

Parks, Recreation & Sport Tourism Committee - Minutes

Program Room
Surrey Arts Centre
13750 - 88 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2013
Time: 7:02 p.m.
File: 0540-20

Present:

Councillor Hepner – Chairperson
Councillor Gill
T. Allen, School Board Trustee
R. Benson
B. Burnside
R. Gorman
S. Hundal
G. Rai

Regrets:

C. Annable

Guest Observers:**Staff Present:**

L. Cavan, General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture
O. Croy, Manager, Parks
T. Uhrich, Manager, Parks Planning, Research & Design
L. White, Manager, Community and 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 S. Hundal
and Sport Tourism Committee of October 16, 2013, be adopted. That the minutes of the Parks, Recreation
& Sport Tourism Committee of October 16, 2013, be adopted.
Carried

B. DELEGATIONS**1. Surrey Off Road Cycling Enthusiasts (SORCE)**

Jordan Proctor, President, Surrey Off Road Cycling Enthusiasts (SORCE), was in attendance to provide an update on the successes of SORCE, to thank the City of Surrey and to discuss the continued development of the off-road cycling community and off-road cycling facilities. A PowerPoint presentation was given, which included a number of photographs, promotional material and a review of the highlights from the various events that were held throughout the year.

Comments were as follows:

- SORCE operates under four components: Ride, Build, Learn and Preserve.
 - Ride – a number of events (local races, cycling trips, etc.) are scheduled throughout the year, supporting all age groups and levels of experience. All of the events held this year have exceeded the anticipated participation.
 - Build – contribute several hundred volunteer hours to develop facilities:
 - In cooperation with the City of Surrey and Sunnyside Acres Urban Forest Advisory Committee, SORCE assists in the management of South Surrey Bike Park, which includes planning, construction, maintenance and re-vegetation of the decommissioned trail.

- SORCE was also integral in the City of Surrey's development of the Invergarry Bike Park; a park that has become a popular destination for enthusiasts throughout the region.
- A jump area was redeveloped at Port Kells Park which has seen a dramatic increase in usage.
- Learn – promote safety, responsible cycling, skill development, bicycle maintenance, as well as the environmental and health benefits of cycling.

This year the International Mountain Bike Association brought a trail crew to Surrey to teach about sustainable bike park construction and they were impressed with the level of support and enthusiasm for the sport in Surrey.

Opportunities for children to be introduced to the sport are also offered. Working with the City, a number of successful riding camps were also offered throughout the school Spring and Summer Breaks. Going forward, SORCE will now take over the responsibility of programming and administration from the City of future bike camps.

- Preserve – lots of work has been done caring for the trails and being involved in the Re-leaf program at all of the parks, and will continue.
- It has been an excellent year for SORCE, working with the City of Surrey to endorse off-road cycling and outdoor recreation in general.
- Future plans for SORCE include:
 - more cross country and pumptrack races;
 - more volunteer maintenance and stewardship;
 - continue to work with the City to ensure all of the bike parks meet the standard set by the new construction completed by Alpine Bike Parks at Invergarry Bike Park;
 - revitalize the Latimer Lake Park trails;
 - advocate to expand the bike/nature trails in Sunnyside Acres Urban Forest (South Surrey Bike Park); and
 - advocate for a natural surface cross country/nature trail in Green Timbers Park.

In closing, a document entitled “Sea To Sky Mountain Bike Touring” was recommended to the Committee as further information. In response the Chair noted that it may be an interesting document to have in terms of sport tourism and the economic flow within the city.

Mr. Proctor was thanked for his presentation, noting that SORCE has added a dimension that Surrey was previously lacking.

C. STAFF PRESENTATION**1. Artificial Turf Field at South Surrey Athletic Park**

File: 5920-20/S

Catherine Eiswerth, ASCT, Binnie Sports Facility Designers and Landscape Architecture (Binnie), and Ted Uhrich, Manager, Parks Planning, Research and Design, were in attendance to provide a presentation on the Artificial Turf Field at South Surrey Athletic Park. (Note: Item E.1 – memorandum from the Manager, Parks Planning, Research and Design, dated November 12, 2013, accompanied the presentation.

A brief background of the type of projects Binnie has been involved with (e.g. the design of more than 100 synthetic fields) was given and a PowerPoint presentation, which included an overview of the steps taken for the Artificial Turf Field at South Surrey Athletic Park project, was provided. Additional comments were as follows:

- The field selected for the project is Field #3 (south end location shown).
- Currently the site is a natural grass football field used primarily for football practice as well as the site of a throwing cage for track and field events such as hammer throw and discus.
- As a result of poor drainage, the field is currently underutilized and experiences an extended closure period each year. The installation of the artificial turf will increase the number of sports user groups (mini-soccer, football, baseball and misc.).
- Due to some of the challenges of the site, bordered by an Urban Forest along one side, a northerly slope opposite, as well as poor soil conditions, the width of the field will be slightly reduced (68m wide x 130m long), resulting in the field's use primarily as a practise field, not a game field. It will be identified as a practise field due to the reduced emphasis on spectators, as there is not enough room for bleachers and only be a single seat wall provided to accommodate any spectators.
- The field will also have baseball diamonds with dugouts at each of the southwest and southeast corners to accommodate the growing demand for baseball in South Surrey.
- Other fields were considered, but the desire was to keep the natural grass for those fields as the regional attraction for football is natural grass. Similarly, the soccer user groups expressed their support of the field being as close to a full field as possible as it will be able to support mini-soccer games, freeing up space/usage of the other fields.
- The synthetic turf has not yet been selected. There will be a tender put out; the expectation is that it will be an infill product similar to others used in Surrey and other areas of Greater Vancouver.

A review of the various consultation processes, which started in June 2012, was provided and other options considered were noted. It was reported that all sport user groups were met with and any concerns and comments expressed were taken into consideration and have been incorporated in the preliminary design, including the hammer discus cage being replaced by a moveable cage on Field #4.

When looking at what the community wanted, it was clear they wanted to keep grass fields at Field #4. A premium grass field in the right weather conditions is still prized for a lot of the premier games and can be lined for soccer too. There is a bit of a compromise in selecting Field #3, but overall it was felt it was the best compromise and the best satisfaction for the residents and users. All of the sports user groups have been supportive and integral to the design concept and, in particular, noted that there is a very high need for practise and training on synthetic fields.

The Committee raised concerns with respect to the amount of money being spent for a practise field, not a full size field, and further queried the location selected as opposed to another location that might better serve to entertain large events in the future and attract greater sport tourism. In response it was noted that the community had strongly supported the selection of Field #3 for the synthetic turf, and reiterated that they do not want it on any of the other grass fields as that would only result in the loss of one of the existing, preferred grass fields to be a turf field and that although Field #3 would remain as a grass field, it would continue to have bad drainage, etc. and be underutilized. There isn't anywhere on the grounds where a full size artificial turf field could be installed without the utilization of an existing field.

The Committee was further advised that the selection of Field #3 will actually provide more, not less, to the sports groups. It will accommodate regulation size baseball, football and mini-soccer and only results in a smaller field for adult soccer by 4m. It will not be a game field for adult soccer.

To enhance the comfort level for the Committee, the General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture, offered to come back to the Committee with a further report on:

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- Whether a full sized soccer field can be accommodated in the proposed location and the cost implications to extend Field #3 for the additional width of 4m (e.g. higher retaining wall to address the northerly slope);
- Provide information in relation to bookings of tournaments and fields that would be made available by the intensive use of Field #3 and how that would impact the ability to allocate and host in other fields; and
- Review if having the field inside the track, the number of hours the track use would lose by having the field, as there are key user groups in that location too.

In closing, it was again noted by the Committee that the intent is to add capacity in South Surrey. Should the site not accommodate an additional full field, it would be interesting to know if there are other locations in South Surrey better positioned to have this infrastructure. Sport tourism is an important component and having the right facilities will be significant for future events in Surrey.

2. Newton Recreation Centre Fitness Addition

Lisa White, Manager, Community and Recreation Services, was in attendance to provide a presentation of the design options prepared for the Newton Recreation Centre Fitness Addition. Some context of the area was provided noting that Newton Town Centre has the smallest square footage of fitness space despite having the largest population, in Surrey (comparison map shown).

A PowerPoint presentation, which included an overview of previous fitness space additions and resulting heavy usage of the facility, together with three design drawings and the various costs, was given. Comments were as follows:

- Through the Build Surrey Plan, \$7.5m in capital funding has been set aside to advance an addition to the Newton Recreation Centre to provide more fitness space to meet the demands of Newton's growing population. In the interim, early hours have been expanded to accommodate some of the demand.
- The proposed new addition will have up to 10,000 sq. ft. of fitness space for the Newton community.
- When the Plan was initiated, it was the vision that the Newton Town Centre would be the heart of an excellent transit oriented community. TransLink had envisioned bus stops on street and a layover space and throughout the area there would be mixed use and residential. It was really a vision around transit, walking, etc. It was anticipated that the bus loop would be moving, resulting in the opportunity for the fitness addition to expand fronting 72 Avenue, providing more "eyes on the street" and a better aesthetic impression for the facility. However, it has been determined that the bus loop will not be moving for ten years and the Plan has been delayed as the existing bus loop was renovated. As a result, three design options, ranging in size and cost, have been drafted for consideration:
 - Option 1 – \$7.5M, 7,000 sq. ft. additional programmable space. Meets budget, but doesn't meet the need of having eyes on the facility and having an urban feel, and control will continue to be at the back of the building.
 - Option 2 - \$12.5M, 10,000 sq. ft. additional programmable space. Has a little more sight at front, with some glazing at the front and on the west side, but control is still at the back and would be \$5M over the approved budget.
 - Option 3 - \$15.5M, 10,000 sq. ft. additional programmable space. Not able to push the building out on the ground floor for a front entrance because of the bus loop, but there would be stair access from the front outside to the second floor and significant glazing along the front facing 72 Avenue. \$8M over the approved budget.
- From a programming point of view, all of the options work, however it is a challenge to secure the option at the front. It is not an easy solution and the community is becoming concerned about the quality of the facility. There is an immediate need and it is intense; it is so busy people are being turned away.

- Although Option 1 provides 3,000 sq. ft. less than the other two options, it is within budget, would address the space the community is desperately in need of and does not eliminate any future opportunities for front glazing and options within the structure, without compromising design, once the transit is resolved. Furthermore, as the mat room was built with reinforcements to add a level in the future, it could be used as a weight room and transform to additional mat room space in the future.

Discussion ensued with respect to the arena facilities located to the south and whether there were any opportunities or value within that building to expand for further recreation space separate from the current structure. In response, staff noted that weight rooms integrate very well with aquatic facilities (e.g. share changing rooms, one pay point, etc.). It was further noted that an arena to replace the existing, aging arena, would not be built in the same location.

With respect to the bus loop, having an option to extend the building over top of the busses, similar to Metrotown, which would also provide shelter from the rain, was suggested for consideration. Staff advised they would pursue any options available, however noted that it would be difficult to control exposure to the exhaust from the busses.

It was reiterated that Newton has the largest population yet their facilities are aging. It was felt strongly that Newton residents should have the same quality of facilities as other areas and that the addition should be constructed in 2014. It was further suggested that community engagement should be considered as it is important to show the community what the build out will look like, not only in terms of aesthetics and the current anticipated changes, but also to provide information for future development, including the installation of a lap pool (within the 10-year plan) and becoming an overall aquatic fitness complex; the optics of what potentially that will look like means a lot to the community.

It was reported that staff will consider the Committee's comments and review any further options that may be available within the Option 1 design, by changing the design to add more sq. footage, and what that would look like without reducing the aesthetics, including the cost.

D. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Artificial Turf Field at South Surrey Athletic Park File: 5920-20/S

The memorandum, dated November 12, 2013, from the Manager, Parks Planning, Research and Design, regarding the above subject line, was reviewed in conjunction with the staff presentation in item C.1 above. It was noted that a further report, to include the information discussed, will be provided to the Committee.

2. Leisure Access Program Interim Update

File: 1810-01

The memorandum, dated November 12, 2013, 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 reported that there have been some complaints received with respect to the cost, in particular those individuals that are currently on government assistance. Every effort is being made to ensure there is a full set of options available during the less busy times, which has the lowest entry fees.

The program will continue to be monitored and a further update will be provided to the Committee at the six-month mark.

It was
Tourism Committee receive the report from the General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture, dated November 12, 2013, entitled "*Leisure Access Program Interim Update*", as information.

Moved by R. Benson

Seconded by R. Gorman

That the Parks, Recreation and Sport

Carried**F. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL****G. CORRESPONDENCE****1. Fergus Watershed Park Master Plan**

File: 6140-20

The letter, dated November 10, 2013, from Deb Jack, President, Surrey Environmental Partners, regarding the Fergus Watershed Park Master Plan, was reviewed.

O. Croy, Manager, Parks, reported that he had met and had a good conversation with Ms. Jack, and has committed to meet with the Surrey Environmental Partners to continue discussions, clarify the information and to better understand their concerns. Information based on those discussions will be presented to the Committee and the correspondence in response to their letter will be provided to Council and the Committee.

It was
Tourism Committee receive the letter, dated November 10, 2013, from Deb Jack, President, Surrey Environmental Partners.

Moved by Councillor Gill

Seconded by R. Benson

That the Parks, Recreation and Sport

Carried

2. Proposed 2014 Meeting Dates

File No. 0540-20

The memorandum from the City Clerk, dated November 14, 2013, proposing meeting dates for the Committee for the 2014 calendar year, was reviewed. It was noted that the proposed March 19th meeting date is during the school Spring Break closure and the necessity of that meeting was questioned. Staff reported that regular meeting agenda items for the February and March meetings will be reviewed and, if possible, the March meeting will not be held.

H. INFORMATION ITEMS

I. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Verbal Update

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

- **Canadian Open Fastpitch** - We are excited to report that Surrey won the bid to host the 2016 Women's World Fastpitch Championship.
- **Men's Provincial Curling Championships** - Surrey received interest in hosting the Men's Provincial Curling Championships in February 2016. There will be 16 teams and will be televised on Sportsnet/TSN. South Surrey Arena would be hosting. Mike Fox will be approaching Curl BC to confirm their interest in Surrey. More information will be available in the future.
- **Future Leaders Youth Leadership Program** - The Future Youth Leaders Youth Leadership Program is open to registered City of Surrey volunteers ages 14 – 21. The 5-step program helps build leadership skills, training and experience towards becoming a City of Surrey Instructor.
- **Thriving Children - Start by Nurturing the Heart** - In partnership with the Dalai Lama Center for Peace and Education the Cities Fit for Children Pre-Conference took place this evening (November 20th) in the Main Stage Theatre at the Surrey Arts Centre. The Mayor provided opening remarks to the full house and Minister Stephanie Cadieux was also in attendance. Three renowned speakers were also on the agenda.
- **Cities Fit for Children Provincial Summit – November 21 and 22, 2013** - Beginning in 2007, the Cities Fit for Children Provincial Conference was designed to build collaboration between child development professionals and municipal leaders to share ideas, tools and innovations in making communities fit for their youngest citizens. Surrey and other partners are hosting this two-day conference that is taking place at the Sheraton Guildford. There are approximately 300 delegates anticipated.
- **Grandview Heights Aquatic Centre** - The construction contract was awarded to EllisDon and site excavation is fully underway. Progress of the site

and community promotion can be found on Facebook – “Grandview Heights Aquatic Centre”.

- **South Surrey Recreation Centre** - The Fitness expansion is well underway with completion still slated for Spring, 2014.
- **South Surrey Indoor Pool** – Phase 1, installation of a new air handling unit system, is completed. Phase 2/3 (air conditioning and dehumidification) is underway.
- **Family Halloween Dance** - Fleetwood Community Centre staff brought back a Family Halloween Dance for the community and welcomed 320 people through the doors.
- **Surrey Leadership Action Conference (SLAC)** - A weekend-long leadership conference for youth (high school aged) in Surrey that took place at the end of October at the Cloverdale Recreation Centre. In total, 103 youth took part in the whole weekend, with 73 youth staying overnight Friday and Saturday nights. There was incredible support from many organizations, both in planning and in the supervising of the event.
- **Sassy Awards** - The City partnered with many outside agencies to host the 3rd annual SASSY awards on November 1st at the Bell Centre, honouring youth who are living in Surrey or White Rock and are making a difference in our community by demonstrating the Rotary ideal of “Service Above Self”. Youth (16-21) were recognized for their achievement in six categories.
- **Installation of Memorials on Unmarked Graves** - This very successful event took place October 29th at the Sunnyside Lawn Cemetery where staff placed a number of memorial markers on previously unmarked graves.

The graves had been unmarked primarily because some individuals did not have sufficient funds, or next of kin, at the time of death, resulting in no financial resources available to pay for interment. Fortunately, the Provincial *Ministry of Social Development* has a program in place that pays for the interment of such individuals; however, this program does not cover the installation of a memorial marker. The City initiated a corporate sponsorship program with a local monument company to provide memorial markers.

- **Tree Lighting Ceremony** - This event is taking place at Central City Plaza on Saturday, November 23rd, from 12:00 noon – 8:00 pm. The tree lighting ceremony will take place at 6:15 pm.
- **Cooking Dialogues: October 2013 - February 2014** - This is a Welcoming Communities initiative. The Korean, Indian, Filipino sessions were very successful, with lots of great dialogue, food and learning. There are three sessions remaining from November to February, including Chinese, African and Middle Eastern. Pictures and videos from all sessions will be available online at www.wicsurrey.org.
- **Sports Day in Surrey** - RBC Sports Day in Canada is presented by ParticipACTION, CBC and True Sport. This national celebration of sport, from grassroots to high-performance, is an opportunity for all Canadians to celebrate the power of sport, build community and national spirit and facilitate healthy, active living. This is taking place November 23 – 30, at recreation centres across Surrey.

- **5th Annual Sledge Hockey Showdown** - Taking place November 23rd from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm at Surrey Sport and Leisure Complex, this event is an annual fundraiser and community awareness event for sledge hockey in Surrey.
- **Doors Open – Save the Date** – Saturday, June 21, 2014, 11:00 am – 4:00 pm, is the next Doors Open Event! Doors Open provides a unique opportunity to be a tourist in your own city. Over 40 buildings in City Centre, Bear Creek, Newton and the Cloverdale area will offer a behind the scenes look at Surrey's rich culture, history, art and architecture. There may also be some elements at the New City Hall.
- **Canadian Sport for Life – mini SUMMITS** - A friendly reminder to the memo that went out to the Committee about the upcoming Canadian Sport for Life mini SUMMITS taking place at the Guildford Recreation Centre on November 26th from 8:30 am – 3:30 pm.
- **Hazelgrove Community Park Open House** – A 2nd Open House took place last night (November 19th) for the Hazelgrove Community Park. There was a strong turnout with 70 residents in attendance. To encourage more participation childcare services was also provided. Overall it was a very positive meeting, with a number of really good options suggested. Further information will be brought to the Committee in the future.

2. **Traffic Signal – Surrey Arts Centre**

Committee member T. Allen drew attention to the length of time that it takes to make a left hand turn in to the Surrey Arts Centre parking lot off 88 Avenue when travelling west. It was suggested that staff forward the concern and question the possibility of installing an advanced turning light at that location, to the City's Transportation Section.

J. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee (PRSTC) will be held on **Wednesday, January 15, 2014, at 7:00 p.m.** in Park's Meeting Room #1.

K. **ADJOURNMENT**

It was

Moved by Councillor Gill
Seconded by R. Gorman
That the Parks, Recreation and Sport

Tourism Committee do now adjourn.

Carried

The Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Councillor Hepner, Chair
Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee