

Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee – Special Meeting Minutes

Present:

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

Absent:

S. Hundal

Also Present:

L. Cavan, General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture
O. Croy, Manager, Parks
J. Reston, Support Services Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture
G. Vandenbosch, Park Operations North Manager
H. Dmytriw, Legislative Service

School Board Trustee:

T. Allen

Extraordinary meeting for agenda items:

D. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS**1. North Surrey Community Park Pilot Project**

File No. 6140-20

Manager, Parks provided a review of the preparation work done by staff towards the pilot project of a community room at North Surrey Community Park:

- Entrance to parking lot is off 158B Street and 97A Avenue, near North Surrey School.
- The park has baseball diamonds, fields, parking and a detention pond with sides for storm water retention; the edge of pond, with berms, sits between the slope to the parking lot and the fields. Slope is downhill from upper field and downhill to the track.
- There is a basic standard concrete block washroom building for park users and track users. Washrooms are open whenever the fields are permitted for play; the permanent users, including the card playing seniors, have a key. Washrooms are locked if no users are there.
- Two options for locating the community room;
 - Away from the entrance to the sport fields, and
 - On the upper slope up from the parking lot.
- Residential dwellings are on 97A and 158B Street. Community neighbours wanted picnic tables removed. Seniors first requested shelters then later a building for shelter from inclement weather. Council approved funding as part of 2011 Capital Budget.
- An Open House was held; storyboard panels of pros and cons were shown. Following the first meeting, word got out regarding concerns. The results of the first community meeting were provided to the Committee in February 2011 after which Park Operations North Manager (Gerhard) and his staff personally spoke with each individual resident who had expressed concerns. Opposition grew.

- A second community meeting was held to find out a way of presenting the information that this is a "pilot project". The naysayers gained momentum at this meeting.
- Staff received a good deal of input. Staff felt that concerns could be mitigated. Committee referred to staff to explore other options, etc. Staff has done due process.
- Commenced with design work for a walled shelter.
- More seniors came forward and met with Councillors Martin and Gill, and with GM, Parks, Recreation and Culture.
- Concerns, such as unsightly appearance, vandalism, and graffiti potential, increased parking and traffic in the neighbourhood, access to the facility by community, cost of facility, cost of rentals, increased crime, etc. have all been addressed.

Committee members discussed the proposed design of the shelter and the effort and due diligence process done by staff.

- Statistics were requested for other park facilities with shelters.
- Site constraints, slopes of park and geography were discussed. Evaluation criteria for the success of the pilot project was listed.
- School District 36 has provided comments.
- This particular seniors group are very active walkers.
- Council has had a number of groups including seniors wanting to have opportunities at parks.
- Staff has been very creative in providing facilities at Unwin Park, Fleetwood Park and Chimney Heights.

The formal process needs to be clarified to ensure the message is gotten to the community that this project is a "pilot project". A formal process would be useful to assess and reassess what the community thinks. Staff have done due diligence and the design of the shelter is pleasing. In overcoming this challenge and once the pilot project is built and the community understands how successful this is, we would have more people supporting projects such as this in the future.

The design will be going for engineering review April 11, 2011. Allowing for the allowing for permit review and permit time, construction of the concrete pad, getting the shelter fabricated and installed, completion date is expected to be approximately June 9, 2011.

It was

Moved by T. Allen

Seconded by C. Annable

That the Parks, Recreation and Culture

recommend that there be a shelter installed on a pilot project basis at North Surrey Community Park at the recommended location adjacent to the parking lot and upwards slope to the fields.

Carried unanimously

Staff will report back with a letter to residents addressing their concerns, with an established 10 evaluation criteria, at the six months mark and again at the one year mark.

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Good Citizen Award
File No. 0350-01

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 29, 2011 for presentation at the Volunteer Recognition event in May 2011.

Website: <http://www.surrey.ca/city-government/8526.aspx>

F. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Culture is scheduled for April 20, 2011.

G. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by C. Annable
Seconded by R. Benson
That the Parks, Recreation and Culture

Committee do now adjourn.

Carried

The meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Certified as true and correct:

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Chairperson, Councillor Mary Martin
Parks & Community Services Committee