Parks, Recreation & Sport
Tourism Committee –
Minutes

2E – Community Room A
City Hall
13450 – 104 Avenue
Surrey, BC
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 2015
Time: 5:30 p.m.
File: 0540-20

Present:
Councillor Hayne – Chairperson
T. Allen, School Board Trustee
C. Annable
M. Booth
B. Burnside
R. Gorman

Youth Representatives:
K. Grover

Regrets:
Councillor Gill
R. Benson
G. Rai
S. Gill

Staff Present:
L. Cavan, General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture
O. Croy, Manager, Parks
D. Gill-Badesha, Newton Manager, Community & Recreation Services
H. Norris, Park Facility Operations Manager
S. Rennie, South Surrey Manager, Community & Recreation Services
T. Uhrich, Parks Planning, Research & Design Manager
L. White, Manager Community & Leisure Services
L. Anderson, Legislative Services

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was Moved by T. Allen
Seconded by C. Annable
That the minutes of the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee of May 20, 2015, be adopted.
Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

1. Dale Thiessen, Vice-President North, and Peter Faliszewski, President, SORCE (Surrey Off Road Cycling Enthusiasts)

Dale Thiessen, Vice-President North (and past President) and Peter Faliszewski, President, SORCE (Surrey Off Road Cycling Enthusiasts), were in attendance to provide an update on SORCE’s activities in Surrey.

A brief PowerPoint presentation was given providing an overview of the various events held and accomplishments made since the last presentation to the Committee and to outline the strategic goals for 2015.

Comments were as follows:

• SORCE was founded in 2000, answering a community need to address legitimate concerns from residents on where and how to recreationally ride in Surrey parks.
• The City of Surrey was at the forefront in a partnership development with SORCE. Originally focused on development at South Surrey Athletic Park but
since expanded to several other parks, with most work completed by a
dedicated group of volunteers.

- Total combined historical funding has been approximately $250K.
- In addition, have developed a successful community outreach program for
  multiple users:
  - Youth development with bike camps;
  - Beginner and women’s only clinics;
  - Bike festivals;
  - Cycling BC provincial cup cross country racing (huge contingent of
    under 18), cyclocross and SPOKE high school race program; and
  - Inter-regional meetings with other jurisdictions and bike clubs.
- A model for success is Invergarry Bike Park, the most recent and largest
  project completed. A multi-year project with a multi-staged funding model
  (capital funding City of Surrey), which has really developed a new standard
  for bike parks (design, quality and safety) in Surrey and more broadly in BC
  and Canada.
- As a core group of volunteers, it is our enthusiasm that is at the heart of
  SORCE; most of our intent and activities are based upon increasing ridership
  for all levels of riding skill.
- For 2015, SORCE’s Strategic Plan is, together with City staff, to reassess the
  Surrey Bicycle Recreation Facilities Strategy, a comprehensive plan for the
  creation and maintenance of bike parks and riding facilities across Surrey,
  produced eight years ago. Much has changed since 2007 and it makes sense
  to look at where the focus should be for future development and
  implementation of bike parks at a community level and gain commitment for
  a long term strategy fulfilment.
- As part of that, we would like to work with the City and solidify new
  operational standards and funding for maintenance of bike parks.
- From a costing perspective, the total operational cost for facilities in all
  proposed bike parks is less than the cost of one sand-based grass sports field,
  which provides greater opportunities to develop new bike parks in a cost
  effective way.
- With future planning and fundraising for redevelopment of South Surrey Bike
  Park, and with Invergarry Bike Park approaching the end of its first year, it is
  imperative we have a good operational plan in place and that we understand
  how we are going to care for all bike parks going forward.
- Working on a shoe string budget (less than $5,000 for operations in 2014),
  funding is primarily through capital and operational funding from the City,
  with remaining funding through memberships and donations, corporate
  sponsorships, grants and fundraising events.
- It is important to highlight the economic impact of having dedicated bike
  parks in Surrey. E.g., South Surrey Bike Park has hosted BC Cup Cross
  Country races six times, Provincial High School Championships once and
  Canadian National Cyclocross Championships twice. In total, these events
  have included over 1,000 participants including Olympic athletes, their
families and spectators, garnered local and national media attention and contributed significant positive economic impact.

To close, the delegation requested that the City consider:

- a committed plan for long term development and incorporation of bike parks into Parks planning;
- operational funding to maintain safe and fun parks and structures; and
- increased cooperation for marketing and promoting recreational cycling.

The Chair thanked the delegation for their presentation, expressing appreciation for the great work that SORCE has done.

In response to questions from the Committee, the following was noted:

- Primarily all cycling infrastructure in Surrey is, by definition, multi-use. As such, some parks (e.g. South Surrey Bike Park) experience more dog walking than cycling.
- In addition to directory insurance, SORCE provides third party insurance for the various activities and events it holds, the cost of which is covered through membership fees (approximately 200 members). In terms of the care of the land itself and the trails, the City has legal responsibility for those.
- Because cycling and cycling events are not as developed as well as soccer and some other sports, it is much more difficult to determine demand. The difficulty is that as much as many children have bicycles, they are limited to where they can ride safely; parents are reluctant to let their children go too far. However, a survey of residents resulted in an overwhelming 90% expressing their support for the creation of riding facilities, so we know there is a definite interest.

Staff noted with Surrey being one of the youngest jurisdictions in the lower mainland, it is the youth that are most eager to have bike parks (free riding, urban and race BMX, trails, dirt jumping, etc.), however it is difficult to get the youth to the table to advocate. We need to use 'City Speaks' and other tools to provide them with a voice and get them to advocate.

The GM Parks, Recreation and Culture reported that it has been very valuable for the City to collaborate with partners such as SORCE and, with biking being such an important asset for Surrey, look forward to continuing to work with SORCE and have a balanced approach to further various cycling opportunities in Surrey.

2. Dr. Roy Strang

Dr. Roy Strang was in attendance to present a proposal for a Pinetum in Redwood Park (17900 - 20 Avenue). Comments were as follows:

- By definition, a Pinetum is an arboretum devoted to pine and other conifer trees species for scientific or demonstration purposes.
• In the early 1920’s the Brown brothers introduced an interesting collection of exotic coniferous and deciduous trees to their orchard and farm, now known as Redwood Park, in South Surrey. Though interesting, these trees are fairly unorganised and dispersed except for the small redwood plantation (*Sequoia giganteum*).

• I would like to propose planting a series of 1/100 ha plots featuring all of the native conifers which grow along the coast of the Pacific Rim from southwestern Argentina, along the west coast of the Americas, through Japan, Manchuria and Korea thence south to New Zealand. The plots would be laid out to simulate their natural geographic positions in a westward expansion of the Park. (As there are no native conifers growing in the coastal equatorial zone of the eastern Pacific Rim this area could be used for an office or visitor centre.)

• The costs would be small. Some landscaping and site preparation would be needed as the area is acquired, but it is anticipated that forestry departments of the several involved countries would gladly provide the small quantities of seed required.

• It is also suggested that Parks’ staff or horticulture students from Kwantlen University could raise seedlings. Furthermore, local schools could be involved in eventual planting and subsequent tending, expanding their geographic horizons and interests.

• Completed successfully, the benefit of having the Pinetum is that it would become a long-term international feature with special relevance for botanists, forest dendrology students and foresters concerned with translocation of provenances as climates change. It will also become a focus for Surrey’s international outreach.

In response to Dr. Strang’s presentation, the Chair noted that a significant piece of the proposal would be to acquire the land to the west (to 176 Street). Comments from staff were requested and the following was noted:

• The amount of Redwood Park land currently owned by the City is 127 acres. There is an additional 12 acres remaining to be acquired, however it is not anticipated that will be soon. With respect to park planning and development, it is about striking a balance on the remaining lands, as there is a continuing need for athletic fields as well.

• There are approximately 70 acres on the historical Brown brothers’ property. Again, we also have to balance the needs for emerging Grandview #4 as well as providing some other features to support community needs.

• As for the survival of those unique species from as far south as Argentina and north as Alaska, there is no reason to believe they would not do well in our climate (e.g. Mexican Pine). They may even help us determine how well or ill the trees are reacting to climate change. (Note: cedars are currently suffering because of the drought.)

• Staff will prepare a report that speaks to the various issues and concerns brought forward and how this proposal relates to some of our Partners In Parks opportunities, and outline the opportunities that may be available to us through this proposal.
The Committee again thanked Dr. Strang for the informative and thought provoking presentation and commented that the idea of involving schools would certainly be a benefit. It was also noted that Dr. Strang will be advised when the staff report is ready for the Committee's review in order that he can attend that meeting.

3. Isaac Kendall, Director of Community Relations, North Delta Soccer Club

Isaac Kendall, Director of Community Relations, North Delta Soccer Club, was in attendance to discuss the shortage of soccer training fields in North Delta and to seek an opportunity to utilize a Surrey field one night per week for training.

A PowerPoint presentation was given, providing a brief overview of the North Delta Soccer Club. Comments were as follows:

- The North Delta Soccer Club operates in North Delta with programming starting at 5 years and the majority of the programming for U13.
- Approximately 20% of youth registration is for Surrey youth (Scott Road corridor). Registration for fall 2014 was 1,004 (North Delta 807 / Surrey 197) and spring 2015 registration was 593 (North Delta 459 / Surrey 134). Spring registration is typically higher as 50% of youth don’t play fall soccer due to their hockey commitment in the fall.
- There is a serious lack of artificial turf available in North Delta for weeknight practices. Fields currently available in Delta are Mackie Park turf (1 full size or 2 super 8) and Dennis Elsom turf (1 full size or 3 Super 8).
- Although there are several grass fields and some gymnasiums through Delta Parks and Recreation and Delta School District, grass fields do not have field lights and are usually rendered unplayable in late fall and winter due to poor weather, and gymnasiums are not really a great environment to learn to play soccer.
- The Corporation of Delta has been approached to discuss the unique needs of the Club, however financial obligations to other facilities have pushed the funding for replacement turf and expansion of the Mackie Park turf field to be done and open for the fall of 2019. With the existing turf installed in 2001, it will be almost 19 years old by then.
- In an effort to move more of the mini teams out of gymnasiums and provide additional training of up to 12 extra sessions per week, the North Delta Soccer Club is seeking an opportunity to have access to Newton Athletic Park for one evening per week, for U13 training, 5 – 9 pm.

The Committee thanked the delegation for the presentation and commented that the Women’s FIFA World Cup currently being played in Vancouver has brought a lot of local excitement and interest. As such, it is important to ensure opportunities for youth to gain the proper technical skills to play soccer, something that cannot be achieved in gymnasiums.
In response to the Committee's comments, staff noted the following:

- Commitments already made to existing teams must be considered first for the current 2015–2016 season. For example, the SurDel Girls Soccer Club receive four hours of practice time on turf each week, a process that was negotiated and closed for this year.

- Newton Athletic Park is one of our prime parks with a huge demand, there are no nights where it is sitting empty. There may be some availability in our system somewhere, or in the event that some groups turn back some time, there may be something interim. However we want to ensure our programming is not affected first.

- It is possible there may be some availability at Tom Binnie Park or from time to time there has been some time available at Hjorth Road Park.

- If there is an opportunity before the next meeting staff will work with the delegation and bring a report back of what may be achieved.

C. STAFF PRESENTATION

1. **Stacey Rennie, CRS Manager, South Surrey and Daljit Gill-Badesha, CRS Manager, Newton**

Stacey Rennie, CRS Manager, South Surrey, and Daljit Gill-Badesha, CRS Manager, Newton, were in attendance with Community Service Coordinators, Corrie Elliott, Colleen Jeffrey, Arielle Patterson and David Sadler, to provide a presentation and overview of the Surrey Youth Services and Youth Engagement program that has been rolling out over the past year.

A PowerPoint presentation was given, providing a background to the 0–18 year healthy child and youth development framework, as outlined in the CRS logic model, which informs and guides the work that is being done.

Comments were as follows:

- Working with the CRS logic model, the early, middle and youth function tables came together to help shape the thinking of a framework for 0-18. This framework helps in setting strategic priorities that support and bridge each function area: Physical Literacy; Inclusive Environments; Supportive Relationship; and Citizen Building, and helps to identify and explain our role in community from a broader 0-18 perspective.

- Surrey is a young and rapidly growing city with one quarter of its population under 19 years of age. To keep up with the growth demands and services we provide, we need to look at innovative and responsible ways to meet the needs of our community.

- Reports indicate an increase in high risk and aggressive behaviours. With 70% of mental health related problems and illness’ onset during childhood and adolescence years (Miller, 2013), it is important to recognize and understand where there may be opportunities to support and engage youth.
• Research reports a decline of sport and recreation participation between ages 10-17 years, evident by the decrease in drop-in lounge and registered program participation; youth want to take advantage of recreation in different ways.

• Using evidence based research, best practice and listening to young people, we know that youth do better when they have access to: decision making; self-initiated growth and learning; information and resources; and community connections / volunteer opportunities (e.g. Youth Speak Up).

• Looking at where we were allocating resources, we noted that it was inconsistent from town centre to town centre. In response to changing needs, we partnered with BC Healthy Communities and developed the concept of "Youth Engagement Program Teams" (youth contributing some ideas to the development of programs and events), as a way to organize and structure our engagement work. Using a range of innovative training and capacity building approaches, a set of seven guiding principles were developed to build on the capacity of staff for conducting effective youth engagement strategies:
  o Youth are seen as assets;
  o Staff as allies;
  o Meet youth where they are at;
  o Responsive to youth;
  o Act as a bridge;
  o Create welcoming environment and spaces; and
  o Evidence based decision making.

• We feel that focusing on the quadrants within the healthy child development framework and guided by these seven principles of engagement, set the foundations to best support youth.

• By giving a young person a voice (to be heard without having to be leaders) and recognizing opportunities to develop their skills, able to contribute ideas to the development of programs and events at the early stages of engagement, their connection with staff and their commitment to the various programs is greater. The relationship between youth and staff is helping youth to be more connected and actually see themselves as leaders – our leaders of tomorrow.

• Knowing that the majority of registered programs are not a draw for 13-18 year category, there has been a shift in investment to meet the interests and emerging needs, with dedicated youth opportunities each week and several special events throughout the year. For example, some of the draws for youth and pre-teen are feeder programs such as Pre-teen Dances, Youth Fest, Aqua Launchers and AthElite (league play).

• In addition to the many hours of public and family times offered through our pools, arenas, weight rooms and fitness classes, and programs in our skate and bike parks, 322 hours/week on average (approx. 46 hours/day) are dedicated for youth specific programming and services.

• We can begin to see the value of paying attention to relationships and transitions by looking at increases in participation and connections. In just one year, an increased participation (membership swipes) was recorded from 107,000 in 2013 to 152,000 in 2014; participants are coming more often – improved relations.
• We know that supporting healthy child and youth development is no single agency's responsibility; through strategic partnerships, we can start to find improved ways to connect, engage and support the full spectrum of developmental needs.

• We know this model and approach helps us connect with youth and support them into adulthood; we now have youth staff in our facilities who have been our participants and our volunteers.

To close, the delegation provided a video, narrated by youth engagement staff, to briefly promote and outline the benefits of the youth engagement programming.

In response to the Committee's questions, the following was noted:

• It is important we maintain a universal approach even when reaching out to youth more difficult to reach. We have always taken the approach that all youth are vulnerable depending on what is happening, some things are invisible. It is hard to recognize immediately who is more vulnerable and who isn't, that is where building relationships is vital.

• We go beyond the walls of the recreation centres; staff go out to community events, libraries, shopping malls, etc., to interact and engage with youth to find out what they are interested in and if there is an opportunity to connect with them and lead them back to our centres. Once the youth are involved, they work to get the word out (social media) because they are invested.

• We do not provide transportation. To address the outreach barrier of transportation, we run drop-in locations at some schools in partnership with the School District (e.g. Cloverdale Recreation Centre location to Clayton Heights Secondary School). Being at the schools is what makes the most sense, kids are already there. In many cases schools reach out to us.

• Our recreation guide outlines a broad range of what is available across the city. Depending upon each town centre, there is a fairly even split between youth involvement in recreational programming (basketball, skateboarding, etc.) and the arts (performing arts, visual arts, etc.).

• We are trying to say yes to young people and help find ways to connect and create that meaningful experience.

The Committee thanked the delegation for the informative presentation and expressed their appreciation to staff for the excellent support and programming established to engage youth.

Staff noted that a detailed report that looks at specific age groups and participation statistics/trends, particularly the decreased participation as preteen and teenage years approach, will be provided to the Committee at a future meeting.

D. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS
E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Early Years Centres in Surrey
   File No. 0290-01

   The memorandum from the Manager, Community and Recreation Services, dated June 17, 2015, regarding the above subject line, was reviewed. It was recommended that the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee:

   1. Receive the report as information; and
   2. Forward the report to the Social Policy Committee for information.

   It was Moved by T. Allen
   Seconded by C. Annable

   That the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee:  
   1. Receive the report from the Manager, Community and Recreation Services, dated June 17, 2015, entitled “Early Years Centres in Surrey” as information; and
   2. Forward a copy of the report to the Social Policy Committee for information.

   Carried

2. Naming of new Grandview Heights Aquatics Centre
   File No. 8000-50/GH

   The memorandum from the Manager, Community and Recreation Services, dated June 17, 2015, regarding the above subject line, was reviewed. It was recommended that the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee recommend to Council that the new aquatics complex in South Surrey be named “Grandview Heights Aquatics Centre”.

   It was Moved by R. Gorman
   Seconded by B. Burnside

   That the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee receive the report from the Manager, Community and Recreation Services, dated June 17, 2015, entitled “Naming of new Grandview Heights Aquatics Centre” as information, and that a copy of the report be attached to the minutes of the meeting for Council reference.

   Carried
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

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

1. Receive the report from the Manager, Community and Recreation Services, dated June 17, 2015, entitled “Naming of new Grandview Heights Aquatics Centre” (attached as Appendix 1), as information; and

2. Adopt the name Grandview Heights Aquatics Centre for the new aquatics complex at 16855 – 24 Avenue, in South Surrey. 

Carried

3. Concept Plan for Oak Meadows Park in Sunnyside Heights
File No. 6140-20/O

The memorandum from the Parks Planning, Research and Design Manager, dated June 16, 2015, regarding the above subject line, was reviewed. It was recommended that the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee:

1. Recommend to Council that the name Oak Meadows Park be adopted for the park lot currently labelled 125 E Greenbelt (project site);

2. Endorse the concept plan for Oak Meadows Park attached as Appendix I to the report and recommend its adoption by Council; and

3. Attach a copy of the report to the minutes of the meeting for Council reference.

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

1. Receive the report from the Parks Planning, Research and Design Manager, dated June 16, 2015, entitled “Concept Plan for Oak Meadows Park in Sunnyside Heights” as information;

2. Endorse the concept plan for Oak Meadows Park attached as Appendix I to the report; and

3. Attach a copy of the report to the minutes of the meeting for Council reference.

Carried
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, dated June 16, 2015, entitled "Concept Plan for Oak Meadows Park in Sunnyside Heights" (attached as Appendix 2), as information;

2. Adopt the name Oak Meadows Park for the park lot currently labelled 125 E Greenbelt (project site); and

3. Adopt the concept plan for Oak Meadows Park attached as Appendix I to the report.

Carried

F. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

G. CORRESPONDENCE

H. INFORMATION ITEMS

I. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Calendar of Events

The calendar of upcoming Parks, Recreation and Culture and Community Events was acknowledged.

2. Verbal Update

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

- **Newton Athletic Park** (amenities development update) - Nearing completion of the overflow parking area, east of the recently redeveloped parking area at the south end of NAP; park staff are working on finishing the edges and final touch-ups. This will provide up to 80 additional parking stalls (informal) to the park. It is anticipated the overflow parking stalls will be paved in 2016.

  The new washroom and playground are fully operational. There are a few outstanding deficiencies to work through with the contractors, however they won't impact the functionality and enjoyment of the spaces for the public.
Within the next two weeks, Parks staff will start the excavation and ground works for the final phases of the project, which include a waterpark, grass volleyball courts and rubberized walking path installations.

Staff will also be updating the perimeter barrier system and wayfinding signage in the park to better delineate pedestrian and vehicle flow with a unified/updated look and feel for the park.

• **Guildford Aquatics** - The Guildford Aquatic Centre Grand Opening was held May 30th to celebrate the opening of Surrey’s new 50-metre competition and leisure pool complex. Over 1,000 residents took part in the free activities and entertainment and enjoyed a free public swim. The event also celebrated the dedication of the public art piece “Splash” by artist Michael Krondl, as well as the opening of the new youth park to the south of the pool.

• **4th Annual Aging in Place Conference** – As the kick-off to Seniors Week, this well attended conference took place June 6th at Fleetwood Community Centre with 893 registrations. The three key areas of focus were Healthy Lifestyles, Education and Advocacy and Safety, and the keynote presentation was ‘Transportation Working for Everyone’.

There were 21 different workshops throughout the day, including: 'Travel Smart for Seniors: Getting around Metro Vancouver', 'Be Fraud Aware!', 'Elder Abuse Awareness', 'Yoga 55+', 'Old Age Security Program', 'Power of Attorney, Wills and Representation', 'CPP Program', 'Educate Yourself: It May Not Be Dementia' and 'Advance Care Planning'.

• **2nd Annual International Physical Literacy Conference** - Surrey PRC staff presented at the 2nd Annual International Physical Literacy Conference, hosted in Vancouver, June 13 - 16. Over the four days Surrey staff (Lori Bowie, Brianna Collis and Ross MacDonald) were featured as session presenters and panel members sharing Surrey’s I AM Game instructor certification, recreation programs, camps and events, with a key focus area being our work in adapted program development and successful community partnerships.

• **PLANAT - Accessibility Review in Partnership with the Rick Hansen Foundation** - We are starting the second phase of our accessibility audits which will include the Libraries, Surrey Museum and Guildford Aquatic Centre. Once the audits are complete the community will be able to access this information on our City of Surrey website which will highlight the accessible features at each location. The application we are using is called PLANAT, an online tool used to view the accessibility of facilities worldwide.

• **Canucks Autism Partnership** - The Canucks Autism Network has chosen Surrey to host their Adapted Hockey Tournament on Saturday April 2, 2016. This event will coincide with World Autism Awareness Day.

• **Arts at Darts** – On Saturday, June 21st, Darts Hill Garden Park hosted its 4th Arts at Darts event, showcasing local artists, dancers and musicians. This special event is the only time the park is open in the evening, providing approximately 650 garden visitors a unique opportunity to enjoy the garden in the evening light.
J. NEXT MEETING

It was agreed by the Committee that the next meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee will be held on Wednesday, September 16, 2015 at 5:30 p.m., in Meeting Room 2E – Community Room A.

K. ADJOURNMENT

It was Moved by C. Annable
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 6:58 p.m.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk
Councillor Bruce Hayne, Chair
Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee
TO:        Parks, Recreation & Sport Tourism Committee  
FROM:      Manager, Community and Recreation Services  
DATE:      June 17, 2015  
FILE:      8000-50/GH  

RE:        Naming of new Grandview Heights Aquatics Centre  

RECOMMENDATION  
The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department recommends the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee recommend to Council that the new aquatics complex at 16855 – 24th Avenue in South Surrey be named "Grandview Heights Aquatics Centre".

INTENT  
The purpose of this report is to seek the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee’s support for the name of “Grandview Heights Aquatic Centre” in South Surrey.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS  
The City’s Policy “Naming of Parks and Facilities” (attached as Appendix 1) includes the following criteria:

  Community parks and amenities should, whenever possible, be given names which identify:

  (a) The community in which they are located; (ie. Fleetwood Community Centre)
  (b) Surrey pioneers known in the area in which the amenity is located;
  (c) Major donors or sponsors
  (d) Names arising from a community-based selection process.

BACKGROUND  
The construction of the new “Grandview Heights Aquatics Centre” located at 16855-24th Avenue began in 2013 and is scheduled for completion in December 2015. The facility will serve recreation interests of the community as well as act as a destination for major aquatic competitions including diving, swim meets and water polo. The facility will enhance and expand services currently being offered through the South Surrey Indoor Pool, South Surrey Recreation and Arts Centre and Kensington Prairie Community Centre.

The facility is central to the Grandview Heights community; this makes the name appropriate to its geographic location and is consistent with the City’s Naming Policy. The name will allow for easy recognition between the existing facilities and support effective marketing and promotion.
The new “Grandview Heights Aquatic Centre” includes a FINA-standard 10-lane, 50 metre main pool, leisure pool, waterslide, swirl pool, adult hot tub, digital water curtain, sauna and steam room, 7,000 sq ft. weightroom, and coffee shop. The facility will also feature 1, 3.5, 7.5 and 10 metre diving boards and platforms.

CONCLUSION

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department recommends the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee recommend to Council that the new aquatics complex at 16855 – 24th Avenue in South Surrey be named “Grandview Heights Aquatics Centre”.

Lisa White
Manager, Community and Recreation Services

Appendix I: Parks and Facilities Naming Policy
PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT

POLICY

SUBJECT: PARK & FACILITIES NAMING

INTENT

To establish a clear Policy for naming parks as well as Parks, Recreation and Culture buildings, assets and amenities.

A. Destination Parks

B. City parks and amenities tend to be used by a great number of people and whenever possible should bear names which identify their general location or key site features. They could also be named after benefactors or sponsors who have made an extraordinary contribution to the community. (Examples: Bear Creek Park, Stewart Farm House, anc Surrey Arts Centre)

B. Community parks and amenities tend to be used by the next greatest number of people and should, whenever possible, be given names which identify:

(a) the community in which they are located (ie: Cloverdale Athletic park, Fleetwood Community Centre);
(b) Surrey pioneers known in the area in which the park is located (ie: Lionel Curchene Park);
(c) major donors or sponsors (XYZ Company Youth Park);
(d) names arising from a community-based selection process (ie: The Garage-South Surrey Youth Centre).

C. Neighbourhood parks and amenities tend to be used by fewer people than City and community parks are more difficult to name for their location, and therefore should be given names recognizing:

(a) special features or major plant life indigenous to parks (ie: Cottontail lot lot);
(b) Surrey pioneers known in the area in which the park is located (ie: Moffat Memorial Park);
(c) local street and subdivision names, excluding real estate and development companies (ie: Strawberry Hill Park);
(d) significant donors or sponsors, including real estate and development companies who make a significant donation in excess of normal development cost charges;
(e) former property owner who donated the land (ie: Bell Park);
(f) Natural area linkages and conservation areas may never be developed as parks and should be assigned numbers for reference purposes in accordance

APPROVED BY: Laurie Cavan, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture

DATE APPROVED: May 2009

HOUSEKEEPING DATE: May 2009
INTER-OFFICE MEMO

TO: Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee

FROM: Parks, Planning, Research and Design Manager

DATE: June 16th, 2015

FILE: 6140-20/O

RE: Concept Plan for Oak Meadows Park in Sunnyside Heights

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department recommend that the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee:

1. Recommend to Council that the name Oak Meadows Park be adopted for the park lot currently labelled 125 E Greenbelt (project site);

2. Endorse the concept plan for Oak Meadows Park attached as Appendix I to this report and recommend its adoption by Council; and

3. Attach a copy of the report to the minutes of the meeting for Council reference.

BACKGROUND

Oak Meadows Park is a new 1.7 hectare (4.2 acre) neighbourhood park within the Sunnyside Heights Neighbourhood Concept Plan (NCP) area in South Surrey. The site, located between 22nd and 23rd Avenues, east of 162nd Street, was acquired by the City during the subdivision and development of the surrounding neighbourhood. A park location map is attached to this report as Appendix II.

Sunnyside Heights NCP is an area in transition, from single family acreage and agricultural use, to higher density multi-family residential. Oak Meadows Park will be the first of three park sites constructed within the NCP area, connected to each other and the broader neighbourhood through the Grandview Ridge Trail.

The park site includes a variety of natural features, including forest, open meadow and a unique wetland and pond at the southwest corner of the park. The main trees in the canopy are Douglas Fir, Big Leaf Maple and English Oak and Vine Maple. Groundcover includes shrubs such as Salmonberry and old field grassland.
DISCUSSION

A public engagement strategy was developed for this project to ensure that stakeholders and the public had opportunities to provide feedback on the park design. This process included two online CitySpeaks surveys, a public open house and a dedicated project web page. A site survey and environmental review were completed to support the planning and design process.

A total of 216 respondents completed the online CitySpeaks surveys and 22 people completed open house questionnaires. Participants were presented with background information and a preliminary park concept plan, and asked to provide ideas and preferences regarding the park design. The open house was advertised through mail-outs to over 600 households, in local newspapers, on the City of Surrey website, City Facebook page and Twitter page.

The results indicated support for the preliminary park concept plan, which draws on and highlights the natural features of the site. The preferred park amenities chosen by participants were pathways and trails, natural area and wildlife habitat enhancements, children’s play area and passive lawn. Flowering trees, picnic tables and a viewpoint were also popular. Results also indicated that residents were looking for a children’s play area that provided a natural play experience, as opposed to a traditional playground.

Based on the feedback and preferences received through public engagement, staff refined the preliminary park schematic into a preferred Concept Plan presented within this report as Appendix I. A full summary of the public engagement process is attached to this report as Appendix III.

Preferred Concept Plan

The preferred Concept Plan for Oak Meadows Park builds on the existing natural features of the site while providing a variety of passive amenities for local residents. In the plan, the majority of the site remains as natural forest and meadow, with a network of low-impact pathways, boardwalks and seating areas for visitors to enjoy the natural environment. The Grandview Ridge Trail runs along the eastern edge of the park, providing linkages with the broader Sunnyside Heights community. Picnicking sites and a nature play area, located at the centre of the park, provide an amenity node while limiting impact to the adjacent forest. At the northeast of the park, an existing orchard will be replanted with ornamental flowering trees, providing a spring colour while connecting to the site’s agricultural history.

Park amenities, including the nature play and picnicking areas, have been placed within the site with consideration to public safety and privacy for adjacent residences. Site-lines from adjacent roads and along pathways will minimize areas of concealment within the park and the design of seating areas and features will reduce graffiti and vandalism.

Park Naming

In addition to providing feedback on park amenities, residents were also asked to select their preferred park name from a list of options. It was widely felt that the name should connect with the site’s natural features. The name Oak Meadows Park was selected as the preferred park name,
in compliance with the City Policy on ‘Naming of Parks and Facilities,’ attached to this report as Appendix IV.

Next Steps

Detailed design will begin following Committee endorsement and Council approval of the preferred concept plan. Construction of Oak Meadows Park is anticipated to begin in the fall of 2015, funded through Park Amenity Contributions collected throughout the Sunnyside Heights NCP area. Any required site preparation or clearing will be scheduled following the 2015 bird nesting season.

SUMMARY

Oak Meadows Park will be a neighbourhood amenity for many residents of Sunnyside Heights, and will provide passive park features while respecting the City’s goals for tree and habitat preservation. The final Concept Plan, attached as Appendix I to this report, delivers the park amenities most requested by the community through a public engagement process while incorporating natural area protection and restoration.

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department recommends that the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee:

1. Recommend to Council that the name Oak Meadows Park be adopted for the park lot currently labelled 125 E Greenbelt (project site);

2. Endorse the concept plan for Oak Meadows Park attached as Appendix I to this report and recommend its adoption by Council; and

3. Attach a copy of the report to the minutes of the meeting for Council reference.

Ted Uhrich
Manager Parks Planning, Research and Design

Attachments:
Appendix I – Oak Meadows Park Concept Plan
Appendix II – Oak Meadows Park Location
Appendix III – Public Engagement Summary
Appendix IV – City of Surrey Park Naming Policy
Appendix I – Oak Meadows Park Concept Plan
Appendix II – Oak Meadows Park Location
Appendix III - Public Engagement Summary

OAK MEADOWS PARK
Community Engagement Summary

Parks has recently completed the preliminary planning and design process for Oak Meadows Park, a new 1.7 hectare (4.2 acre) neighbourhood park in Sunnyside Heights. This process included site surveys and assessments, two online CitySpeaks surveys and an open house on May 12, 2015.

The City provided project information and updates through a dedicated project webpage, and advised residents on engagement opportunities through newspapers ads, neighbourhood mail-outs and social media. Consultation opportunities were aimed at generating ideas and gathering input from residents and potential park users.

Key Findings

A total of 108 respondents completed the online CitySpeaks surveys and 22 people completed questionnaires at the May 12 open house. The following findings summarize the feedback received through this process.

Preferred Park Amenities

We heard that the park should build on the existing natural features of the site, and that active amenities like sport fields and structures should be reserved for more suitable locations nearby. Popular park amenities included pathways and trails, an expanded forest, wildlife habitat enhancements (bird boxes, insect habitat etc.), a nature play area for kids and passive open space. Flowering trees, picnic tables and a view point were also popular. The following figure summarizes the order of most preferred park improvements as expressed by all respondents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pathways/Trails</th>
<th>Reforestation/Naturalization</th>
<th>Habitat Enhancements</th>
<th>Children's Play Area</th>
<th>Passive Lawn Open Space</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>87%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It was evident from the survey and open house that residents were looking for a children’s play area that provided a natural play experience, as opposed to a traditional playground. There was some concern with the location of a traditional playground as it may create privacy and noise issues.

63% of people who wanted a children’s play area preferred nature play over a traditional playground.

84% of people identified with the natural features of the site and wanted them retained in the plan.

1 Combined surveys and open house results (May, 2015, 130 respondents) – Top 3 desired park amenities
Natural Areas and Wildlife Habitat

It was clear from the open house and survey that residents connected with the natural features of the site. We heard that active amenities in the park should be kept to a minimum, and that we should focus on enhancing wildlife habitat wherever possible. Reforestation, planting native plant species and wetland rehabilitation were widely supported. We also heard that opportunities to enjoy and learn about nature should be provided, including boardwalks through the wetland, seating opportunities along pathways and interpretive signage to allow visitors to learn about the local ecosystem.

Picnicking and Passive Open Space

Areas for picnicking and passive open space were widely supported in the plan, with a number of residents in support of picnic tables. There were, however, some concerns with larger covered shelters and gathering areas as they may encourage loitering after dark. We also heard that the existing old field habitat was valuable, and that regularly maintained lawn space should be limited. It was felt by some that the picnicking area should be close to a children’s nature play area to encourage family outings.

Dog’s in the Park

We also heard from some residents regarding the potential for a dog off-leash area, with residents both in favour and opposition. However, given the public’s overwhelming support for natural features and amenities, a dog off-leash area is not compatible or suitable for this park. As such, Bylaw signage requiring dogs to be on-leash at all times will be posted at entrances to the Park. It should be noted that the nearby Will's Brook Dog Off-leash Area has recently been approved. A larger destination scale dog off-leash area is also planned for a future community park northeast of 168th street and 24th Avenue.

Park Name

When asked to select a park name, the majority (60%) of respondents identified with the name Oak Meadows Park, which reflects the natural features of the site, notably the large English Oak trees and old field meadow habitat. Other popular names included Griffen, which was the original name of 23 Avenue, and Slayt, which was the name of the original family that owned the site. Other notable write in names included Grandview Ridge Nature Park, Royal Oak Park and Wild Fields Park.

SUMMARY

The City has completed public engagement for the design of Oak Meadows Park. The process included a range of public consultation opportunities to ensure that stakeholders and the public had meaningful opportunities to share ideas and provide feedback. Community outreach will continue through park development and once the park is open to the public.

Respondents were largely in support of the concept, with amenities that take advantage of the existing natural features and emphasise environmental stewardship. The final park concept plan was developed with consideration to the community feedback that was received. Amenities for children’s natural play and picnicking were included, while concerns of privacy and loitering have been addressed through pathway placement and landscape design. The plan is consistent with majority public opinion and provides the top 5 amenities desired by survey respondents.
Appendix IV - Park Naming Policy

PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT
POLICY MANUAL

SUBJECT: PARKS & FACILITIES NAMING

INTENT
To establish a clear Policy for naming parks as well as Parks, Recreation and Culture buildings, assets and amenities.

1. Park and amenity categories.
   A. City parks and amenities tend to be used by a great number of people and whenever possible should bear names which identify their general location or key site features. They could also be named after benefactors or sponsors who have made an extraordinary contribution to the community. (Examples: Bear Creek Park, Stewart Farm House, and Surrey Arts Centre)
   B. Community parks and amenities tend to be used by the next greatest number of people and should, whenever possible, be given names which identify:
      (a) The community in which they are located (i.e.: Cloverdale Athletic park, Fleetwood Community Centre);
      (b) Surrey pioneers known in the area in which the park is located (i.e.: Lionel Courchene Park);
      (c) Major donors or sponsors (XYZ Company Youth Park);
      (d) Names arising from a community-based selection process (i.e.: The Garage-South Surrey Youth Centre).
   C. Neighbourhood parks and amenities tend to be used by fewer people than City and community parks, are more difficult to name for their location, and therefore should be given names recognizing:
      (a) Special features or major plant life indigenous to parks (i.e.: Cottontail lot lot);
      (b) Surrey pioneers known in the area in which the park is located (i.e.: Moffat Memorial Park);
      (C) Local street and subdivision names, excluding real estate and development companies (i.e.: Strawberry Hill Park);
      (d) Significant donors or sponsors, including real estate and development companies who make a significant donation in excess of normal development cost charges;
      (e) Former property owner who donated the land (i.e.: Bell Park).
   D. Greenbelts, linkages and conservation areas may never be developed as parks and should be assigned numbers for reference purposes in accordance with the grid system used to identify planning/engineering map detail. Where community groups
propose to name a greenbelt, these areas may also be treated as neighbourhood parks.

2. Whenever a park has come to be known traditionally but not officially by a name which is not so familiar to the name of an existing park to be confusing, then serious consideration should be given to formal adoption of the traditional name.

3. Consideration may be given to naming parks and amenities after outstanding community volunteers. Consideration may also be given to naming parks and amenities after retired City employees, if the employee has given outstanding service to the City and/or has made a noteworthy contribution to the well-being of the City.

4. Consideration should be given to naming donated park sites and facilities constructed on donated land after the donor.

5. Parks immediately adjacent to existing school sites should bear the same name as the school (neighbourhood and community parks).

6. The preferred methods for selecting a name are:
   - through popular choice either via a petition, school contest, or other form of community involvement;
   - as a result of donation and/or sponsorship.

7. Naming parks or amenities after sponsors can only be done in accordance with the city’s Sponsorship Policy.

PRACTICES WHICH SHOULD BE AVOIDED

1. Naming a park after a current politician.

2. Naming a park or facility after a nearby but not immediately adjacent school or institution that may lead to confusion regarding their respective locations.

Integration with school sites to be carried out where possible.