

Present:

Councillor Gill
C. Annable
R. Benson
B. Burnside
R. Gorman
S. Hundal
T. Allen, School Board Trustee

Regrets:

Chairperson: Councillor Hepner
G. Rai

Also Present:

L. Cavan, General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture
O. Croy, Manager, Parks
L. White, Manager, Community & Recreation Services
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
and Sport Tourism Committee of February 15, 2012, be adopted. That the minutes of the Parks, Recreation
Carried

B. DELEGATION**1. Janice Birch, Bev Boys, Aart Looye, Mark Schuett and Brittany Reimer - Concerned Surrey Aquatic Users**

Janice Birch, Bev Boys, Aart Looye, Mark Schuett and Brittany Reimer, were in attendance, representing aquatic users across all aquatic sports and the individuals that will use the pool, to speak to the two new pools being constructed under the Build Surrey Program. In particular, the anticipated development of the Grandview Aquatic Centre and the need for diving, synchronized swimming, water polo and open water facilities. Comments were as follows:

- Regardless of whether competing or performing, a practice location is needed, and the place that you practice should also be a place that you can compete at as well.
- Depending on how the pool is organized will depend on the events that can take place and whether or not one can perform and compete there as well.

Images of Calgary's Talisman Centre, including a deep dive tank, spring boards, a 50m pool with bulkhead in the middle and swimming lanes, a leisure pool and an audience spectator area, were shown, noting that it can host world level events.

Images of Kinsmen Pool, in Edmonton, were also shown noting the aquatic area with four tanks and an outdoor pool, also provides the opportunity to host international events as well as full time use by the community as well.

Comments continued:

- Both the Talisman and the Kinsmen pools go back to the 1970's, and is exactly what we need in Surrey in order to enable sport tourism to flourish.
- Sport tourism is big business; the impact of World Master Games and what it does for the city that host such events is phenomenal. If the proper pool is built in Grandview Heights there is potential to have one or two more hotels there too; at this point the area could not handle triple A events without additional accommodation facilities.
- In the City of Nanaimo, summer swimming generates tremendous revenue to the community. Nanaimo estimated that 1,500 swimmers, together 4-5000 parents and visitors, generated \$3m to the City. However, such benefits cannot occur unless there is the facility to host the events.
- A multipurpose deepwater tank is needed to serve as an event destination location.
- An organization of group of committed people to host and run events is also essential.
- If the City only builds a 50m pool, the key element in any sport tourism partnerships will be missing.
- The current plans won't even get a competition such as the Provincials there.
- The kind of programming that happens at the municipal level is very important, as community sport lasts a lifetime.

Brittany Reimer, who competed in the 2004 Olympics in Athens, expressed support for what the delegation was requesting for the Grandview pool in terms of pool and size of facility. Ms. Reamer noted she had to leave Surrey, while in Grade 12, to pursue her career and achieve the type of support she needed in terms of facilities elsewhere.

Ms. Reimer further noted that once Surrey has the facilities, everything else will follow. The facilities would be utilized by those up and coming in the sport, whether provincial, national or international, and would provide the opportunity for local athletes to receive community support, which is invaluable to a developing athlete.

Comments continued:

- There are coaches who have spent several years trying to get a program going in Surrey. The City should support children and their families who are committed to getting them to that level.
- Our goal is to express very clearly that we are advocating for a reallocation of funds for an additional 25m deep tank. If Mayor Watts and Council have a vision of operating at a world class level, please slow down and listen carefully. Although there may be challenges, please do not let them get in the way of building for the future, not just the present.
- Our request is that a special interest group be convened so that we, who have invested our time, can see the opportunity for those grants to go forward, and put in writing, would change based on bringing different people into those groups. We want to make sure the people who have the right connections could ensure that the right funding can come.

- If we want sport tourism, we need one pool that can bring in and host high level competitions. Building three pools and saying it is phase 2 or 3 or 4, will not accomplish much and/or meet all needs.

The Committee's comments were as follows:

- The Committee does realize the importance of having the pool facilities in the city, as we are the only municipality in BC working on a parallel basis to incorporate two pools. We are also aware that the Grandview Heights pool has a second phase to it and that there will be land to expand to.
- On these two initiatives, the City is doing both of these with our own resources. Those you have shown and have noted have had other funding. That said, if you (the delegation) have any significant connections that would allow the City to receive further funding, it perhaps would change the direction in which the City is going. However, at this point it is the City that is making significant major investments.
- It should be noted that the pool in Guildford was the pool that was prioritized.
- The City is trying to accommodate the needs of all the individuals in Surrey; they are all deserving.

Mr. Looye thanked the Committee for receiving their delegation and, in closing, suggested that Guildford pool be built as a 25m pool in order that there be extra funding to build a world class facility at the Grandview site.

The Chair thanked the delegation for their presentation and noted staff will review the information and report back to the Committee.

2. **Jim Taylor, Petition Representative**

Jim Taylor, petition representative for the petition in support of allowing limited access by local residents to use the South Meridian lower grass playing field for off-leash dog exercise and socialization, was in attendance to speak to the petition request. Comments were as follows:

- We are here on behalf of the 300+ residents (70% of the residents in the area) to request approval for limited off-leash dog privileges at the South Meridian lower grass playing field.
- We are happy to see the City is supportive of increased off-leash locations, and have reviewed the report in detail and believe the proposal we are presenting is in line with the City's strategy.
- We believe that the make up and culture of each neighbourhood is diverse and different which is why we believe one plan doesn't cover all areas, as the report basically addresses the six city centre areas.
- What we are requesting would not incur additional cost. There are already two waste bins on each end of the field, so perhaps another two additional bins for the two sides of the field would be sufficient.
- The lower playing field is seldom used, as the families represented here have been going to that park regularly for the last couple of years, and have noted that it is used, at best, 15% of the time.

- There are 400 households in the area, 100 of which are dog owners. Having said that, there are never more than 15 animals at a particular time at the field. The residents that pledged the report are diligent about protecting our dogs and parks. We pick up glass and do maintenance work voluntarily. It is our park and community. It fosters a close knit community.
- Most importantly the park is close and within walking distance. To drive twice a day, 10 miles a day, to exercise the dogs creates wear and tear on the roads, gas, emissions, etc.
- We want to work with staff and come up with something that is achievable. As a minor spinoff we think the City should be able to receive additional revenue from the issuance of dog licenses. For example, if the dog license were able to have limited access to parks, that could be something that would allow them that privilege and would encourage more licensing of dogs.
- We believe we represent our local community. Nearly 70% of our neighbourhood signed the petition, 50% of which are dog owners and another 50% that are non-dog owners and support us.
- We have stated specifically that school and sporting events would always take precedence over use by dogs.
- Basically the concern is when we raise the issue and people say we have complaints, when we ask how many and what they are, all we get is “well there have been several”. In our view if we have 70% of support from the local area that support it, the majority should have the say.
- We would like to know what the complaints are. We have not seen one complaint in the couple of years that we have been going there every day. We are diligent about the waste issue. The issue is we would like to find out and work with Bylaw staff to address the complaints.
- Our petition represents 312 complaints to the City for not allowing us to utilize the green space in a common sense manner. The petition reads:

“PETITION IN SUPPORT OF allowing *limited access by local residents to use the South Meridian lower grass playing field for off-leash dog exercise and socialization between the hours of 7 am and 10 am and 5 pm to 10 pm each day. The exception would be if there are conflicts with other sporting activities in which case the sporting activity always takes precedence as is the case today.* Owners must:

 - pick up and safely dispose of all dog waste deposited in the park by their dogs
 - not allow dogs to dig in any area of the grounds
 - ensure that aggressive behaviour by their dogs will not be tolerated.”
- One caveat on the petition is that there were residents that expressed concern about the morning time because of their children going to school. We would like to amend and scale back from 8:30 am to 10:30 am and 5 pm to 10 pm.
- We think what we are proposing is an option to work with the Committee and City staff on a pilot project to see how in fact a neighbourhood park can meet all the users needs.
- Would like to see how we can work this in to your overall strategy, don't need fencing, special materials, shelters, etc. It is just to utilize the existing green space you have which could include a one year open trial period.

The Committee's comments/questions were as follows:

- Have you thought about a process of how you would control/police who could actually use the park? If I drive to your park, are you going to stop me from using it?
 - *We would like to work with Bylaw staff to look at those that bring their cars, as there is no parking at that park. We are looking at not having traffic coming into that area as it is a park within walking distance.*
- Is there any fencing now that encloses this park?
 - *No, there is no fence, it is the lower playing field for soccer, rugby, etc. The upper field belongs to the School District, the lower area is the park.*
- Although most dog owners are responsible, we are having trouble with dogs killing grassed areas in a very short time, which then creates uneven ground and the removal of grass. We do have a problem with dogs on soccer pitches where the owners say it is not them that doesn't pick up after their pets. It is also a health issue for the children playing on those fields.
- Dogs are supposed to be leashed; there are supposed to be no off-leash areas on soccer fields.
 - *Rugby players do more damage in 20 minutes than dogs in a month.*
- If there is an off-leash park right there, even if there is no parking, I guarantee you will see more foreign dogs appear and the owners will simply park down the road and walk to the park.

In closing, the delegation requested that they be given the opportunity to try as requested and that if usage increases, then the case would be well stated.

The Chair thanked the delegation for their presentation and noted the process is that staff will bring back a report to the next Committee meeting and provide their recommendations for consideration.

C. REQUEST(S) FOR DELEGATION

D. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

1. Enforcement of Dog Regulations

Rick Bamford, Senior Bylaw Enforcement Officer, was in attendance to discuss enforcement of dog regulations. Comments were as follows:

- At the last meeting there had been some questions with regard to strategies in dealing with irresponsible dog waste disposal.
- During the two weeks, the City's Animal Control Officers have increased their patrol of parks in the South Surrey area. The reports received from the officers note that there weren't many found in contravention of the off-leash regulations or failing to collect and responsibly dispose of dog waste.
- Although there appeared to be a limited number of residents out with the dogs at the various patrol times (which may also be attributed to the recent poor weather), the City's vehicles are easily identified, with the officers also in uniform, which may also be acting as a deterrent and making it difficult to

conduct any kind of surveillance. Consequently, there has been very limited success in locating the offenders.

- Typically an officer will try to approach the person they believe is the one in control of the dog(s) if they have any questions, and they may be asked to provide identification. However, most residents walk their dog(s) first thing in the morning or after dinner and typically do not carry identification with them. The officer has no means of forcing them to identify themselves. As best they can, they will try to determine the identity of the person and then decide if the situation warrants a warning or a municipal ticket. The number of tickets issued is limited as the officer is looking more for voluntary compliance as opposed to penalizing the person. As such, the person will be made aware of the potential outcome for not having the dog licensed, irresponsible dog waste collection, etc., but voluntary compliance is the goal.
- Two dogs are allowed per premise, however there are some situations where additional dogs may be allowed, such as a kennel, and that would be an example of when there are more dogs walking with one person.

Again the Committee expressed their concern for irresponsible dog waste disposal at the sport fields in South Surrey Athletic Park (which appears to be happening under the cover of darkness during the weeknights) and requested that the processes be reviewed on how the City can further address this issue and have something effective to implement.

2. **Feasibility of Converting All-weather Gravel Practice Fields to Artificial Turf**
File: 6140-20

It was

Moved by R. Gorman

Seconded by C. Annable

That the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee defer item D.2, "Feasibility of Converting All-weather Gravel Practice Fields to Artificial Turf", to the April 18, 2012 Committee meeting.

Carried

In the context of not developing more gravel fields, staff were asked to also report on what other gravel fields there are in the Surrey, given that there are some at schools where there may be joint opportunities to include.

Staff noted that a revised report, to include the additional information, would be provided for the April meeting.

With regard to earlier discussions pertaining to the location of the next artificial turf field in South Surrey Athletic Park, staff reported that they will consult with sport organizations next year, assemble the users (football, rugby, soccer, etc.), and discuss various field configurations with the users and look at potential locations. Accordingly, an update will be provided to the Committee.

E. NEW BUSINESS**1. Naming of North Cloverdale West Park in Surrey**

File: 6140-20/A

The memorandum, dated March 14, 2012, from the Manager of Parks, regarding the above subject line, was reviewed. It was recommended that the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee recommend that Council:

1. Receive this report for information; and
2. Approve the name "Adams Road Park" for the park currently labelled North Cloverdale West Park.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

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

1. Receive this report for information; and
2. Approve the name "Adams Road Park" for the park currently labelled North Cloverdale West Park.

Carried

2. Dog Waste Management in Surrey Parks

File: 6140-20

It was Moved by R. Benson
Seconded by R. Gorman
That the Parks, Recreation and Sport
Tourism Committee defer item E.2, "Dog Waste Management in Surrey Parks", to the April 18, 2012 Committee meeting.

Carried

It was suggested that there needs to be a combination of education, ticketing, animal control and effective signage considered. It was further requested that the enforcement stats (number of tickets, etc.) for 2011 be provided to the Committee for review.

F. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL**G. CORRESPONDENCE**

H. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. 2012 Service Delivery Plan – Parks, Recreation and Culture

File: 0115-01

The memorandum, dated March 12, 2012, from the General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture, with attached 2012 Service Delivery Plan, was reviewed and comments were as follows:

- As the Parks, Recreation and Culture department is very large and diversified, this document is produced every year to use to build the various work plans and tasks to complete for the year. A limited number of copies are printed as staff access the document online.
- Typically staff get together at late fall and look at the known priorities for the coming year and document everything that is going to be tasked for the department to do, Council priorities and feedback that was received throughout the year from the community and the various public processes. That information is then discussed, organized and prioritized to see if there is anything missed to include.
- The document is a lens of what is accomplished through each of the Parks, Recreation and Culture departments and how they cross pollinate and provide quality services to the community. That said, there are many items that are not anticipated and are added on later.
- Although it is an isolated document, there are some specific areas that overlay the Strategic Plan and Capital Plan, e.g. the development of the aquatic facilities for the next 10 years, seeking partnerships for tennis facilities, etc.
- Staff review the document annually and typically don't do a formal update; it is quite extensive to do a complete update. Possibly every five years there is a check on the successes along the way. The Build Surrey program has certainly helped to develop the document further.

The Committee complimented staff on the impressive document and requested that staff, going forward, look at an opportunity for an official review (not a consultant and full extend of the report) to make the document live and give more of a level of fluidity.

The Committee requested that staff provide a suggested dialogue with the community and discussions to create more of a live document to assist in planning, and to look at ways of acquiring information from the various community groups for where there are opportunities and interest to create world class facilities and what is needed for those world class facilities. A report will come back to the Committee.

I. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Verbal Update

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

- **Holly Park Playground** - The Parks division is rebuilding the playground at Holly Park in Guildford as a universally accessible destination playground for North Surrey. An Open House was hosted at Holly Park Elementary School on February 23rd. Several parents attended the Open House and provided valuable feedback on the type of play equipment preferred and layout of the playground. City staff have also been in communication with School district staff to ensure the playground supports their programming needs.
- **Guildford Recreation Centre Aquatic Addition** - Staff held two focus groups and one Open House on February 23 regarding the upcoming aquatic addition at the Guildford Recreation Centre. The two focus groups invited youth and seniors to have an interactive dialogue session with staff and architects about what they want to see in their new pool and aquatic centre. Some of the features the youth would like to see are lazy rivers, water features like rope swings, interactive toys, large leisure space and deck space for games. The Seniors' spoke of wanting lots of room for aquasize. A community group was in attendance and would like the possibility of having a high level competition pool for national and international events.
- **Sport, Art, Culture & Harmony Centre** - The City hosted a Public Open House at Kwantlen Polytechnic University on February 28. 54 people attended and provided feedback on a feasibility study for three possible sites for the Sports, Arts, Culture and Harmony Centre. The three sites considered were Princess Margaret Park, Unwin Park and City owned land south of 70 Avenue in Newton Town Centre. 60 comment forms were returned for which 36 were in support of the Newton Town Centre site, 24 in support of the Unwin Park site and no support for the Princess Margaret site. A Corporate Report will be forwarded to Council with the phase 2 feasibility study.
- **Chimney Heights Picnic Shelter** - Further to the request for an additional picnic shelter at Chimney Heights, an old-style park shelter with an extended roof line and security enclosure will be installed at Chimney Heights Park later this spring.
- **Dinotown LIVE** - This request was brought to the Committee last year to introduce children's entertainment at Bear Creek Park. Dinotown LIVE has withdrawn their proposal request and has now been approved by the Lower Fraser Valley Exhibition Association to move to the Cloverdale Fairgrounds.
- **Cloverdale Athletic Park washroom renovation project** - Washroom renovations, enhancements and more stalls were put in at the Cloverdale Athletic Park.
- **The 48 hour Guinness Book Challenge** - Surrey Sharks Field Hockey will be doing the 48-hour Guinness Book Challenge from July 6 – 8 at Tamanawis Park Field #2.
- **Newton Athletic Park** - Design for the new artificial turf field and parking expansion is complete and is currently being issued for Prequalification of Civil contractors.
- **Cloverdale Covered Youth Park** - An RFP for consultant services for the development of the Cloverdale Covered Youth Park is being issued this week

by Purchasing. PRC staff and consultants will be hosting an information booth at the Cloverdale Rodeo to get input and determine programming for the youth park. More information will be provided to the Committee at a future date.

- **Pop-up Park** - PRC staff will be installing a small, temporary “park” in the parking lot at the NSRC to promote Party for the Planet and showcase the City’s green initiatives that are currently underway in the City.
- **TE Scott Park Update** - Construction of this new park in the 7000 block of 148 Street began in 2011. A new playground construction commenced in early March with an anticipated completion later this spring. Washroom construction will begin in April with an anticipated completion in the early fall. Two park shelters will be installed in the summer. The park will also include an informal playing field.

2. **Calendar of Events**

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

3. **Additional Items**

a) **Tamanawis Park**

The Committee noted the discussion in late 2011 regarding the potential to accommodate another field at Tamanawis Park and if so, if there were any obstacles in that regard. Staff confirmed that they are working on a report for the Committee.

It was also reported that unfortunately, the BC Field Hockey Association have advised that the girls field hockey team will not be participating in the Summer Games, however they will be hosting a tournament.

b) **Kudos**

The City and staff were commended for the programs they were able to provide for students during the recent labour dispute with teachers and subsequent school closure for two weeks, that enabled children to stay active and otherwise occupied.

The City and staff were further commended for the magnificent job that was done in saving and breathing a new life into the Kensington Prairie School with the development of the Kensington Prairie Community Centre. It is absolutely spectacular!

J. **NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting of Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee is scheduled for April 18, 2012.

K. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by C. Annable
Seconded by T. Allen
That the Parks, Recreation and Sport

Tourism Committee do now adjourn.

Carried

The Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Councillor Gill, Chair
Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee