool without being clothed in proper swimming attire”. Mr. Andraesson stated that the interpretation of this article was extremely narrow, bordering on discrimination and that “proper swimming attire” is not defined and should be included in the by-law.
- That the Oxford English dictionary defines proper as “suitable” or “appropriate”. He added that swimming costumes are appropriate for public swimming events but are not proper for nudist swimming events.
- That the allegations have never been tested in the proper forum, a court of law.
- That no by-law infraction tickets were ever issued, no convictions recorded and no fines paid.
- That the organization has held 9 successful swimming events at the Newton Wave pool bringing enjoyment, benefits, and revenues to Surrey.
- That it was requested that Council rescind the decision to cancel the nude swims made by Surrey staff and instruct them to continue these events to the mutual benefit of the Club and to Surrey.
- That the Mission statement of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Department says, in part: “We enhance the quality of life in our communities by working together to:
 - Provide and facilitate the development of high quality parks, facilities and services;
 - Celebrate diversity and community identify; and
 - Ensure accessibility and inclusivity.”

**2. Bruno Zappone, President
Friends of the Surrey Museum & Archives Society
File: 7851-01; 0550-20-10**

Jim King, Chair, Capital Campaign, Al Cleaver, Vice President, Bill Reid, Capital Campaign, and Bruno Zappone, President, Friends of the Surrey Museum & Archives Society, were in attendance to discuss fund raising efforts for Phase 1 of the Surrey Learning and Discovery Centre.

Mr. Jim King reported the following information:

- That the purpose of the Friends of the Surrey Museum & Archives Society is to:
 - support the mission and mandate of the Surrey Museum and the City of Surrey Archives;

- build public awareness of the Surrey Museum and Archives;
 - promote the programs and services of the Surrey Museum and Archives;
 - encourage endowments, gifts and raise funds to support the future growth and development of the Surrey Museum and Archives;
 - provide interested persons and organizations with opportunities to share in the development of the Surrey Museum and Archives; and
 - undertake such other activities and initiatives, which, from time to time, may be deemed appropriate.
- That the Society has been working for the last six months designing a campaign strategy and identifying potential donors.
 - That in order to improve the effectiveness and attractiveness of the campaign, they request that Council approve funds to match every dollar raised by the campaign.
 - That the Friends of the Surrey Museum and the City of Surrey Archives are optimistic that they can raise upwards of \$1 Million and request that Council consider matching up to \$250,000.
 - That it is requested that Council provide a new letter of support to be included in the sponsorship package.

B. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

C. CORPORATE REPORTS

D. DELEGATION REQUESTS

E. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

F. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

G. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Councillor Watts
Seconded by Councillor Hunt
That the Council-in-Committee meeting do now adjourn.
Carried

The Council-in-Committee adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

Chairperson