

Parks, Recreation & Sport Tourism Committee - Minutes

Present:

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

Regrets:

R. Gorman
S. Hundal

Guest Observers:

Fleetwood Scouts
Surrey Lawn Bowling Club

Staff Present:

L. Cavan, General Manager, Parks,
Recreation & Culture
O. Croy, Manager, Parks
T. Neufeld, Parks Operations South Manager
T. Uhrich, Parks Planning, Research and
Design Manager
L. White, Manager, Community and
Recreation Services
G. Ward, Urban Forestry and Environmental
Programs Manager
D. Vestergaard, Administrative Coordinator,
Parks, Recreation & Culture
C. Jesson, Legislative Services

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was Moved by T. Allen
Seconded by Councillor Gill
That the minutes of the Parks, Recreation
and Sport Tourism Committee of September 19, 2012, be adopted.
Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

1. Kabal Sandhawalia

Kabal Sandhawalia was in attendance to discuss LAP thresholds. Comments were as follows:

- Spoke regarding the importance of seniors and low income people having access to recreation;
- Have been denied based on income level and questioned how the threshold has been calculated, specifically how the income is calculated; and,
- Expressed concern that he falls in a low income group and this should be recognized and that the threshold should be re-calculated.

During discussion the following comments were raised:

- Staff clarified the policy relative to residents accessing the Leisure Access Program noting that an individual's income is evaluated using the Statistics Canada after-tax low-income thresholds (LICO) ICO (Low Income Cut Off) index, based on a net income of \$19,000 per individual. Staff noted that if residents qualify for the program, access to facilities would be given, access to services would be provided for a nominal fee and a significant reduction would be given to courses/programs offered.

- Staff noted that the intent of the Leisure Access Program is to provide access to those individuals who would normally not have the opportunity.
- Current number of Leisure Access Program recipients just under 25,000 individuals;
- It was noted that the LICO index is the typical income standard that is used to determine income threshold, with the threshold having increased over the past few years, with there being a specific index for BC to recognize the cost of living;
- Current policy has no sliding fee, in that either an individual qualifies or not, and accordingly, the policy should be reviewed in this context; and,
- Seniors receive an automatic discount for access to recreation services of 25% off the fees and charges rate.

The Committee thanked the delegation for his presentation and noted that the information would be taken under advisement as staff undertakes analysis of the existing policy.

2. Al Kersey, President, Optimist Junior International Curling Club

Al Kersey, President, Optimist Junior International Curling Club, was in attendance to discuss hosting of the 13th annual Optimist International U-18 Curling Championships. The information that Mr. Kersey provided was reviewed and comments were as follows:

- 24th Season has been used to introduce junior curling to the community, specifically the Optimist International U-18 Curling Championship;
- Marketing strategy was outlined, noting junior curling can be promoted/highlighted in several areas;
- Over 6000 kids participate in the journey to the 24 team girls and boys championships;
- Competition begins at the club level and grows to this prestigious international event;
- Optimist Junior Interclub Curling is proud to deliver 4000 kid-years of fun over 23 seasons
- In May 2012, a Special Needs component has been incorporated
- Highlighted various reasons why youth curling should be encouraged;
- Introduction to curling starts in the gym with young children, followed by older kids teaching younger kids via the youth leadership component;
- Requested funding from the City, including assistance with the marketing/promotional component;
- Application for a Community Grant has also been submitted in the amount of \$17,000;
- A detailed budget has been developed, with a request for \$17,000 in funding from the City;

During discussion the following comments were raised:

- In response to a query regarding the revenue stream to offset costs, delegation noted in addition to funding and sponsorships, approximately \$20,000 has been identified for the souvenir component;
- Committee expressed concern that no fee is charged for teams to participate;
- Committee enquired whether similar funding requests have been submitted to Langley;
- Committee questioned the allotment of \$40,000 for accommodation, noting that the option for billeting could be considered to reduce costs. In response, delegation noted that due to liability and the volunteer needs, that the billeting option would not be feasible; and,
- Question was raised about reducing the transportation costs. In response, the delegation stated that the teams would be required to switch back and forth in terms of curling rink locations and as such the transportation costs could not be further reduced. The existing accommodation location was identified to contain transportation costs as much as possible.

The Committee thanked the delegation for the presentation. The Committee advised that in light of the tournament being planned for March 2013, it would be worthwhile to have staff review and analyze the proposal, and then report back to a future meeting of the Committee. Staff was requested to include the status of the community grant application when report back, including information on similar sport hosting community grant applications and the level of funding attained.

3. **Green Timbers Heritage Society**

Stephen Glenn, SNAP Coordinator, and Board Directors Jim Foulkes and Ellen Edwards were in attendance to provide a presentation on SNAP (Surrey Natural Areas Partnership). Comments were as follows:

- Work of the SNAP Society was highlighted, noting the society has been around for quite some time and has achieved much in terms of building a partnership with the City of Surrey and obtaining funding from various partners, including the Federal Government;
- SNAP projects have been undertaken now for 11 years;
- Appreciation was extended to the City and all parties who have been involved;
- SNAP began in 2001 between the City and three environmental groups. Started out with four post-secondary students doing a variety of task, then grew to 9 members in 2006, with now 13 members in 2012;
- Volunteer program is comprised of two components: Eco-rangers providing basic outreach/information assistance and Habitat Restoration Volunteers;
- In terms of environmental education, 11 day camps were held reaching about 150 kids, all aimed to establish connection with environment from a very early age;

- Outreach Team focused on natural areas and shade tree topics, including the care of boulevard trees. Natural areas alone canvassed about 4000 homes and approximately 8600 boulevard trees were inventoried; and,
- Work of the habitat restoration component was provided, specifically work regarding the removal invasive species (ie. Blackberry plants).

The Committee thanked the delegation for the presentation and expressed appreciation to the group and their invaluable work in engaging the community, youth and children to nature.

C. REQUEST(S) FOR DELEGATION

D. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Surrey Lawn Bowling Club and Clayton Park Facility Improvements

File: 6140-20/C

The memorandum, dated October 4, 2012, from the Park Athletic Facility Operations Manager and the Park Operations South Manager, regarding the above subject line, was reviewed. It was recommended that the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee:

1. Receive the memorandum for information; and
2. Provide comment to staff on the importance of including a funding request for conversion of the Clayton Lawn Bowling Green from natural grass to artificial turf in capital budget submissions to Council's Finance Committee as part of the 2013-2017 Five-Year Financial Plan process.

Comments were as follows:

- Clayton Park is the only lawn bowling facility in Surrey;
- Surrey Lawn Bowling Club provides all required maintenance and repairs to the field house and basic grass cutting on the green, with the specialty maintenance of the bowling green being provided by the City;
- The Club was commended for the work undertaken to date;
- Based on a review, staff noted that the estimated costs for the building upgrades is approximately \$250,000; the City has funding in place to carry out this renovation;
- The Bowling Green at Clayton Park is a soil-based turf grass playing surface;
- The estimated costs to construct a synthetic turf bowling green is approximately \$540,000 and the funding for this is not included in the Build Surrey program or the Five Year Capital Financial Plan;
- Another option to convert the green to a fast draining sand-based green would cost approximately \$160,000 and could be undertaken within the current budget in 2013;

- If the sand-based option was used as an interim phase, it was clarified that the \$160,000 would not be recoverable should the turf option be eventually implemented;
- Committee member enquired regarding the magnitude of the sport in terms of numbers in order to determine the appropriate option. It was clarified that the sport caters to an aging demographic and that the current club has a healthy membership that would be sustainable, however, a huge growth is not anticipated in this sport;
- Richmond, Ladner, Maple Ridge and White Rock all have artificial turf fields for their lawn bowling;
- Club spokesperson advised that this matter was discussed at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) noted that with an artificial field, the season could be extended and that it seems premature to consider the sand-based option at this point, as the City will need to eventually determine the need for an artificial turf field for this club in the future;
- Staff advised that there is value in artificial turf fields, however the matter does require review, specifically identifying where/when the funding source could potentially be made available;
- Staff was requested to provide a report back to the Committee, including information regarding other turf fields in the Lower Mainland and determining whether these areas were able to obtain/access provincial/federal funding; and,
- Staff was requested to ensure the report include commentary regarding the usage of turf fields.

2. Community Request: Chimney Heights Park Shelter and Washroom

File: 6140-20/C

The memorandum, dated October 2, 2012, from the Manager of Parks Planning, Research and Design, regarding the above subject line, was reviewed. It was recommended that the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee:

1. Receive the report as information;
2. Support the staff position that a second shelter with a design similar to the existing shelter and a modular washroom building, not be constructed at this site due to the concerns of residents living adjacent to the park; and
3. Support staff convening a special meeting with a group of stakeholder seniors to gain a better understanding of their desired optimal meeting space.

Comments were as follows:

- In 2011, a request was brought forward by a senior's group at Chimney Heights Park for the installation of a new shelter and the shelter was installed in April 2011.
- In 2012, the shelter users requested to have another shelter and a washroom installed in the park;

- A public open house was held on June 28th, with majority of attendees expressing support for the proposal;
- Residents immediately adjacent to or across the street from the park are generally opposed to the proposal;
- Staff provided an overview of the Chimney Heights Park, being positioned directly adjacent to an elementary school, having some supportive facilities such as walking paths/baseball diamond;
- Staff noted there are challenges with new picnic shelters being introduced into established neighbourhoods in terms of negative feedback from residents;
- There has been some success with locking shelters, as there is a demand to have a more enclosed shelter – one that is usable throughout the year;
- A plan was presented at the open house regarding the washroom proposal, with adjacent neighbours expressing concern regarding the proposal;
- Providing a fully plumbed washroom has a significant associated cost; and,
- Staff is recommending not to install a second park shelter and a washroom building due to concerns from adjacent park neighbours.

It was

Moved by T. Allen,

Seconded by R. Benson

That the Parks, Recreation and Sport

Tourism Committee recommend that Council:

1. Receive the report as information;
2. Support the staff position that a second shelter with a design similar to the existing shelter and a modular washroom building, not be constructed at this site due to the concerns of residents living adjacent to the park; and
3. Support staff convening a special meeting with a group of stakeholder seniors to gain a better understanding of their desired optimal meeting space.

Carried

3. Request for Picnic Shelters – Goldstone Park

File: 6140-20

The memorandum, dated October 10, 2012, from the Manager, Parks Operations South, regarding the above subject line, was reviewed. It was recommended that the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee receive the report as information.

Comments were as follows:

- Question was raised regarding the capability of moving shelters and whether it was cost-prohibitive;
- Given the high number of community requests, consideration should be given to portable structures;

- Staff noted that at times it is a challenge to decipher community requests for benches vs. shelters, noting that when benches are requested, this generally means tables with a roof (i.e. shelter) is actually what is desired;
- The cost of disassembling portable shelters is approximately \$1500.00;
- With regards to the July 25, 2012 petition, the residents were requesting the installation of two covered picnic shelters and four benches around the playground. Staff advised the bench component of the request has been addressed, with the shelters component remaining outstanding;
- In terms of feedback, staff noted that a majority of those residents living directly adjacent to the park oppose the installation of picnic shelters;
- Staff advised the residents are indeed requesting a closed shelter model with heats and lights, with an associated costs of \$50,000 each;
- Committee member queried whether the City has an overarching policy that identifies which parks would accommodate a request for shelters. In response, staff noted that there is no such City policy, however, the PRC Department has established guidelines and criteria that is applied when shelters are to be evaluated/considered. Staff noted that the set criteria may need to be taken one step further;
- Committee member noted that it may be worthwhile meeting the request halfway, as the parks belong to the city and the users of the park;
- Consideration should be given to moving some of the portables as potential solution;
- Committee member noted that the weather has been changing, and having extra eyes on the parks via a shelter is not a bad thing, as areas that are not actively being used tend to in fact attract unwanted activities. If there is no concern with picnic tables, then there should be no concern with covered picnic tables; and,
- In terms of costs, staff advised that there are costs associated, even with portable shelters (ie. \$30,000 per unit).

It was

Moved by G. Rai

Seconded by T. Allen

That the Parks, Recreation and Sport

Tourism Committee:

1. receive the report from the Manager, Parks Operations South, dated October 10, 2012, entitled "Request for Picnic Shelters – Goldstone Park"; and,
2. recommend that Park Staff be directed to undertake the installation of a picnic shelter in Goldstone Park on a trial basis.

Carried

with Councillor Hepner opposed

4. Update on Frank Hurt Park – Park Improvements

File: 6140-20/F

The memorandum, dated October 2, 2012, from the Manager, Parks Planning, Research and Design, regarding the above subject line, was reviewed. It was recommended that the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee receive the report as information.

Comments were as follows:

- Staff provided an overview relative to the meetings held to discuss the short and long term initiatives to improve Frank Hurt Park;
- Much positive feedback was received from the community, such as suggestions for the development of a playground and improvements to park entrances;
- Staff advised they will work with staff from Public Art and Engineering to coordinate the various park improvements; and,
- Staff anticipates that detailed design work on planned improvements will be carried out in 2013, with construction targeted in 2014.

It was

Moved by T. Allen

Seconded by R. Benson

That the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee receive the report from the Manager, Parks Planning, Research and Design, dated October 2, 2012, entitled “Update on Frank Hurt Park – Park Improvements”, as information.

Carried

5. Fleetwood Scouts Hall Closure

File: 6140-20/F

The memorandum, dated October 2, 2012, from the Manager, Park Operations North, regarding the above subject line, was reviewed. It was recommended that the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee receive the report as information.

Comments were as follows:

- Staff spoke to the condition of the Fleetwood Scouts Hall, noting that the Hall is at the end of its useful life;
- Notice has been provided to the Fleetwood Scouts regarding the termination of the Operating Agreement and the subsequent decommissioning of the Hall;
- In response to a request from the Scouts, the Hall will be used for storage purposes until June 30, 2013;
- Staff has been working to assist finding an alternate location and the intention is to continue to provide assistance in this regard, as the Hall will be demolished; and,

- The required improvements to the Hall would trigger environmental and accessibility reviews as part of a building permit application.

Representatives from Fleetwood Scouts were present and stated that they would like to remain at the current location, as they do not believe the building's life has been reached and as such the Hall should not be decommissioned. The representative stated that their own consultants have undertaken a review and have come up with a different conclusion. The Committee requested that the information from the Fleetwood Scouts' consultant be provided at a future meeting.

It was
Moved by T. Allen
Seconded by G. Rai
That the Parks, Recreation and Sport
Tourism Committee receive the report from the Manager, Park Operations North,
dated October 2, 2012, entitled "Fleetwood Scouts Hall Closure", as information.
Carried

6. Sport Tourism Report – September 2012

File: 6980-01

The memorandum, dated October 2, 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. Staff advised that prior to year end, it is anticipated the Sport Tourism Plan will be updated.

It was
Moved by B. Burnside
Seconded by G. Rai
That the Parks, Recreation and Sport
Tourism Committee receive the report from the General Manager, Parks,
Recreation and Culture, dated October 2, 2012, entitled "Sport Tourism Report –
September 2012", as information.
Carried

**7. Guildford Recreation Centre Aquatic Expansion –
Change Facilities (ON TABLE)**

File: 8000-50/G

The memorandum, dated October 17, 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 T. Allen
Seconded by G. Rai
That the Parks, Recreation and Sport
Tourism Committee receive the report from the General Manager, Parks,
Recreation and Culture, dated October 17, 2012, entitled "Guildford Recreation
Centre Aquatic Expansion – Change Facilities", 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 updates:

Youth Fest 2012

On September 22nd upwards of 2500 people attended Youth Fest this year which took place the Guildford Recreation Centre – more than any other Youth Fest in the past. Nine bands performed, there were lots of vendors and resource tables, skateboard demos both inside and outside the gym and a very successful youth dance. This was made even more successful with the 60 volunteers that were on site.

Bridgeview Community Centre

Facilities Maintenance is currently undergoing a Contractor tender process for the renovations/upgrades to the Hall. The project is expected to be completed in 2-3 months. In the meantime staff have been working on providing programs and events to the community utilizing the Bridgeview School.

IBM Workshop

There will be an IBM Workshop being hosted at the Chuck Bailey Recreation Centre on Friday Oct. 19th on the IBM Smarter Cities project to build a Centre of Excellence. Taking part will be numerous stakeholders and will be engaging other levels of government.

Guildford Pool

Excavation has begun on the Guildford site; we are moving forward on this project.

Newton Athletic Park

The artificial turf surface has been installed on the new field at Newton Athletic Park. Finishing work on the fencing, plaza area and parking lots will continue

until the end of October, at which time it is anticipated that the field will be available for use by community groups.

Surrey International Music Marathon

The inaugural Surrey International Music Marathon was held on September 30th in the City Centre area on a beautiful sunny day, drawing almost 2,000 runners for the 5 km, ½ marathon, marathon relay, full marathon and kids 1 km events. There was a debrief following the event; staff will be working with the organizing committee on revisions to the route.

Guildford Recreation Centre Aquatic Expansion – Change Rooms

In follow up to questions from the Committee at the September PRST meeting regarding change rooms at the new Guildford Rec Centre Aquatic Expansion: this addition will have three public change facilities to support the pool addition. A male change area, female change area and a universal/family change areas, each with a combination of open shower areas, private dry changes spaces and private shower/change areas.

It was

Moved by R. Benson

Seconded by B. Burnside

That the Parks, Recreation and Sport

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

Carried

2. **Parks, Recreation & Sport Tourism Committee – Terms of Reference**
Committee queried whether the Terms of Reference for this committee reflect the Committee's name change and expanded mandate regarding sport tourism. Staff advised the Terms of Reference would be provided for information as part of a future meeting package.

3. **Future Discussion Topics**
Committee requested the discussions by the committee be undertaken for the following topics: 1. Sport Tourism fees, funding and grants; and, 2. Potential for portable infrastructure and associated sports.

J. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee is scheduled for November 21, 2012.

K. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by T. Allen
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 9:27 p.m.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Councillor Hepner, Chair
Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee