Parks, Recreation & Sport Tourism Committee - Minutes

Parks’ Boardroom #1
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
Wednesday, February 15, 2012
Time: 7:00 p.m.
File: 0540-20

Present:
Chairperson: Councillor Hepner
Councillor Gill
C. Annable
R. Benson
B. Burnside
R. Gorman
S. Hundal
G. Rai

Absent:
T. Allen, School Board Trustee

Also Present:
L. Cavan, General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture
O. Croy, Manager, Parks
H. Norris, Manager, Athletic Field Operations
L. White, Manager, Community & Recreation Services
J. Thibaudeau, CRS Operations Support Manager
D. Vestergaard, Administrative Coordinator, Parks, Recreation & Culture
L. Anderson, Legislative Services

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was moved by S. Hundal, seconded by C. Annable, that the minutes of the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee of January 18, 2012, be adopted. Carried

B. DELEGATION

1. Michael Fox, Sport Tourism Manager

L. Cavan, G.M. Parks, Recreation and Culture, formally introduced Michael Fox, Sport Tourism Manager, and provided a brief background of his extensive experience.

Mr. Fox commented as follows:

- Recently met with staff to institute a branding initiative to put tourism forward; solicited ideas / logos in support of the Sport Surrey Initiative.

- The intent of the Initiative is to help promote local, provincial, national and international federations to utilize facilities/opportunities available in Surrey; will also work to continue developing relationships with grass roots clubs.

- Currently working in partnership with Kwantlen Polytechnic University regarding a bid for the 2013 Women’s College Soccer Championship. The bid will be done through an RFP, hoping to obtain use of the Newton Athletic Club; bid applications are due by end of May.

- Other major sporting events targeted with Surrey as a host City include:
  o High School Provincial Championship Floor Hockey
• 46th Canadian Postal Employees Curling Classic in Cloverdale (April). The event includes 150 curlers from across the country.
• National Cycling Championships (Cycling BC)

• Other sports that could be of consideration include: soccer, cricket and field hockey.

• To facilitate future events and make Surrey more attractive to major tournaments we have talked about new facilities coming forward for Surrey.

• The bid process will be tracked / monitored through Tourism Surrey. A link will be placed on the website for Tourism Sports Surrey to achieve measurable information with will be shared with staff.

• In addition, a “legacies report” will be generated over time (and shared with the Committee) that will provide some context as to where there may be any weak areas that need to be supported.

• Currently Mike can be reached at: mrfox@telus.net, a new e-mail will be provided at a future date.

2. **Rick Duchense, President, Semiahmoo Minor Ball Hockey Association**

Rick Duchense, President, and Gagan Dhillon, Vice President, Semiahmoo Minor Ball Hockey Association, were in attendance to provide a business proposal and demographic outline for a designated outdoor ball hockey facility. Their comments were as follows:

• The Semiahmoo Minor Ball Hockey Association was formed last year with a membership of 140. The club is very popular and has grown to over 240 members in a very short period of time.

• Facilities to accommodate the sport are very limited. With only one arena, Centennial Arena in the City of White Rock, that offers dry floor time for the sport. Unfortunately, South Surrey does not have any attainable dry floor time.

• As a remedy to the lack of available floor time, the executive summary (provided on-table to the Committee) was written for review / consideration by the Committee. It proposes a new facility to be built in South Surrey to encompass ball, roller hockey and lacrosse.

• Designated usage for the proposed facility would be from the spring until the fall for outdoor use (April to end of October). Associated hard costs for the proposed facility provided by the delegation was approximately $199,500, which include the civil work and retainer wall that needs to be in place to accommodate the components of the arena, are based on similar costs provided from Cascadia Sports Systems Inc. (Port Moody), which facilitates arenas and gymnasiums for amateur sports.

• A suggested site for the proposed 80’ x 180’ size facility is located by the Surrey Athletic Park, right off 148 Street (beside the baseball diamond). It appears to be an overflow parking lot that doesn’t get utilized and is already level and cleared. The other site is further west, a skate board park that has some barren land there as well.
• Sports facilities have largely been compartmentalized within certain areas of the Surrey. The sport of ball hockey is growing rapidly, as is the population in South Surrey, a facility in South Surrey to support the sport of ball hockey is respectfully requested.

Staff reported that the dry (no ice) floor facilities available in Newton at Unwin Park (2 boxes/courts) and Royal Kwantlen Park (1 box/court) and Cloverdale at the Cloverdale Athletic Park (1 box/court), are booked to capacity primarily by the 800+ players of the Surrey Minor Ball Hockey Club as well as lacrosse teams. However, Holly Park is only booked two hours per week and has availability.

Director Annable remarked that the parking lot west of Softball City is the designated parking area for users of the artificial turf fields, and as such is at capacity much of the time; therefore, this would not be an appropriate location for the ball hockey venue.

The delegation was asked to provide clarification regarding their relationship with the Surrey Minor Ball Hockey League. The delegation clarified that they are working with the West Coast Minor Ball Hockey Association of BC (WCBH); the delegation indicated that the WCBH constitution does not define the boundaries for the Leagues and that the focus for most parents and kids is convenience.

The Chair thanked the delegation for their presentation and noted staff will review and provide a report back to the Committee regarding the feasibility of the proposal.

C. REQUEST(S) FOR DELEGATION

D. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. 2012-2013 Registered Program Fees and Charges

File: 1810-01

The memorandum, dated February 6, 2012, from the General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture, regarding the above subject line, was reviewed. It was recommended that the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee recommend to Council:

1. A general 4.4% increase to the 2012/2013 Parks, Recreation & Culture registered program rates;

2. A 0% increase on Before and After Care Programs and Pre-Teen and Youth Dances;

3. That this report be attached to the minutes of the Parks, Recreation & Sport Tourism Committee for Council’s reference when they approve the recommendations; and
4. That the 2012/2013 Fees and Charges Schedule attached as Appendix 1 be adopted and added to the Surrey Parks, Recreation and Culture Fee-Setting Bylaw.

Discussion ensued as follows:

- Staff reported at the last meeting, a proposal was brought forward regarding fees and charges, at which time a 3% increase was requested.
- After further analysis, it was determined some operating costs were higher than anticipated and that 3% would not be sufficient to meet budget requirements. As a result, a further increase to 4.4% (instead of 3%) will be required to account for items such as instruction and program materials.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

It was Moved by R. Benson
Seconded by C. Annable
That the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee recommend that Council support:

1. A general 4.4% increase to the 2012/2013 Parks, Recreation & Culture registered program rates;
2. A 0% increase on Before and After Care Programs and Pre-Teen and Youth Dances;
3. That this report be attached to the minutes of the Parks, Recreation & Sport Tourism Committee for Council’s reference when they approve the recommendations; and
4. That the 2012/2013 Fees and Charges Schedule attached as Appendix 1 be adopted and added to the Surrey Parks, Recreation and Culture Fee-Setting Bylaw.

**Carried**

2. **2011 Grants & Sponsorship & Revenue Enhancements**

File: 0811-02

The memorandum, dated February 3, 2012, from the General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture, regarding the above subject line, was reviewed. It was recommended that the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee receive the report as information.

It was Moved by R. Benson
Seconded by B. Burnside
That the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee receive the report from the General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture, dated February 3, 2012, entitled “2011 Grants & Sponsorship & Revenue Enhancements”, as information.

**Carried**
Staff will verify the dollar amount listed on the spreadsheet regarding Grants & Sponsorship Enhancements (page 29 of the agenda package) and will report the correct figure at the next meeting.


File: 6140-20

The memorandum from the General Manager, Parks Recreation and Culture, dated February 6, 2012, regarding the above subject line, was reviewed. It was recommended that the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee:

1. Receive this memorandum as information;
2. Support the development of an Artificial Turf Field in 2013 at South Surrey Athletic Park; and

It was Moved by Councillor Gill

Seconded by S. Hundal

That the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee:

1. Receive this memorandum as information;
2. Support the development of an Artificial Turf Field in 2013 at South Surrey Athletic Park; and

Carried

Comments were as follows:

- In response to a comment regarding the parking situation in front of the ball diamonds, Staff reported the master plan for the park adopted shows potential parking expansion to the north of the area; the standing trees have root rot and are not particularly healthy. Staff clarified the three options proposed would be carefully worked through with the community and with park stakeholders.

- The biggest stress on athletic field use in Surrey is soccer due to massive growth of the population. In this case staff are looking at the demographic of soccer driving the need for initial spaces.

- The Committee asked staff, within the context of the existing facilities and future sport tourism, to also provide consideration for long term options, i.e., 5, 10, 20 years down the road and whether the site would be able to facilitate another field (e.g. Tamanawis Park) and if that could be included in a master plan given.
4.  **Beer Gardens License Days**

File: 0360-20

It is recommended that the Parks, Recreation & Sport Tourism Committee recommend that Council approve:

1. The 37 beer garden days in the City of Surrey, as outlined in the memorandum; and
2. That all organizations receiving approval for beer gardens provide details of which charitable organization or community project will receive proceeds from their event.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

It was Moved by S. Hundal
Seconded by G. Rai
That the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee recommend that Council approve:

1. The 37 beer garden days in the City of Surrey, as outlined in the memorandum from the City Clerk, dated February 10, 2012, and attached hereto as Appendix II; and
2. That all organizations receiving approval for beer gardens provide details of which charitable organization or community project will receive proceeds from their event.

Carried

Comments were as follows:

- Staff noted that all the organizations that apply for a beer garden license are given clear instructions of the specific requirements as part of granting the license i.e., they must attend the workshop and provide the necessary financial information.

5. **Intergovernmental Committee Request**

In mid 2010 a series of papers were developed for the purpose of building awareness of Surrey’s funding and/or policy change requirements with the provincial and federal levels of government. These papers were reviewed with local MLAs and MPs in July and August 2010 and were used to frame subsequent discussions.

The Intergovernmental Committee has requested the issue papers be reviewed and refreshed. In addition, new funding and/or policy requirements should be identified at this time. The Intergovernmental Committee will review the list of items, build a model to support the requests, and will develop a coordinated approach to engage elected officials and staff with the other orders of government.

The list of identified issues was provided for review by the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee and it was requested that any comments and/or
additional issues not yet identified be considered and submitted to the Intergovernmental Committee as early as possible.

The Committee commented as follows:

- Surrey is moving forward with the construction of two pools, we should leverage those pools for regional/national/international events (competition size).

- Thought should be given to how Surrey can crown different areas of the city, i.e., South Surrey has Softball City, Newton has Soccer City, all our facilities should be marketed as destination sport opportunities at the various areas throughout the city.

- In order to support these initiatives, charge out fees should be reviewed in the context of boosting economy. The City could start developing policy, to be able to substantiate what is being done at each facility, the rationale and how those elements can be mitigated, i.e., variable costs for improvements could be included as an element of our sport tourism plan.

Staff reported they will go through the Build Surrey program, review all facilities and assess for opportunities of what could be done at each facility if more resources / funding was allocated (e.g. seating, etc.), particularly what could be done to take Surrey facilities to the next level. A report will be prepared for Committee review and recommendation.

The agenda was varied to add the following item received on table:

6. Soccer Club Proposal to Install Used Artificial Turf at HT Thrift All Weather Gravel Field
   File: 6140-20/HT

The memorandum received on-table, dated February 15, 2012, from the Manager, Athletic Field Operations, regarding the above subject line, was reviewed. It was recommended that the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee receive the report as information.

It was Moved by Councillor Gill
Seconded by R. Gorman
That the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee receive the report from the Manager, Athletic Field Operations, dated February 15, 2012, entitled “Soccer Club Proposal to Install Used Artificial Turf at HT Thrift All Weather Gravel Field”, as information.

Carried
It was moved by Councillor Gill, seconded by R. Gorman, that the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee request that staff report back to the Committee on the long-term plans for all-weather gravel fields including usage, cost to clubs and ability to convert to artificial turf fields. The Committee also requests an ongoing update on the discussions regarding HT Thrift potential conversion from gravel to artificial turf.

Carried

Comments were as follows:

- Staff provided the Committee with a background to the used artificial turf indoor field material, that can be utilized outside, and the proposal received from the Peace Arch and Semiahmoo Soccer to install the artificial turf at the H. T. Thrift all-weather Gravel Field.

- The cost for the proposed product would be $75,000 and would require civil work in terms of crowning the field and addressing perimeter drainage. Staff further noted, the club has offered to pay for the material and the civil work required however, staff would like to conduct more analysis and approach the School District.

- The soccer club has already taken the initiative to meet with the Maintenance Manager of School District 36. If this request were to go forward, there would need to be a formalized application, with support from the City of Surrey to gain the School District’s full support.

- The H. T. Thrift field was selected because it is located in close proximity to the South Surrey Athletic Field however, if more turf was made available for re-use, the soccer club would be open to entertaining another suitable location.

- Staff clarified there are limitations surrounding playability on the H. T. Thrift field and that it will not be playable during rain events because the field will saturate. Merits of the H. T. Thrift field include parking, change rooms and having multiple fields together in one area.

- This group is very excited to have a practice facility and have visited the site where the turf is stored. They find the turf is acceptable and recognize that they won’t be using the field for games.

- As part of the assessment process, staff will conduct an initial analysis which will include a review of the projected lifespan of the field. Staff clarified that the civil work that will be required (if the proposal is approved) will not be to the same level as would be expected at other fields. The report would include contingency plans outlining what could happen five and 10 years if the turf starts to fail, i.e., get removed and returned to gravel, etc.

- Staff provided an overview of the materials noting the turf is what is called a 'slit technology' comprised of sand and rubber; not state of the art materials, however there are no problems with toxicity. The tray technology is still used; they just use a different material; it has rigid edges to tray and will needs some fill material to make sure it is safe. Staff commented there were some modest...
issues with a bit of rot on some tree; such issues will be taken into account when staff do the analysis.

F. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

G. CORRESPONDENCE

H. INFORMATION ITEMS

I. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Verbal Update

L. Cavan, GM, Parks, Recreation and Culture, provided the following update:

- **Partnership with Westminster Savings** - We are pleased to announce our new partnership with Westminster Savings who will be sponsoring *1 Free Swim per Month per Pool*. Westminster Savings will pay us a partnership fee of $25,000.

- **Guildford Recreation Centre Aquatic Expansion Open House** - The first public open house for the new pool that will be constructed at the Guildford Recreation Centre will be held on Thursday, February 23rd from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. The Open House will take place at the Guildford Recreation Centre. This will be an opportunity for the community to provide input on the upcoming aquatic expansion. City of Surrey staff and the Principal Architect will be on hand to receive community input. Information received will assist in the final design and in the development of aquatic programs and services in the facility.

- **Battle Back/Soldier On Event** - The *Battle Back and Soldier On* event was a great success on January 30th at Surrey Sport and Leisure Complex. The event featured injured soldiers from Great Britain (Battle Back program) and Canada (Soldier On program) participating in the sport of sledge. This received great media coverage.

- **Age Friendly BC Grants** - Surrey is one of 52 BC communities receiving an Age Friendly Grant. One element of Age-friendly BC is a partnership between the Province and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM), to provide grants of up to $20,000 to local governments through UBCM’s age-friendly planning and project grant program to help establish or continue a variety of projects, from improved transportation options for seniors to community gardens.

- **Chuck Bailey Expansion Opening** - There will be an official opening ceremony for the Chuck Bailey Recreation Centre expansion on Thursday, February 16th at 1:30 p.m. The second story expansion provides open concept rooms that host programs, a computer lab, a billiards room and a lounge with
an outside patio. This is to relocate the programs previously offered at the Sunrise Pavilion.

- **Sport, Art, Culture & Harmony Centre** - An Open House will be taking place on Tuesday, February 28th at Kwantlen Polytechnic University from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. This will be to provide the community with site alternatives for the proposed centre.

2. **Upcoming Events**

A copy of the webpage noting the upcoming Parks, Recreation and Culture events for February and March, 2012, was reviewed.

3. **Additional Items**

(a) **KidSport Surrey – White Rock**

- C. Annable reported that he is involved with Kidsport Surrey/White Rock and was surprised there were 86 applications received which equates to approximately $70,000 for fees for kids to register.

The KidSport program promotes that no kid should be left on the sidelines and all should be given the opportunity to experience the positive benefits of organized sports. The program provides support to children in order to remove financial barriers that prevent them from playing organized sport.

2. **Dog Off-Leash - Feces Management Best Practices**

- At the request of the Committee, staff conducted research on sourcing a technology which combines dog licensing with DNA. The technology allows DNA tracking of dog feces, which would enable the ability to directly fine owners for irresponsible behaviour if feces from their pet were recovered in a public area.

- Staff identified one location using such technology; however, the users were located in a private residential gated community in the United States. When new residents with pets moved in, the owners were required to provide a sample of their pet’s DNA for the registry and the property management company would track it.

- The context of the application is a very small in scale within a privately managed condo environment. Staff were unable to find data of a similar operation applied to a public amenity or in any city in North America.

- The challenge in the City of Surrey is that there are an estimated 127,000 dogs; therefore, to match that level of detail and connect to dog licenses to collected DNA would be a fairly significant undertaking. It should also be noted that it is estimated that only 20% of dog owners currently purchase a dog licence.

- Staff will work closely with By-law Enforcement Officers regarding control of dog off leash issues and dog waste. A report will come back to the Committee regarding additional strategies.
J. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting of Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee is scheduled for March 21, 2012.

K. ADJOURNMENT

It was Moved by R. Benson
Seconded by B. Burnside
That the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee do now adjourn.

Carried

The Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk
Councillor Hepner, Chair
Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee