

Parks, Recreation & Sport Tourism Committee - Minutes

Present:

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

Regrets:

Councillor Gill

Staff Present:

L. Cavan, General Manager, Parks, Recreation
& Culture
O. Croy, Manager, Parks
T. Neufeld, Park Construction Manager
L. White, Manager Community & Leisure
Services
L. Anderson, Legislative Services

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was Moved by S. Hundal
Seconded by T. Allen
That the minutes of the Parks, Recreation
and Sport Tourism Committee of February 19, 2014, be adopted.
Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

1. Blake Choquer

Blake Choquer was in attendance to advocate for an amendment to the plan for Dufferin Park to include courts for tennis instead of basketball. A brief PowerPoint presentation was given and supporting comments were as follows:

- Tennis is a family oriented sport that appeals to all age groups and touted by scientists and physicians around the world as one of the most beneficial activities for promoting great health, physically, mentally and emotionally.
- Bringing tennis into our community not only provides a great opportunity for families to enjoy the game, it provides much needed facilities for kids tennis camps and a starting point for youngsters, possibly training to be the next Canadian Milos Raonic or Genie Bouchard.
- As long time basketball players, it was pointed out to us when we moved to the community that there were plans to install a basketball court as part of the development of Dufferin Park. However we believe there is greater support in our neighbourhood for tennis courts at the park, especially given the likelihood of there being basketball courts installed in the future elementary school slated for development beside the park.
- Upon reviewing the results of the two public consultation Open Houses (October 26, 2012 and March 7, 2013), it was noted that a playground, paths

and large open lawns were most desired for Dufferin Park, with 23% asking for tennis courts, 20% for a hockey box and only 12% for basketball courts.

- Tennis is growing in popularity (most common age group 12 – 54 years). As reported in a recent study in Montreal (February 6, 2012), for the third consecutive year, tennis participation in Canada has grown by at least 3%. Close to 5 million Canadians claim to have played the game in 2011, which represents an increase of 23% since 2008; British Columbia leads the provinces with 6% of the population, followed by Quebec with 5% of the population.
- Unfortunately, it is hard to find tennis courts in Surrey to support the current and growing interest in tennis. As a family oriented sport, attracting a wide range of demographics, driving to White Rock and/or Langley for the opportunity to play tennis is unrealistic for the population of Surrey.
- Through a website created to petition neighbourhood residents about their interest for amenities at Dufferin Park, there were 126 voter responses in favour of tennis courts for the park.
- It is recognized that the biggest obstacles are the increased total footprint requirement for tennis courts vs. basketball courts (diagram shown noting dimensions of a basketball court 50' x 84' and a tennis court of 60' x 120') and the additional maintenance costs for tennis courts over basketball courts.
- With respect to ball hockey, it is felt that street hockey will remain as street hockey and that the likelihood of the basketball courts facilitating ball hockey may be very slim.
- To summarize, tennis courts provide the community a safe, fun, healthy environment that allows all ages to participate and enjoy the outdoors. There is strong support that there would be a greater use of tennis courts at Dufferin Park, appealing to a much broader age group than basketball.

The Committee expressed their appreciation for the presentation and noted that some members have also been approached by parents, coaches and residents of the Dufferin Park area sharing their desire for tennis courts instead of basketball courts for the park.

In response, staff acknowledged the growing interest in tennis and the City's support of tennis within many parks. The challenge with Dufferin Park is trying to accomplish the standard elements to be included (grass soccer field, parking and playground) with the neighbourhood desired amenities. It was noted that the footprint of a double tennis court would mean reducing the amount of passive space, but it was apparent with the very high attendance at the open houses that the passive green space presented within the popular park design was more desirable. Given the size limitations available and the strong needs of the youth to play in to the evening, it was felt that the park's final design to include basketball courts was a good compromise.

The Committee commented as follows:

- It is safe to assume the future elementary school will have a gymnasium with basketball hoops, but it is not known if there will be hoops located outside as well (staff will make inquiries).

- Generally youth are not represented very strongly at public consultation meetings (open houses) and as such the priorities for the space may be skewed. It is often the case that the results of the open houses do not clearly represent an appetite for basketball.
- The idea of a tennis rebound wall may also be something to consider, if possible, without compromising other areas of the design layout, costs, etc. However rebound walls are usually complimentary to main tennis courts and are used primarily while waiting to access a court. Rebound walls are also noisier than tennis games and as such typically situated away from residential areas.
- There are currently two courts in South Surrey that are not extensively used at Bell Park and Alder Park.

In closing, a staff report back to the Committee was requested. In particular, if there is the opportunity for one tennis court and what those options would be; does the final design fit all of the demographics of the neighbourhood (ranging from young families to retired citizens); and any additional costs that would be incurred by any change to the current design. It was further requested that staff provide information pertaining to the future plans for the school and the outdoor amenities that might be included in those plans.

2. **Sybil Rowe, Western Cedar Evergreen Group**

File: 6300-01; 0550-20-10

Sybil Rowe, Western Cedar Evergreen Group, was in attendance to discuss the need for preserving the Western Cedar trees lining 168 Street, as well as proposing a green park at the 2700 block of 168 Street. Comments were as follows:

- The country atmosphere of Grandview Heights is being destroyed by clear cutting and densification, leaving no room for trees or even the smallest of back yards.
- Development in South Surrey is progressing fast and relentlessly eastward and the residents of Grandview Heights are in the "eye of the storm."
- Beautiful streets are being stripped of the majestic trees; the last guardians of Grandview Heights, lining the vista of the most beautiful streets in Surrey.
- In support of a mission to preserve the natural beauty and integrity of Grandview Heights in the face of massive development, a petition was initiated. The focus of the petition, which has received 730 signatures to-date, is two-fold:
 1. Heritage designation of the majestic evergreens framing either side of the entrance to the Grandview Heights neighbourhood – 168 Street between 24 Avenue and 32 Avenue; and
 2. Creation of a green park for families at the nine-acre property located at the 2700 block on the east side of 168 Street.
- Support of the petition was met with expressions of sadness, fear and anger, and above all, feelings of impotence in the face of an uncompromising

movement to urbanize Grandview Heights. It is one thing to develop a neighbourhood, but it is another thing entirely, to erase it.

- Furthermore, residents frequently stated "We have no parks!" High density development doesn't consider the need for passive green space. Continuing on this path of densification without concessions for parks and passive green space, threatens the health, happiness and well-being of every resident.
- In short, those that have settled and made Grandview Heights their home expressed a desire for the same thing, namely, the retention of the natural beauty that drew them there in the first place and a greater emphasis on the creation of parks, at the very least small tot parks within a walkable distance, to accommodate the local residents. The voracious pattern of high-density development without adequate planning for park areas destroys, rather than creates, neighbourhoods.

The Committee thanked Ms. Rowe for her presentation and the efforts made to raise awareness with respect to the need for parks in the Grandview Heights area and tree preservation along 168 Street.

The Chair reported that staff will do some research, review the information, and prepare a comprehensive report to address current and future connectivity park land opportunities, consideration for tot lots and, in particular, any plan(s) for the nine-acre City owned land on the east side of 168 Street (formerly a horse farm – part of Surrey's history). Inquiries will also be made as to whether any road infrastructure/realignment is anticipated for the area. Recommendations will be brought forward to the Committee at a future meeting for consideration.

It was Moved by R. Benson
Seconded by R. Gorman
That the Parks, Recreation and Sport
Tourism Committee receive the petition requesting:

1. Heritage designation of the majestic evergreens framing either side of 168 Street from 24 Avenue to 32 Avenue; and
2. The creation of a green park for families at the nine-acre property site on the 2700 block of the east side of 168 Street.

Carried

C. STAFF PRESENTATION

1. Tim Neufeld, Park Construction Manager

Tim Neufeld, Park Construction Manager, was in attendance to provide a presentation on Parks Capital Projects. A PowerPoint presentation was given, providing an overview of the various projects of 2013, including photographs of the completed and on-going projects and the design plans for upcoming construction and/or park renovations. Some highlights were noted as follows:

- The focal point of the West Newton Community Park is the Fieldhouse, opposite the pitch, anticipated to be completed by early June. The design is spectacular and it is sure to be a unique and special building.
- At Invergarry Bike Park, the focus is on the Shovel Buster Trail, a high skill, high expertise trail, with engineered jumps featuring steel wood structures. It is the hope that the engineered jumps will be more sustainable over time.
- A significant renovation and upgrade of Sullivan Point, at Crescent Beach Park, opened up the sightlines and enhanced the lifeguard station.
- In preparation for Dufferin Park, trees have been removed and the playground has been moved. At this point, any changes to the design would affect the projected passive area. Staff noted that the funding for this park is coming from the NCP. As such, if there is consideration for tennis courts, it should be noted that construction would have to be taken over a further year in order to have the resources to complete the park. A lot of work that has been done already is in site preparation and clearing, engineering and drainage. A great deal of work has gone in to getting the sand based field ready; planning to be seeding shortly. The frontage of the park has already been finished, giving the park a pleasant look from the street.
- The various planting projects throughout the city have been extremely successful in engaging community. To-date there have been almost 75,000 trees planted. Dufferin Park is scheduled to have the planting of 100+ trees and it is anticipated that tree number 75,000 will be planted in the Clayton area very soon.
- Panorama Park, another new site north of West Newton Community Park, is nearing completion. The park has a dog off-leash area, a small tot lot and a little pump track for small kids for cycling. The grand opening will be held shortly.
- Following a delegation from the Surrey Lawn Bowling Club to the PRSTC in June, 2012, and subsequent fundraising and grants secured by the Club in early 2013, the City worked in partnership with the Club to facilitate renovations and upgrades to the Fieldhouse. Much of the work took place last year and into 2014. The facility has now been brought up to code, allowing functional space for food preparation as well as new washroom facilities. The project will be fully completed by the early part of June.
- There are many renovations in infrastructure done each year; quite a number of playground replacements. The playgrounds, although they may look similar, do have some differing elements, however there are some things that just work really well and have been very successful, creating somewhat of a template for playgrounds. Equally, manufacturers for the most part have similar looking equipment, which limits a noticeable variety between playgrounds.
- Natural playgrounds are also starting to emerge. Working in partnership with Recreation Services, natural play spaces have recently been put together at Don Christian Elementary School in Cloverdale. [The Chair noted a similar concept in Seattle that has raised the idea of fort building; a great model to explore with so many children.]

The Committee passed on their accolades to staff for all of the amazing park construction, both large and small, that was done in 2013, and in particular, noted their delight upon seeing the (soon to be completed) Covered Youth Park in Cloverdale. It was reported the symmetry of the park, in relation to the Cloverdale Recreation Centre beside the park, is very good and the view of the park from along 176 Street looks fantastic.

It was suggested, as a way of informing residents of the investments being made by creating and maintaining parks, etc. for their communities, that a marketing type brochure could be created outlining the various projects, completed and underway, within the neighbourhoods. It is critical for communities to know about these investments and to know the City is dedicated to establishing healthy and welcoming communities. Staff reported that there are renderings displayed within large format brochures for those projects achieved through the Build Surrey Program and that a review of marketing opportunities for the smaller projects could be done.

2. **Lisa Wade, Clayton Community Projects Manager**

Lisa Wade, Clayton Community Projects Manager, was in attendance to provide a presentation on the Clayton Community Engagement Process. A PowerPoint presentation was given, providing an overview of the challenges and opportunities within the Clayton community and the steps that have been taken to connect programs and build community, particularly with youth initiatives. Comments were as follows:

- The Clayton Heights community is experiencing the challenges of:
 - significant growth and population surge - since 2001, the population increased by over 14,000 new residents, 25% of which are children up to the age of 19;
 - marginal public transit, recreational opportunities and community engagement events; and
 - increased reports of vandalism, property crime and a growing number of youth gathering in Clayton areas.
- Over the past 14 months the City of Surrey, community partners, Clayton Heights Business Owners, the RCMP, Surrey School District and stakeholders are developing and composing an ongoing structure between these partners and the children and youth in the community.
- Guided by Surrey's Child and Youth Friendly Strategy, the emphasis for Clayton is on community development, fabricating a stronger sense of connection, and developing an infrastructure of engagement (examples fundamental in the development of the Clayton recommendation plan and engagement initiatives were highlighted).
- Through a successful grant application by the City, PeerNetBC provided youth engagement training, over the course of one year, which included participation of three Clayton staff. Information and resources for strengthening peer support groups and peer-led initiatives were accomplished (see more at www.peernetbc.com).

- Gaps and opportunities identified were as follows:
 - *Gaps*
 - Limited programming and engagement for youth;
 - Few middle years afterschool programming;
 - Lack of community participation in community initiatives;
 - Limited use of social media tools available to connect/raise awareness to parents; and
 - Few City facilities in the area (recreation centre/library).
 - *Opportunities*
 - New secondary school/new elementary school being developed – opportunity to engage with City on shared usage;
 - Middle years - MyZone programming for 9-12 years from 3-6pm (critical hours);
 - Outreach/engagement initiatives in coloration with RCMP and businesses, has already resulted in a reduction of almost 60% of nuisance calls to RCMP for service;
 - Increased volunteer opportunities; and
 - The design phase for the Clayton Recreation Centre, currently at the RFP stage and is the primary focus for 2014.
- Engagement in the community has developed into two-way communication; residents, businesses and partners are e-mailing, messaging, connecting and creating dialogue on a multitude of aspects in and for the community.
- Similarly, initiatives for Clayton youth have also developed following the Youth Speak Up Conference held for young people, encouraging and facilitating dialogue about their community and building stronger connections (participation of 40+ youth). Youth interest and the desire to be involved in the Clayton community continues to grow, as witnessed recently in their participation and positive influence in the Hazelgrove Park design.
- The free pilot Myzone program (critical hours programming), accessible and affordable for middle year aged children (6 to 12 years) during a time when children are vulnerable to negative exposures, received an overwhelming response, reaching maximum participation and attendance.
- The Mobile Youth Outreach (MOYO) program, which currently takes place in the summer and fall season, has adapted and modified its direction in Clayton for the community needs. MOYO is a youth engagement programming uniting multiple community partners to engage youth in their environments, offering resources and opportunities that foster meaningful community connections. The RCMP note the number of nuisance calls have dropped drastically in the Clayton area, from 386 calls to roughly 170 calls now, attributing these positive results to the connections made through this programming.
- A number of seasonal recreational opportunities have been implemented for the residents of Clayton of all ages, including camps, programs, and drop-in activities for middle and early years children; fostering lifelong health and wellness while providing diverse and accessible programming. Expansion to

the programming and recreational opportunities will continue based on the needs and the members of the community.

- Various community events have been hosted in Clayton to encourage neighbourhood connection (community events held in 2013 and upcoming community events were noted).
- Also maximizing the use of social media by creating opportunities for collaboration through social networks and building virtual communities and pairing this with face to face and outreach connections.
- Partnerships continue to grow and emerge within the Clayton community and the many testimonials received indicate how successful the engagement process for Clayton has become and will continue. Sustaining these relationships is an important result in this collaborative approach, which will continue to drive the growth and the commitment.

The Committee expressed their appreciation for the presentation and congratulated staff for the impressive success to-date in establishing community engagement for the Clayton area.

In response to a question of there being a community association for Clayton, it was noted that prior to the extensive development of the area there had been a community association which has since dissolved. Currently it is the Cloverdale Community Association that encompasses Clayton. It is anticipated that, over time, Clayton will again establish a community association similar to those that exist throughout the city that benefit from having the support and involvement of a community association.

Discussion ensued with respect to the future recreation centre and secondary school for Clayton. It was strongly suggested that the City establish dialogue with the Surrey School District to consider the future recreation centre and new secondary school, in partnership, as one. It would seem, with the encouraging presentation about children and youth within the Clayton community, not only would it be better use of taxpayer money, but by not having the recreation centre and school connected in some way, could be a significant opportunity loss for all concerned. It was suggested that, at a minimum, both sides should take a look at a model of how a partnership of this nature could work. In response, staff noted they are in discussions with the Surrey School District about capital projects and where there may be opportunities to work together, which will include consideration for Clayton.

D. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Community Sport Trailer Update

File No.: 6130-00

The memorandum, dated April 10, 2014, from the Parks Athletic Facility Operations Manager, regarding the above subject line, was reviewed. It was recommended that the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee receive the report as information.

It was

Moved by R. Benson

Seconded by R. Gorman

That the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee receive the report from the Parks Athletic Facility Operations Manager, dated April 10, 2014, entitled "Community Sport Trailer Update", as information.

Carried

2. Sport Tourism Report – January and February, 2014

File No.: 6980-01

The memorandum, dated March 31, 2014, 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.

With respect to the World Freestyle Skateboard Round-Up taking place during the Cloverdale Rodeo, May 16th – May 19th, staff will follow-up with Mike Fox, Sports Tourism Manager, to ensure there will be extensive marketing of the events. There is a great deal of global interest for this sport which will also be live streamed.

It was

Moved by T. Allen

Seconded by S. Hundal

That the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee receive the report from the General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture, dated March 31, 2014, entitled "Sport Tourism Report – January and February, 2014", 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:

- **Darts Hill Garden Park** - The estate of Francesca Darts has now been finalized and the Endowment held by Surrey Cares (the Surrey Foundation) will be receiving \$3,977,000 for the endowment fund for Darts Hill Garden Park.
- **Greenaway Pool** – As a one-year pilot project, the pool will be opening earlier. Based on community request, the pool will open in mid June providing an additional four weeks of operation.
- **Leisure Access Program** - Updates to the Leisure Access Program were implemented six months ago. The goals of the update are being achieved. The main goals were to position the program to be sustainable and to continue to offer free access to drop in programs to children, youth and seniors. There has been some confusion by the public in regards to adults having to pay 25% of the drop in admission fees; staff has been meeting with various organizations to explain the various options for the 25% admissions fee. With additional clarification and the promotion of the “value times” at the facilities many concerns have been addressed. Staff will continue to monitor the program and promote the Leisure Access Program as well as the variety of low cost and free programs in City facilities.
- Received a grant for \$16,000 for Guildford which will fund Guildford outreach youth programs.
- **My Neighbourhood, My Future** – Continuing work on the United Way of the Lower Mainland (UWLM) funded pilot project "My Neighbourhood, My Future", focussed in the Guildford West neighbourhood area. Now also working with SFU who will be the contractor for the first phase of the project, focusing on engagement and data gathering with stakeholders in the area, particularly parents of children 0 to 6 years.
- **South Surrey Recreation and Arts Centre opening** - Over 750 participants came in to view, tour and utilize the new centre on April 7th. The centre has been busy with weight room orientations and new weight room classes. Staff has received a lot of positive feedback from patrons on the new space and the variety of fitness options available, spin, fitness classes, weight room orientations, personal training and functional fitness elements in the weight room. Over 60 new passes have been sold and there were almost 1,600 swipes in the first week, not including drop in visits. There will be great synergies with the Arts programs.
- **Grandview Aquatic Centre** - progress on the project is moving forward quickly. There are four buttresses (to support the roof) completed, with work on pouring the fifth currently underway. Last report was that installation of the roof is planned for early fall. Opening of the facility is anticipated in 2015.
- **Guildford Aquatic Addition** – all exterior walls are up and the concrete pool spaces have been poured. Installing the trusses over the next couple of weeks. Opening planned for Fall 2014.

With respect to the City's award program, recognizing achievements in six areas (urban design, community beautification, environmental stewardship, energy conservation, community support and heritage), B. Burnside queried a future possibility of adding a sport tourism component to the award program to recognize advancement in sport tourism for Surrey (e.g. achievements in putting Surrey on the map, building capacity, volunteerism, etc.). The Committee agreed there would be a benefit to having the added category of sport tourism to the City's awards program and staff advised they will review how the other categories are defined, in particular the heritage award, and look at how the parameters could be established. It was noted that given the timelines it would be difficult to achieve this new category for this year's Award process. Staff will bring a report back to the Committee for consideration

With respect to the concerns raised at previous meetings regarding the parking at South Surrey Athletic Park, it was reported that the additional parking that was made available is not working as hoped; parking near the Fieldhouse is almost impossible. In response, staff noted they will review the rationing of parking within the park and will likely engage an engineering company that specializes in parking layouts.

2. Calendar of Events

The Committee noted the upcoming Parks, Recreation and Culture and various community events to June 11, 2014. Further community information is also available on the City's website at www.surrey.ca/culture-recreation.

J. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee will be held on **Wednesday, May 21, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. in Meeting Room 2E – Community Room A.**

K. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by B. Burnside
Seconded by C. Annable
That the Parks, Recreation and Sport

Tourism Committee do now adjourn.

Carried

The Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Councillor Hepner, Chair
Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee