

Present:

Councillor Martin
R. Benson
C. Girardi
S. Hundal
G. Rai

Guests:

Rob Ell, Dinotown

Regrets:

C. Annable
J. Grewal
Councillor Gill

School Board Trustee:

T. Allen

Staff Present:

L. Cavan, General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture
O. Croy, Manager, Parks
B. Paterson, Park Development Services Manager
T. Uhrich, Parks Planning, Research and Design Manager
D. Vestergaard, Administrative Coordinator, Parks, Recreation & Culture
L. Anderson, Legislative Service

Vice Chair, G. Rai, assumed the position of Chair and called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was

Moved by T. Allen

Seconded by S. Hundal

That the minutes of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee of October 19, 2011, be adopted.

Carried

B. DELEGATION**C. REQUEST(S) FOR DELEGATION****D. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS****1. Kabaddi at Sullivan Heights Park**

File No. 6140-20/F

The memorandum, dated November 20, 2011, from the Manager of Parks, regarding the above subject line, was reviewed. It was recommended that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee support increasing the number of Kabaddi tournaments at Sullivan Heights Park to eight weekend days from the current six weekend days.

It was

Moved by S. Hundal

Seconded by C. Girardi

That the Parks, Recreation and Culture

Committee supports increasing the number of Kabaddi tournaments at Sullivan Heights Park to eight weekend days from the current six weekend days.

Carried

Recognizing that kabaddi is a growing sport, the opportunity for an additional location where more Kabaddi tournaments could be hosted, is being sought. One of the crucial and limiting factors is parking; it can be as much as \$1000 - \$1500 per stall to build a parking lot. The location at Sullivan Heights Park, and the overflow parking for the park, makes this a location that should be kept. However, there are other locations with a great deal of parking as well that will be considered first. A further report, following a full review by staff (locations, costs, etc.) will be provided to the Committee early in the new year.

The Committee was advised that Mr. Powar, General Secretary of the Western Kabaddi Players and Cultural Association of BC, will be made aware of the increase in the number of Kabaddi tournaments permitted at Sullivan Heights Park and the investigation for a future site.

Councillor Martin joined the meeting at 7:14 pm, G. Rai continued at Chair.

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Park Development Program

Bob Paterson, Park Development Services Manager, was in attendance to provide an update on the Park Development Program. A PowerPoint presentation, which provided photos of various parks and improvements made, was provided and comments were as follows:

- The opening of the second field hockey pitch at Tamanawis Park was held on October 1st. It is the only venue in Canada that has two fields together in one spot. There is a great expectation for tournaments and staff are working very actively with the groups facility management, etc. to build a field house, anticipated to be ready in June, 2012.
- Field 4 of the Newton Athletic Park, which was installed in the late 1990's, is the first field to have had a whole turf surface recycled and replaced (done in the fall). Crumb rubber that came from other fields was used as top rubber.
- Work has already been started on the Newton Athletic Cricket Pitches, with the N.E. corner portion being worked on through the winter and, dependent upon the on weather, work on the east field. Site preparation is complete, the two fields should be developed by mid summer, with the project being ready for access anticipated for Spring 2013.
- The opening of the new playground at Holland Park was very well received and well attended. The surface, made of recycled old tired, is amazing. It should be noted that The Knights of Columbus, when they dissolved their club, donated a significant amount of their remaining funds (approximately \$40,000) to develop this playground.
- A new playground has been installed at Blumsen Park (South Surrey), which includes climbing rocks to provide children with informal play opportunities.
- In response to the Committee's question of the cost of using recycled material to that of wood chips, it was noted that, although the product is really accessible and ultimately better in playgrounds, the cost is fairly significant with two to three times the cost, which is why staff continue to seek partnership opportunities

through Tire Stewardship BC, etc., in an effort to provide additional parks with this product.

- In keeping with an annual budget of approximately \$350,000, and the increased expense of playground equipment, an average of six playgrounds receive a major renovation each year to meet new CSA requirements and to replace worn-out equipment.
- The Chuck Bailey Youth Park has been very well received. With the skate park being accessible to the SkyTrain, it has really a meeting point for many. The introduction of public art works recycled into the landscape has also been very well received. The mosaics, which were removed from their previous location due to the library construction and transported to the site, were installed (and damages repaired) by the artist. The park has a really good function and the covered area is great. There have been some requests for increased lighting, but other than that, it has been a huge success of which staff are certain, based on the interest so far, will receive awards.
- The Newton Athletic Park grandstand at Kwantlen Field, which is the result of a significant partnership with Kwantlen, and as a result enabled the value added installation of a stadium like grandstand feature, has received tremendous support. This facility has a little higher lighting which makes it better for being televised in evening, etc., offers seating for 1200 spectators and also provides a storage facility for the Kwantlen program under the announcer's booth. Already a number of sports groups are vying for the availability.
- In response to the increased demand from the community for shelters, staff have designed (in-house) a covered unit, an example of which has been installed at Unwin Park. The desire is to move out the old units and replace with covered shelters and to include shelters in all parks. In some cases, such as North Surrey Community Park, the shelter will include heat and light, which is a good compromise in terms of having a building or not and still provides shelter and warmth for seniors. Although the later is a pilot project, if it is working well, then staff will continue to pursue additional opportunities for these types of shelters.
- One of the issues initially was the space at the bottom of the walls (done deliberately in order to blow leaves out and wash the shelter) which caused a draft around the feet and doors. More materials were added to meet the needs of the seniors. The level of use as well as vandalism is being monitored and will be reported back to the Committee next summer.
- In response to the question of materials used, it was noted that lexan polycarbonate glass, a durable product, was selected following a great deal of research and discussion as it will take the impact of a rock. The only drawback is that it can be scratched and certain types of sprays might make it haze.
- In Newton, two informal sand-based fields, a playground, washroom, park shelters and a paved path are being installed at T E Scott Park, to be completed in 2012. The idea is for an informal park, however it booking it may come in the future.
- As part of the process of building shelters for seniors, a field house at Unwin Park was renovated to provide a community room, which can also be used to book for other community groups. It is a room, an alternative of park shelters for cooler weather. The entire building is not the community room, the other side of the building provides change rooms, etc., for the park itself.
- The old washroom at Fleetwood Park was converted to the small Fleetwood Community Room, to provide park shelter. The opening was very well received by the community.

- The Surrey Nature Centre, formerly a seed storage facility which was converted to a nature centre to deliver programs out of there, has been undergoing extensive renovations since January 2011. The interior space has skylights cut into the roof and more light has been introduced with big windows and coloured glass. The idea is to create an airy spacious facility looking out to the nature of the trees. In support of that, the main desk was completely built from a tree sourced from the property. The building has a nice clean look on the outside too. It is anticipated that the Nature Centre will be fully operational early in the new year.
- Parks' staff have been working with the Engineering department landscaping traffic medians. There are more than two kilometers of landscaping, over three meters wide on 96 Avenue between 152 and 176 Streets. Additionally, renovations to the medians along King George Boulevard between 64 and 84 Avenues have also been done.
- At the south-westerly portion of Surrey, Kwomais Point Park is continuing to develop. The entrance plaza includes a mosaic public art feature and the completed lookout provides a beautiful view on a nice clear summer or winter day, where at times even whales have been seen.
- In response to the concern raised regarding the signage at [the park on 120 between 20 and 24 Avenues?], and the need for better lighting, it was reported that staff have been drafting up a new sign for that location to address the concern and to also acknowledge a number of facilities in the park.

2. Greenways Master Plan

Ted Urich, Parks Planning, Research and Design Manager, was in attendance to provide an update on the Greenways Master Plan, which is nearing completion, and to seek comments from the Committee. A PowerPoint providing a detailed overview was given and comments were as follows:

- There has been some confusion as to a greenway is. A paved multi-use pathway separated from motor vehicles for pedestrians, cyclists and other non-motorized users. Ideally, a greenway is a 4 M paved pathway in a separate, 'off-street', corridor that is at least 10m wide. Where it is not possible to provide a separate corridor, the greenway may be built adjacent to, but separated from, the roadway.
- Portland, Oregon has a great example of well implemented greenways, especially their rails to trails which travels for 50 miles into the suburbs, through many different neighbourhoods, natural areas, streams, etc., and is very highly utilized.
- Greenways DO matter. For Surrey, the Parks, Recreation and Culture Strategic Plan identified walking and cycling opportunities as one of the most requested outdoor facilities. They not only encourage physical fitness and healthy lifestyles, they encourage social interaction among community members and provide save and sustainable transportation alternatives.
- The purpose of the Greenways Plan is to provide a framework for the greenway implementation process, including public consultation, and to establish guidelines for greenway routing and design. It will also encourage the integration of greenway planning with land-use planning and establish actions for change that influence operational decision making in multiple departments.
- Public engagement was achieved by 'piggy-backing' on other public events throughout the city, which enabled increased awareness and provided greater feedback. In addition, an online survey was also posted on the City's website, with more than 300 surveys being completed between April 15th and June 30th.

- It is important to note the Greenways Plan will align with and support the City's OCP and Sustainability Charter as well as a number of other existing plans.
- Throughout the process a number of issues were identified pertaining to some of the barriers for use of the existing 74 km of greenways in Surrey. In particular: location (either no greenway nearby or a greenway that doesn't have a destination); too dark; doesn't feel safe; and poor signage, all of which have been addressed in the Greenways Plan.
- To recap, Surrey's greenways will provide opportunities for residents to live healthy, active and socially connected lives through a network of interconnected, multi-use pathways that provide safe and interesting routes to primary destinations, major parks and points of interest through the community. A real benefit to the city.
- Final revisions to the Plan will be completed in December, with a goal to putting forward to Council for consideration in January, 2012.

3. Dog Off Leash Area Strategy (2012 – 2021)

File No. 6140-20/D

The memorandum from the Manager Parks Planning, Research and Design, dated November 10, 2011, regarding the above subject line, was reviewed. It was recommended that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee:

1. Receive the report as information; and
2. Recommend to Council that the *Dog Off Leash Area Strategy (2012-2021)* be approved.

It was

Moved by Councillor Martin

Seconded by T. Allen

That the Parks, Recreation and Culture

Committee receive the report from the Manager Parks Planning, Research and Design, dated November 10, 2011, regarding the *Dog Off Leash Area Strategy (2012 – 2021)*, as information.

Carried

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

It was

Moved by Councillor Martin

Seconded by T. Allen

That the Parks, Recreation and Culture

Committee recommend that Council approve the *Dog Off Leash Area Strategy (2012-2021)*.

Carried

Comments were as follows:

- Looking at the map of off leash areas in South Surrey, and with Grandview growing in leaps and bounds, along with the percentage of dog owners increasing in that area, there doesn't appear to be any recommendations for other off leash parks in the Grandview Heights area. Are there any further dog off leash parks coming in the future to address the increased demand from that area?
- There are many requests received for that area. Looking at the existing and proposed parks, no suitable locations could be found at this time, however as we go

forward with development in that area, every effort will be made to look for opportunities. We have been working hard with land opportunities, not quite ready to put dots on a map yet, but there may be opportunities.

- It was noted that the telephone survey resulted in an equal number of those surveyed in favour and opposed for an increase in off leash dog parks. As such, it was queried as to why staff were still proposing such a significant increase of dog off leash parks.
- In response, staff reported that there are approximately 110,000 [??] in Surrey, and that within that there are approximately 75,000 owners of dogs (with more that are not registered). An increased demand in each of the current dog off leash parks was acknowledged and further verified when receiving the results of the telephone survey that 41% (which represents more than the number of dog owners in the city) were in support.
- It was further noted that dog off leash parks also create opportunity for socialization for dog owners and decrease the attendance of dogs in children's parks, both of which are added benefits.
- Staff feel that it is worthwhile to create the new dog off leash parks. Although the urgency may not be as pressing, an example was given of the current demand for lacrosse boxes, which also wouldn't be reflected as highly demanded in a random telephone survey. The phone survey provided staff with evidence that there is a need for dog off leash parks, which supports what was heard through the public open houses.
- There is a strategic plan that addresses the needs throughout the city, as such, decisions are not made based on a pole for or against an amenity, however staff try to balance the City's resources to satisfy the needs of the residents of Surrey.
- In a further response to the question of what about the equally significant 41% not in favour, it was noted that when drafting the Parks' Strategic Plan, a similar question was asked "what do you think we need more of" in a mail out and also through an on-line survey. 30% reported that more sports fields were needed, but that doesn't mean that the other 70% didn't want them. Staff look at results like these as the lens of a strategic plan.

4. Naming of the 61 I Tot Lot in Surrey

File No. 6140-20/S

The memorandum from the Manager, Park Operations South, dated November 17, 2011, regarding the above subject line, was reviewed. It was recommended that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee:

1. Receive this report as information; and
2. Recommend that Council adopt the name "*Summerwynd Park*" for the park currently labelled 61 I Tot Lot.

It was

Moved by Councillor Martin

Seconded by S. Hundal

That the Parks, Recreation and Culture

Committee receive the report from the Manager, Park Operations South, dated

November 17, 2011, entitled "Naming of the 61 I Tot Lot in Surrey", as information.

Carried

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

It was Moved by Councillor Martin
 Seconded by S. Hundal
 That the Parks, Recreation and Culture
 Committee recommend that Council adopt the name "*Summerwynd Park*" for the park
 currently labelled 61 I Tot Lot.

Carried

5. RFP for Seasonal Family Entertainment Programming at Bear Creek Park
 File No. 6140-20/B

The memorandum from the Manager of Parks, dated November 18, 2011, regarding the
 above subject line, was reviewed. It was recommended that the Parks, Recreation and
 Culture Committee:

1. Receive the report as information; and
2. Support a staff recommendation that the City conduct a Request for Proposals
 to explore Seasonal Family Entertainment programming at Bear Creek Park.

It was Moved by Councillor Martin
 Seconded by R. Benson
 That the Parks, Recreation and Culture

Committee:

1. Receive the report as information; and
2. Supports the staff recommendation that the City conduct a Request for
 Proposals to explore Seasonal Family Entertainment programming at Bear
 Creek Park.

Carried

Staff reported that one of the steps that will taken in this process is to have some
 consultations with public just to ensure there is community support with that amenity
 in that park in continuing to have it well utilized.

6. Newton Recreation Centre – Gymnasium and Randeep Sodhi Mat Room
 File No. 8000-01/N

The memorandum, dated November 18, 2011, from the General Manager, Parks,
 Recreation and Culture, regarding the above subject line, was reviewed. It was
 recommended that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee receive the report as
 information.

It was Moved by Councillor Martin
 Seconded by S. Hundal
 That the Parks, Recreation and Culture
 Committee receive the report, dated November 18, 2011 from the General Manager,
 Parks, Recreation and Culture, regarding the Newton Recreation Centre – Gymnasium
 and Randeep Sodhi Mat Room, as information.

Carried

7. Request for Rename Frank Hurt School Park

File No. 6140-20/F

The memorandum from the Manager of Parks, dated November 22, 2011, regarding the above subject line, was reviewed. It was recommended that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee:

1. Receive this report as information; and
2. Recommend that Council approve attaching Devon Allaire-Bell's name to a significant feature located in Frank Hurt School Park.

It was

Moved by Councillor Martin

Seconded by R. Benson

That the Parks, Recreation and Culture

Committee receive the report from the Manager of Parks, dated November 22, 2011, regarding the request for rename Frank Hurt School Park, as information.

Carried**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

It was

Moved by Councillor Martin

Seconded by R. Benson

That the Parks, Recreation and Culture

Committee recommend that Council approve attaching Devon Allaire-Bell's name to a significant feature located in Frank Hurt School Park.

Carried**F. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL****G. CORRESPONDENCE****1. Proposed 2012 Meeting Dates**

File No. 0540-20

The memorandum from the City Clerk, dated November 23, 2011, regarding the proposed 2012 Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee meeting dates, was reviewed.

It was

Moved by Councillor Martin

Seconded by C. Girardi

That the proposed Parks, Recreation & Culture

Committee meeting schedule for 2012, be approved.

Carried

It was noted that the regularly scheduled meeting date for March will fall during the Spring Break. As such, it was agreed that the meeting date for March, 2012, will be determined closed to that date, at the call of the Chair.

H. INFORMATION ITEMS

I. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Calendar of Events

File No. 7800-01

2. Verbal Update

The General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture provided an overview as follows:

Surrey Urban Screen – New Exhibition – “Rewrite the Year”

From December 2, 2011 to January 15, 2012, Surrey Art Gallery presents at Surrey Urban Screen, as part one of the Electric Speed presentation, “*Rewrite the Year*”.

For “*Rewrite the Year*”, two artists have designed a system that invites people to use text messaging to rewrite headlines one word at a time - sometimes comical, sometimes serious, sometimes dark and sometimes visionary. These contributions will create new headlines that are as varied as the people who participate in the project.

Headlines used for this project are drawn from five sources including local and international newspapers such as the Surrey Now, the Vancouver Sun, the Globe and Mail, the New York Times and the Guardian. Citizens will have the opportunity to rewrite history, deciding how it should be told and how it can be transformed into a hopeful message for the future.

Surrey Arts Centre Celebrates the Holidays!

Seasonal celebrations are underway at the Surrey Arts Centre theatres:

- The Fraser Valley Gilbert and Sullivan Society’s currently presenting “*Beauty and the Beast*”, until December 4th.
- On December 5th, “*Blues for the Bank*”, is a community fundraiser for the Surrey Food Bank.
- The Vancouver Welsh Men’s Choir has a sold out performance on December 6th.
- A family favourite, the “*Nutcracker*” presented by the Royal City Youth Ballet, runs from December 9th – 11th.
- The Royal Canadian Theatre Company presents a traditional Christmas pantomime version of the “*Sword in the Stone*” from December 15th – December 31st.

2012 BC Summer Games

The City of Surrey 2012 BC Summer Games Key Volunteer Kickoff Reception was held Monday, November 21st at City Hall. The reception was an opportunity for the key volunteers for Surrey’s BC Summer Games to meet and get to know each other in an enjoyable, social environment.

Wind Storms

Two storms with high winds swept through Surrey in the last two weeks, causing considerable damage to City-owned trees. 60 street trees failed during the storms; as the City has over 65,000 trees, this represents only a very small percentage impacted. Staff responded in a timely manner.

Surrey Sport and Leisure Complex

Renovations to the change rooms at the Surrey Sport and Leisure Complex are now complete and have been reopened to the public.

RFP

The Request for Proposals for the new Guildford and Grandview Heights pools went out last week. City staff will now go through the process of selecting architects to undertake these major projects.

Tree Lighting Ceremony

An extended tree lighting ceremony is taking place on Saturday, December 3rd at Central City Plaza from 2:00 -9:00 pm, with the ceremony taking place at 5:00 pm. The Grey Cup will also be at the plaza with opportunities to be photographed with the Cup.

The Committee commented on the magnificent display of lights already installed along King George Boulevard, for which staff acknowledged that there has been a significant undertaking to ensure there are lights in each of the town centres, along with a key tree lighting.

H. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Signage – South Surrey

An update on signage for South Surrey was requested. Staff reported that design is taking place, with a look to implementation early in the new year.

I. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee is scheduled for January 18, 2012.

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

meeting do now adjourn.

Moved by T. Allen
Seconded by R. Benson
That the Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee

Carried

The Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Certified as true and correct:

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Gurpreet Rai, Chairperson
Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee