

Parks, Recreation & Sport Tourism Committee - Minutes

Parks' Boardroom #1
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2012
Time: 7:00 p.m.
File: 0540-20

Present:

Chairperson: Councillor Hepner
Councillor Gill
C. Annable
R. Benson
B. Burnside
S. Hundal
G. Rai
T. Allen, School Board Trustee

Regrets:

R. Gorman

Guest Observers:

George Burgoyne, Coordinator, Surrey
Gymnastics Society
Kathleen Hastings, President, Surrey
Gymnastics Society

Staff Present:

L. Cavan, General Manager, Parks,
Recreation & Culture
Lori Bowie, Community and Recreation
Services Manager, Healthy Communities
O. Croy, Manager, Parks
T. Uhrich, Parks Planning, Research and
Design Manager
T. Neufeld, Parks Operations South Manager
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 T. Allen

Seconded by C. Annable

and Sport Tourism Committee of June 20, 2012, be adopted.

That the minutes of the Parks, Recreation

Carried

B. DELEGATIONS**1. Sandy Smith and John Carroll
Surrey Gymnastics Society**

Past President, Sandy Smith, and John Carroll, Competition Program Director, Surrey Gymnastics Society ("SGS"), were in attendance to discuss the possibility of partnering with the City of Surrey in the plans for the future Grandview Recreation site or the updating of the Newton Recreation site. A portfolio summarizing the achievement of SGS and also providing an overview of the Society was distributed to each of the Committee members (on table). Comments were as follows:

- Over the years, SGS has hosted many premier events attracting anywhere from 470 to 700 athletes to Surrey from all over BC and, in many cases, across Canada.
- SGS partnered with the City during the construction of the Guildford Recreation Centre where special plates were put in the floor to bring gymnastics to the city. SGS has a lot of history not only with the City of Surrey but also with the Surrey School District. At this time SGS would like to speak to a further partnership with the City to build a full time gymnastic facility

either for the future Grandview Recreation facility or updated Newton Recreation site.

- With the resurged popularity of gymnastics during every Olympic year the number of children participating in Surrey and across Canada is large. The 30 year old SGS facility is still capable of training competitive gymnasts at all levels, however the space provided leaves little room to grow recreational and preschool programs that would give many more young children the opportunity for one of Sports Canada's documented "Foundation Sports". The Sport Canada's Long Term Athlete Development (LTAD) Model names something that has been cultural in Europe for many, many years; gymnastics, swimming and athletics are the foundation sports for all others and the keys to child physical literacy. The document goes on to state that it is key for the 0-6 year old age bracket to participate in gymnastics. As this vision unfolds into the public's eyes, SGS is finding the current facility too crowded.
- The Mission Statement of SGS is "To introduce the sport of gymnastics to as many athletes as possible and encourage each and every athlete to reach his/her full potential in a safe, healthy and positive environment". From four year-olds achieving forward rolls for the first time to producing national champions in their categories, SGS has been able to accomplish this mission.
- However, it is becoming increasingly challenging to fulfill this mission with the age and condition of the facility and the scheduling times available to the SGS staff. Currently, SGS offers a full slate of competitive and pre-competitive programs for both boys and girls, recreation classes for pre-school and school aged children and drop-in programs for families, teens and adults. SGS would benefit greatly from a partnership with the City of Surrey, being the sole occupant in a larger and more functionally usable facility for multiple levels of physical literacy development.
- The cities and districts that surround Surrey have moved forward with agreements to enable full time gymnastics facilities to open in Abbotsford, Langley, Delta and Vancouver. Some of these arrangements have moved into a second or third phase to ensure the prospect of continued gymnastics and fitness growth of their communities' youth. The Langley Gymnastics Foundation (LGF) is one of the closest models seen as mimicking the needs of the City of Surrey and SGS. LGF is a 15,000 square foot, full time gymnastics centre located within the building structure of the Langley Events Centre. This location arrangement allows LGF to optimize the opportunities for the City and Township of Langley's children, teens and adults to participate in a sport for life mentality. It has also given the serious competitive gymnasts an avenue to develop in one of the province's state of the art facilities.
- SGS has had a recent, ongoing relationship with the City of Surrey since the groundbreaking ceremonies for the Guildford Recreation Centre. At the time of that facility's erection SGS paid for the installation of equipment floor plates to allow SGS to host an annual gymnastics event in a premier hosting environment. The annual event has run at the Guildford Recreation Centre since its doors. Other special events that SGS has hosted at the Guildford Recreation Centre include the 2006 BC Gymnastics Championships for Gymnastics BC and the 2009 Men's Elite Canada Competition for Gymnastics Canada (an event that brings the current and future stars of the gymnastics stage from across Canada).
- The necessity for the City of Surrey to engage their youth in physical literacy should be paramount. With the current plans for facility development SGS

would be more than excited to be in a partnership with the City in this improved health and fitness strategy.

The Committee thanked the delegation for their presentation, noting that the information will be reviewed for consideration under the strategic plan regarding sport tourism and how the City can assist gymnastics.

C. REQUEST(S) FOR DELEGATION

D. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

E. NEW BUSINESS

It was Moved by Councillor Gill
Seconded by S. Hundal
That the Parks, Recreation and Sport
Tourism Committee Agenda be varied to address item E.2 prior to E.1.
Carried

2. Dog Waste Management in Surrey Parks

Craig MacFarlane, City Solicitor, and Kim Marosevich, By-law Enforcement, were in attendance to discuss dog waste management in Surrey parks. An update of the activities in the parks and some of the measures that were put in place to help control those activities was provided. Additional comments were as follows:

- Over the summer there was a total number of 2,277 park visits and dealt with 2757 incidents. By far most of the calls were pertaining to dogs off leash (833), followed by liquor use in the parks (562) and dogs on the beach (277). In all of these cases either a written or verbal warning was issued, no tickets were given out (mainly because it is difficult to get summer staff back to testify). A drop in complaints was certainly noticed as a result of the increased park visits. There was also an increase in dog licensing.
- There were also many other issues affecting parks such as homeless camps, illegal fishing, unauthorised use, vandalism, graffiti, etc.
- Dog issues both in parks and the community are handled through education, enforcement and infrastructure.
- By-laws and Parks departments have been working together to identify parks where the greatest problems are and how they can start supporting the various parks with information on signage, timeframe for officers to patrol, etc.
- It is important to start with a more collaborative and friendly approach, then moving forward to enforcement. Having the infrastructure to direct those in violation to the appropriate locations often addresses and corrects the behaviour and negates the need for enforcement.
- Another option is to encourage and promote the wonderful recreation programs the City offers that have to do with dog training; getting the message out to people that there are ways to help better manage their dogs. Education and communication is key; people don't always understand where

there may be riparian areas that need to be protected or the cost for sports fields.

- “Park Rangers” or having other staff available that could approach people in a that setting and discuss regulations and alternatives is generally less offensive than being approached by a By-law Officer or Animal Control Officer, and in fact provides greater “customer service” that often results in a better understanding and compliance. The Park Ranger format has the same tools as the Animal Control Officer, but provides more of a casual approach, customer service oriented to educate.
- In addressing non-compliance, it is important to start with rolling random patrols, not to show up at the same park each day and time of the week, to be completely random and unpredictable to start with, to get the message out. It is often a balancing act to be consistent with the patrols as there are only five Animal Control Officers at present, which is why it was so helpful to have summer staff, on site at many parks throughout the summer.
- The regulations on fields, in terms of dogs, is under the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Facilities Regulation By-law No. 13480. Under the regulations, dogs are permitted in parks on leash unless otherwise in a designated dog off-leash area. In addition, the General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture, may erect signage that applies further specific regulations.
- Presently Animal Control Officers may only ticket under the Dog Responsibility Regulation By-law No. 13880, but not under By-law No. 13480 (as above). The idea is to have them authorized to ticket under both by-laws.

The Committee commented as follows:

- Can there be better communication through signage? With signage comes more education, although it is a balance again between the beautification of a park and the effectiveness of the sign. In terms of communication though, if people are going to break the law, they will regardless.
- The education is out there that people do understand, it may very well be that there is a need for heavier enforcement.
- It is anticipated then that we can expect to see some improvements to the current bylaws and a synergy between By-law nos. 13480 and 13880 that will allow Animal Control Officers to ticket under both by-laws?

1. Cloverdale Covered Youth Park

File: 6140-20/C

- a) Mark van der Zalm and Ian MacDonald of van der Zalm + Associates Inc., Landscape Architecture, were in attendance to provide a presentation, which included photos and drawings of the site and proposed design for the Cloverdale Covered Youth Park. Comments were as follows:
 - The element of having cover/weather protection to extend the use has been a positive draw for youth from around the region.
 - Through the design process, initiated in the spring, residents were invited to an Open House at the Cloverdale Recreation Centre to review the plans for the Park. Following which, several hundred comments were received resulting in two design alternatives.
 - The two design concepts were then displayed at the Canada Day celebrations where further feedback was solicited.

- The site plan and development of the park site really focuses on pedestrian access, especially to the Cloverdale Recreation Centre located directly across from the Park and the trail to Millenium Park which will also provide a nice shortcut to the commercial hub on 64 Avenue.
- The separate pathways will be designated with a rougher texture to deter skating on the pathways to provide more of a welcoming space, not just for wheeled sports, so that visitors and pedestrians can watch the activities safely.
- There will also be a series of different seating opportunities, including formal benches in the balcony area (ideal for grandparents, etc.), to encourage more visitors to stay and enjoy the activities.
- It is felt that the size of the park being proposed would probably support a competition setting as well, especially given the additional space that surrounds park that could be utilized to bring in additional temporary elements for hosting larger scale skating events.

b) The memorandum, dated September 7, 2012, from the Manager, Parks Planning, Research and Design, regarding the above subject line, was reviewed. It was recommended that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department:

1. Receive the report as information; and
2. Indicate support for the Concept Plan for the Cloverdale Covered Youth Park, as generally described in the report.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

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

1. Receive the report from the Manager, Parks Planning, Research and Design, entitled "Cloverdale Covered Youth Park Update" (attached Appendix I), as information; and
2. Support the Concept Plan for the Cloverdale Covered Youth Park, as generally described in the report.

Carried

3. Reducing Barriers to Participation

Lori Bowie, Community and Recreation Services Manager, Healthy Communities, provided a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Reducing Barriers to Participation – Supporting Multi-barriered People/Vulnerable Populations". The definition of multi-barriered/vulnerable populations was reviewed and an overview of the programming that is currently in place to assist in reducing barriers was given. Additional comments were as follows:

- Multi-barriered/vulnerable populations: have a greater than average risk of developing health problems by virtue of their marginalized socio-cultural

status, limited access to economic resources or personal characteristics such as age and gender (*Population Health and Wellness, Ministry of Health Services 2005*).

- There are all kinds of statistics and facts:
 - 18% of Canadians live in low-income circumstances and income inequality is on the increase.
 - BC has had the highest child poverty rate in Canada for eight years in a row.
 - Canadians who live in poverty have poorer health than their socio-economically advantaged counterparts, regardless of the health measure employed: self-rated health, mortality, morbidity or activity limitations.
 - Women experience particular health risks since health research and the health system have not always understood or addressed the factors that influence the health status of women (who comprise over 50% of the overall population and of vulnerable populations).
 - High-risk children tend to live in low-income families, among which immigrants, refugees and Aboriginal peoples are disproportionately represented.
 - Discrimination and racism can contribute to minority group health problems (e.g. hypertension) and health behaviour problems (e.g. substance abuse).

(Source: *Canadian Institute of Health Research*).

- The goal of services implemented to support multi-barriered people is to remove barriers, reduce inequities, increase participation and build capacity within individuals, systems and communities.
- Some of the elements impacting vulnerable populations include:

| | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Housing ○ Neighbourhood safety ○ Physical activity ○ Education ○ Social well-being ○ Income and income distribution ○ Education ○ Unemployment and job security | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Employment and working conditions ○ Early childhood development ○ Food security ○ Social safety network ○ Health services ○ Inclusion |
|--|--|
- Being able to identify the needs with respect to social gradient is important.
- The Surrey Poverty Reduction Plan, supported through Parks, Recreation and Culture, was established to:
 - Promote healthy children and youth;
 - Support education and literacy;
 - Increase access to post secondary education;
 - Build a healthy and inclusive community;
 - Improve health outcomes; and
 - Support the settlement of recent immigrants.
- Some of the specific initiatives fall in to these areas, for example the Leisure Access Program, intended to support those in financial need, provided support to 9300 last year and 7500 to date this year in Surrey.
- There are also a number of initiatives specific to settlement – partnership project with agencies deliver information, for example:
 - Newcomer Connections:
 - Settlement workers in Recreation Centres
 - English conversation

- Newcomer tours
- Community Connect 11 (newcomers learn more about community resources)
- CAAWS Newcomer Girls Program (Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women and Sport)
- Food Security programs include:
 - Harvest Box Program
 - Community Kitchens
 - Community Gardens
 - Cooking Programs
 - Farmers MarketSocial connection is an important component.
- There are also a number of youth outreach initiatives and youth engagement programs to help keep kids in school, provide social activities and opportunities for kids to go further by encouraging a diverse youth group to be involved (e.g. the Surrey Leadership Youth Council and the Welcoming and Inclusive Youth Team).
- To encourage engagement with seniors, there have been various conferences and workshops such as the Ageing in Place Conference, A Roof Over My Head workshop series and Focus on Seniors Forums.
- A number of accessibility, inclusion and adapted programs have also been implemented.
- MYzone – Critical Hours, a new initiative this year, is a drop-in program with a one-time low cost membership fee (\$40 per program year: Sept. – June). It helps to reduce barriers of parents having to drive their children and provides wraparound services for children to attend supervised activities between 3 - 6pm.
- In total there are 3,600 active City of Surrey volunteers of which 1,540 speak another language other than English, approximately 15% of the total volunteer team is 55+ and approximately 56% of the total volunteer team are ages 14-18.
- Overall the City is doing a lot of great work to reduce barriers and increase participation and constantly learning about more that can be done. Partnerships are a very important part of the success. For example, having settlement workers housed in the recreation centres has allowed greater opportunities.

In closing it was noted that Healthy Communities will be located at the New City Hall, which will provide further opportunities to profile the services available that the City is involved in.

It was

Moved by C. Annable

Seconded by T. Allen

That the Parks, Recreation and Sport

Tourism Committee receive the presentation from the Community and Recreation Services Manager, Healthy Communities, as information.

Carried

4. Guildford Pool and Grandview Heights Pool

Lisa White, Community and Recreation Services Manager, was in attendance to provide an update and design details for the Guildford Pool and the Grandview Heights Pool. Architectural drawings/plans for both sites were reviewed, noting the specific and unique design features for each facility. An overview of the comments received through focus groups, open houses, social media and meetings with the various swim clubs, etc. was also provided.

The capacity for each pool to host national and international competition events was also reviewed.

Discussion ensued with respect to the number of showers available in the regular change rooms and the quantity of family change rooms that will be provided at both pools given the increased programming opportunities. The Committee was advised that the architects have been terrific at capitalizing on changing room space for both pools in order to substantially increase the number of family change rooms from what is currently available at other facilities, which should also assist with the anticipated increase in programming. A comparison to the Surrey Sport and Leisure Centre, with more detail around change rooms and the number of showers to be installed, will be provided at the October meeting.

It was

Moved by T. Allen

Seconded by C. Annable

That the Parks, Recreation and Sport

Tourism Committee receive the update on the Guildford and Grandview Heights pools, from the Community and Recreation Services Manager, as information.

Carried

5. North Surrey Community Park – Shelter and Community Room Review

File: 6140-20/NS

The memorandum, dated September 11, 2012, from the Manager, Parks Operations South, regarding the above subject line, was reviewed by O. Croy, Manager, Parks. It was recommended that the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee:

1. Receive this report for information; and
2. Provide comments to staff relative to the North Surrey Community Park Community Room pilot project.

Discussion ensued with respect to the usage of constructed shelter and community room, noting that the uptake on the facility wasn't as high as expected, especially with the seniors. Additional comments were as follows:

- It didn't work at this location, and maybe it would work at other locations, but it is a \$50,000 capital investment, which doesn't include operating costs (heat, light, etc.), with no guarantee of success. This pilot was a really good effort, and is the best that can be done in a park that does not have a permanent structure. If the pilot was not as successful as was hoped, it is not for lack of effort.
- Looking at Unwin, Fleetwood, Bear Creek and Newton and Cloverdale Athletic Parks, the seniors that use those community rooms (as a result of

converting existing buildings) are overjoyed with those facilities and they are well utilized. However there are a number of seniors throughout the city that are envious of those facilities and continue to request similar facilities at their local parks. At this point however, it is fair to say that very best efforts have been put forward in trying to come up with a solution for those sites that do not have existing structures for consideration and, moving forward, not sure how the City could accommodate those expenditures at ball parks.

- Perhaps an increased effort to encourage seniors to attend some of the city-wide recreation centres and the programs offered within those centres could achieve greater results, particularly if there is an outreach program that assists with cultural language barriers, etc. There is a cultural component that help is needed for in order to cultivate; having someone that speaks the same tongue provides greater comfort in going to a site.
- When there are major park investments, specifically as it relates to a structure, a look to ways of making available a community space room as part of the structure could be reviewed; somehow there needs to be the opportunity to open up the building to facilitate the utilization of a broader group. Also a policy developed in a way to show that it is not a sense of ownership by clubs, etc.; the City's investment in structures in Surrey have to be inclusive.
- Even with addressing the structures at the various parks, the next issue would be washroom facilities which continue to be a challenge.
- Staff has done a wonderful job for trying to address this issue. For the most part the majority has been satisfied, and that should be the direction in terms of designing or modifying existing shelters.
- A further update will be provided at the October meeting.

It was

Moved by S. Hundal

Seconded by C. Annable

That the Parks, Recreation and Sport

Tourism Committee receive the report from the Manager, Parks Operations South, dated September 11, 2012, entitled "North Surrey Community Park – Shelter and Community Room Review", as information.

Carried

6. **Sport Tourism Report – June, July, August 2012**

File: 6980-01

The memorandum, dated September 10, 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 B. Burnside

Seconded by R. Benson

That the Parks, Recreation and Sport

Tourism Committee receive the report from the General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture, dated September 10, 2012, entitled "Sport Tourism Reports – June, July & August 2012", as information.

Carried

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:

- **Fusion Festival** - This was the most successful Fusion Festival in regards to food ticket sales. 39 cultural pavilions was also the largest amount of pavilions to participate on site. There were four stages and over 100 entertainers. The Cultural Pavilions overwhelmingly had a great experience at the event.

Feedback from the BC Summer Games and the Fusion Festival was that the Opening and Closing Ceremonies for the Summer Games at Holland Park were a huge success. Although without its challenges, both parties benefitted from having these ceremonies as part of the Fusion Festival site.

- **2012 BC Summer Games** – The BC Summer Games were very successful with lots of hard work by staff and volunteers; really showcased Surrey well.
- **Seniors Forums** - This fall we are hosting five ‘Focus on Seniors’ forums. The Focus on Seniors Forums are created and presented by the Mayors Committee for Seniors and Accessibility, chaired by Councillor Steele.
- **Kensington Prairie Fall Celebration** – On Sunday, September 23rd, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm, Kensington Prairie will be hosting the 2nd Annual Fall Celebration. This is in collaboration with partners Alexandra Neighbourhood House, Semiahmoo Family Place and Heritage Services. A wide variety of family oriented activities will be taking place.
- **Crescent Park Tennis Courts** – Phase one of the Crescent Park tennis court renovation is complete. The project went well and is being received positively by the community.
- **Fun Fun Park** – Staff is currently working with a group of motivated residents around Fun Fun Park, to help them with a significant upgrade and renovation to the playground in the park. The current playground is in good condition and is not scheduled for any renovation or replacement work for a number a years. Parks’ staff has helped the community define a scope of work and now they can actively fundraise.
- **West Newton Cricket Park** - Construction of the cricket pitch for this park is well underway, staff has completed the site grading and are installing drainage as well as placing the sand growing medium at the same time. It is anticipated that drainage install and the placement of the growing medium

will be completed by fall as well as the installation of the clay soil wicket. Irrigation will also be installed in late fall and the area seeded to retain the sand until spring when the field will be again over-seeded. The unique thing about this cricket pitch is that it will have a clay soil wicket, a unique enhancement to Surrey's current pitches which have an artificial turf wicket. An architect firm has now been selected for the design of a field house building.

- **TE Scott Park – 7000 blk. 148th St.** - This Neighbourhood Park is now in the final stages of completion. The park features two informal use sport fields for use by the community, a large playground, a perimeter path system, two picnic shelters (which will be installed in two weeks) and a washroom building; a natural area has also been retained on the north side of the property. The building is now fully constructed and will be opened within the next two weeks.
- **Newton Athletic Park – 7400 blk. 128 St.** - The civil construction of an artificial turf field is now nearing the stage of being ready for the installation of the turf product in early October. It is anticipated that the field will be ready by the end of October. This will be the 4th artificial turf field at NAP.
- **Surrey International World Music Marathon** – This inaugural event takes place on September 30th; over 1600 registrants for the full marathon, half-marathon, Mayor's 5K run and Kids Fun Run. There is still time to register for the run or to volunteer.

It was

Moved by Councillor Gill

Seconded by T. Allen

That the Parks, Recreation and Sport

Tourism Committee receive the update from the GM, Parks, Recreation and Culture, as information.

Carried

2. Sport Tourism Infrastructure

Infrastructure, as it relates to sport tourism, was discussed as follows:

- With respect to the various sporting events that are held throughout the city and equipment that is typically rented and brought in for those events, staff was asked if, when building on those events (and as being a sport tourism package), if an investment for certain equipment could/should be considered to help to facilitate the various events and increase sport tourism (e.g. seating/moveable bleachers; there are models of vehicles that have all the components - stage, seating, etc.).

The rationale can be looked at. It is also a bit of business case, is it better to purchase, store and set up the infrastructure versus rent? What is the cost benefit to purchase, own and becoming the owner operator? Sometimes it may be specific to the event; there can be a number of factors.

- Another example, looking at a permanent stage that could be concealed (perhaps in the form of art) that could go up and down to prevent vandalism. If we could just take a step back and look at what we actually spend in rental costs and approach with the perspective of ongoing funds, what does that

look like and if something like that should be financed? The concept would include a small stage, etc.

- It was noted that Pitt Meadows have their own vehicle, a “tournament in a box”, that includes a stage, PA system, seating, etc. User groups book it and it is delivered to the event site.
- Separate pricing strategy for rental of city spaces? Is there merit in terms of looking at a pricing strategy that would facilitate sport tourism, for example a reduction in fees?

The rationale for investment in additional infrastructure to advance sport tourism will be provided in a report at the next meeting.

J. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee is scheduled for October 17, 2012.

K. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by C. Annable
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 9:35 p.m.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Councillor Hepner, Chair
Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee