

**Present:**

Councillor Gill - Chair  
Mayor Watts  
Councillor Hayne  
Councillor Rasode  
Councillor Hunt  
Councillor Martin  
Councillor Steele  
Councillor Villeneuve

**Absent:**

Councillor Hepner

**Staff Present:**

City Clerk  
City Manager  
City Solicitor  
General Manager, Engineering  
General Manager, Finance & Technology  
General Manager, Human Resources  
General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture  
General Manager, Planning & Development

## A. PRESENTATION BY THE GENERAL MANAGER, FINANCE & TECHNOLOGY

The General Manager, Finance and Technology provided a presentation regarding the General Operating components of the 2014 Financial Plan. The Consolidated Financial Plan includes all City revenues and expenditures that are expected over the related five-year period are comprised of the following:

- **General Operating** - all City operations funded by property taxes, investment interest and general service fees and charges;
- **Utilities & Other Self-Funded Programs** - funded from specific fees and levies that support each of water, sewer, drainage, solid waste, roads and traffic, parking and district energy; and
- **Capital** - comprised of on-going capital requirements to maintain existing assets, and to construct new infrastructure such as the investments being made under the "Build Surrey Program".

All the expenditures made in 2012 have been published on the website and Surrey has the lowest per capita expenditures compared to other municipalities.

Staff noted that although Surrey has the lowest taxes in the region, the City has experienced tremendous growth. One of the recommendations in Corporate Report F039 - 2014 Five Year (2014-2018) Financial Plan – General Operating, is to create a Property Tax Review Task Force to review alternative property tax structures, redistribution of property tax revenues, enhance communication about the collection and use of property tax revenues by the City; and make potential revisions to what taxes are collected on behalf of other authorities and provide recommendations on the Provincial Homeowners Grant.

Staff noted that Council is required, by legislation, to adopt a Five-Year Financial Plan Bylaw on an annual basis. All expenditures made by the City require budget approval authority.

**B. PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

The following comments were received from members of the public:

1. D. Jack, President, Surrey Environmental Partners (SEP): SEP is a non-profit organization which serves as a umbrella organization for both Partner groups and individual Supporters concerned about the living natural environment;

The delegation made the following comments:

- SEP appreciates that the City of Surrey adding the two new positions of Natural Area Practitioners but requested the City of Surrey (CoS) to be proactive in responding to Federal Omnibus Bills C38 and C35 and must budget for two Environmental Coordinator positions to vet applications, to determine compliance and monitor actual compliance re: fisheries/riparian areas. Main issue has been advocacy of resources for care of natural areas;
- The delegation expressed concern regarding the lack available data relative to funding versus allocation in the City of Surrey's Natural Area Management Plan; the delegation noted that it had been made available to SEP in previous years and served as a useful measurement tool;
- SEP advocates that the CoS acquire three large living legacy parks and suggested Campbell Heights "Stokes Pit" be considered as one of the suggested legacy parks.
- The delegation requested the green infrastructure network be revisited and expanded upon; and that the City implement a levy for natural areas and noted that municipalities should be focussed on saving as much natural area as possible. Surrey should be the source of best practices and has to do much better;
- SEP requests the CoS to examine the tree retention policy and mitigate habitat biodiversity loss, suggested the tree preservation by-law be re-examined and that a progressively greater replacement ratio be implemented and language regarding significant trees be revisited;
- The delegation recommended that Surrey consider implementing a monitoring system for individuals authorized to give out tickets to individuals who are causing damage to natural areas and parklands.

Council noted that there will be a tax task force to review the comments raised at today's 2014 Five-Year Financial Plan discussion and in the future, Council hopes there will be an environmental levy put in place.

2. M. Bola, President, Cloverdale Community Association - 17286 - 64A Avenue: The delegation requested a pool and skating facility be placed in the neighbourhood of Cloverdale and noted that residents are concerned there are not enough amenities. Cloverdale has surpassed Fleetwood and Guildford in residential growth. The community's original push was for three sheets of ice and a 50 metre pool in Cloverdale, and were subsequently advised that there was a \$100 Million Dollar construction cost.

Mayor Watts shared that a 50-Metre pool is going in 5 minutes from Downtown Cloverdale in the area of Grandview Heights. The delegation noted that the majority of residents that would use this facility and the facilities in Fleetwood are from Clayton.

The delegation noted that the residents are happy with the Cloverdale Youth Park and are happy with the work done by staff in that regard.

Councillor Rasode asked the General Manager Planning to provide an overview of some of the changes regarding other community concerns that the Association had identified. Staff noted that there was a multi-partner approach in Cloverdale where staff worked with community policing, schools and residents, and the programming was increased in schools and at Clayton hall. Staff will continue to work with Clayton to developing program in the existing facilities. There has been a focussed and concentrated approach to address youth programming.

3. B. McDonald, Vice President, Newton Seniors Tennis Club: Noted there is no short term plan to resurface the tennis courts and requested that it be moved up from 2016 to 2014. Staff, in response noted that 2016 a full resurfacing of the courts is planned but staff are looking at work that can be done prior to 2016. The Chair requested a report be provided to the Parks Committee.
4. G. Zaklan re: Tennis Courts Newton Athletic Park: The delegation addressed the Tennis Courts at Newton Athletic Park and that it is rare (and appreciated) that user fees are not charged. The delegation noted that Surrey Council has done a great job of providing and maintaining parks for residents to enjoy. When the quality of Surrey's public transit matches the parks the City will truly be a utopia.
5. G. Rice, 10378 - 125A Street: The delegation was concerned with the Budget Meeting being held in the afternoon rather than the evening. The Chair, in response noted that the budget meeting was setup around ability of individuals to attend to make decisions regarding the budget. The deadline for feedback of December 9 was set to ensure that the plans are finalized and ready readings to go to Council for the new Fiscal Year.

The delegation expressed the following concerns: 1) debt load relative to internal finance and external borrowing; 2) movement from core services in relation to the SCDC; and, 3) the tax payers own a part of a brewery, the SCDC constructed a purpose built building through the SCDC and it is leased to a brewery. If the SCDC go out of business, taxpayers will be stuck with a brewery as that is what the building was constructed for.

The Chair clarified that the facility was purpose built with a long-term lease to accommodate the need that is currently there. With the building design, there is a level of change that can be implemented should a new tenant occupy the space. Mayor Watts further clarified that the City owns a building that is leased. The City of Surrey owns a building, not a brewery.

The delegation expressed concern regarding the Surrey Fraser Docks coal initiative and how it will impact the City of Surrey.

The delegation asked if the roll backs to the leisure access program are still in place. Staff, in response noted that the modifications to the leisure access program were introduced at the first of September; an update was provided during a Parks meeting last week and will be communicated to Council and will conduct another review in six months. The delegation asked that the role-backs be rescinded.

The City Manager, in response to a line item in the budget clarified it provides for minor capital improvements to the current building in order to facilitate the lease out. The delegation requested detail on this line item and what the capital improvements are. The City Manager noted one is a required repair to the sky-light in Civic Street.

The delegation spoke to the by-law enforcement staffing levels and asked that more be added and noted that the by-law department is understaffed on the weekend. The delegation further noted that building enforcement issues are problematic and enforcement falls through the cracks. More City of Surrey Building Inspector positions are required.

Council asked the Manager of Parks Recreation and Culture to provide detail regarding the leisure program adjustments made. Staff noted that the Leisure Access Program was reviewed and the goal was to make it sustainable in the future so that those in the highest need had access to the program. Minor changes were made to the application process. Children, youth and seniors, will still continue to receive free access to drop-in programs. Adults living below a certain income level would have an option of paying 25% of the drop in admission (75% discount) and it would still make it possible for adults to continue to participate. There was a \$200 limit for subsidized registered programming. It would allow opportunities for participation in the programming but keep it sustainable for children, seniors and youth and a nominal 25% contribution for adults who qualified and it continues to be the most generous program in the rest of the Lower Mainland

Councillor Villeneuve requested staff to provide detail on the "*My Neighbourhood, My Future Program*". Staff, noted that the program came about through positive partnerships with the United Way over the years. They wanted to create a specific program and select a neighbourhood that a difference could be made in so they







*and B* attached to Corporate Report Fo43 in accordance with the recommendations of the Surrey Foundation Grant Evaluation Committee.

Carried

**D. ADJOURNMENT**

It was

Moved by Councillor Hunt

Seconded by Councillor Hayne

That the Finance Committee meeting do

now adjourn.

Carried

The Finance Committee adjourned at 2:43 p.m.

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Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

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Councillor Gill, Chairperson