

Parks, Recreation & Sport Tourism Committee – Minutes

Present:

Gurpreet Rai – Chairperson
Councillor Gill
T. Allen
C. Annable
R. Benson
M. Booth
B. Burnside
S. Gill – Youth Representative

Regrets:

Councillor Hayne
C. Murphy

Staff Present:

L. Cavan, General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture
O. Croy, Manager, Parks
L. White, Manager Community & Recreation Services
L. Anderson, Legislative Services

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was Moved by B. Burnside
Seconded by R. Benson
That the minutes of the Parks, Recreation
and Sport Tourism Committee meeting of October 19, 2016, be adopted.
Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

1. Kim MacQueen, Panorama Dog Park Community Association

The delegation of Kim MacQueen, Panorama Dog Park Community Association, was re-scheduled to the January 18, 2017 meeting.

2. Nathan Ross, Program Coordinator, SNAP (Surrey Natural Areas Partnership)

Nathan Ross, Program Coordinator, SNAP (Surrey Natural Areas Partnership), was in attendance to provide an update on their accomplishments over the past year.

A PowerPoint presentation was shown and the following comments were made:

- SNAP brings together three local non-profit societies: Green Timbers Heritage Society, Sunnyside Acres Heritage Society and South Surrey White Rock Naturalists, with the City of Surrey Parks Division, to restore and enhance natural areas while promoting environmental stewardship.
- For 16 years, SNAP has been employing secondary and post-secondary students each summer to achieve the common goals set by the City and the non-profit societies, and build valuable professional experience for students interested in pursuing careers in the environmental sector. There have been 148 students throughout those 16 years, many of whom have become

environmental leaders in numerous organizations and municipalities across BC and Canada, including the City of Surrey Parks' division.

- 15 students joined the SNAP program in 2016, SNAP's presence in parks has never been greater.
- The students were divided into two distinct groups to promote, enhance and restore Surrey's parks: Environmental Outreach (taking on longer term issues); and Habitat Restoration (taking care of immediate threat).
- Over the 16 weeks of the 2016 program, SNAP teams spent approximately 7,500 staff hours (with the exception of six days) working in Surrey parks and neighbouring communities. In addition, 20 volunteers provided a further 80 hours across five different volunteer days in July and August.
- Special priority in 2016 was given to the three partner parks: Green Timbers Urban Forest, Sunnyside Acres Urban Forest and Blackie Spit Park. The Habitat Restoration team also continued the on-going work on two student led projects created in collaboration with the City and BCIT, located in Bear Creek Park and Bothwell Park.
- The vast majority of the Habitat Restoration team time was spent removing invasive plants from natural areas. A significant visual impact was made in removing 6,294 m² of invasive plants and 2,394 m² of garbage from natural areas across Surrey.
- The Environmental Outreach team engaged with over 14,000 people across Surrey through five key tasks: park roving, door to door canvassing, attending and hosting community events, hosting free 'Nature Play' programs in four parks for community members of all ages, and facilitating nature themed education programs for day camps at recreation centres across Surrey.
- SNAP relies on federal funding, external granting organizations, and the City of Surrey to make the program a reality. The City plays a critical role in sustaining the SNAP program in providing both in-kind and financial contributions fundamental to the program.
- The SNAP model has been referenced around the world as an example of truly meaningful community engagement and continues to lead the way in this unique field.

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

- Each summer the City's Urban Forestry and Environmental Programs (UFEP) staff prescribe the summer's work for the SNAP team.
- Safety protocols are in place to ensure any discarded needles found are disposed of properly. The number of discarded needles found is not currently being tracked, however that can be introduced.
- In the past SNAP has done some work on boulevards, however this year the work assigned was specifically related to the natural areas.
- Typically students are recruited through social media; the City also posts on their environmental stewardship volunteer stream. It can be a challenge to recruit students to volunteer due to the seasonal aspect of SNAP with the first half of the program taking place in May and June.

The Committee thanked the delegation for the presentation and update, commending the SNAP teams for their valuable accomplishments and contribution to the City's parks and natural areas in 2016.

3. Lyda Salation, Founder and Executive Director, Green Teams of Canada

Lyda Salation, Founder and Executive Director, Green Teams of Canada, was in attendance to provide a presentation on a Fee for Service Partnership.

A PowerPoint presentation was shown which included many before and after images of the various educational environmental activities undertaken at many Surrey parks by Green Teams of Canada.

The following comments were made:

- Through a passion for the environment, combined with strong organizational skills, Green Teams of Canada was formed in 2013 to inspire stewardship of nature by connecting volunteers through hands-on activities within natural areas throughout the Lower Mainland. The majority of these activities consist of removing invasive plants, planting native plants and trees, and removing litter.
- Some of the issues addressed include:
 - Declining ecosystems (invasive species are spreading fast);
 - Lack of public awareness of environmental issues that parks face;
 - Limited hands-on experiential opportunities offered during school hours;
 - Increasing disconnection to nature and increasing sedentary lifestyles; and
 - Few opportunities for people to gain outdoor careers.
- Much of what makes Green Teams of Canada unique is:
 - It is the first environmental volunteer group that encompasses the Lower Mainland, and the first environmental organization founded on 'meetup.com';
 - Attracts a large number of volunteers (15 – 35 per activity) to undertake approximately 60 activities each year that run weekdays and weekends;
 - A younger demographic - between the ages of 12 and 45 (infuses younger volunteers into existing stewardship programs and groups);
 - Engages youth and at-risk youth; and
 - 46 collaborators - including BC Parks, Metro Vancouver Regional Parks, 11 municipalities and 33 environmental/watershed/stewardship groups.
- Some of the Lower Mainland municipalities that have engaged Green Teams of Canada (either to work with their existing environmental groups/programs or stand-alone) include the City of Burnaby (six years), City of Coquitlam (one year), City of Port Moody (four months), and most recently, the City of White Rock and the Township of Langley.
- To-date, 3,100 volunteers have been engaged (1,400 youth) throughout 265 activities in 16 municipalities, and have removed 87,000 pounds of invasive

plants and planted 9,000 native plant species. (An overview of the activities run by Green Teams of Canada in various Surrey parks (2011 – 2015) was provided.)

- To expand upon their work in the Lower Mainland, a hybrid fee for service and volunteer stewardship in the City of Surrey by Green Teams of Canada was proposed. It was suggested that two activities in the fall and three activities in the spring/summer of each year could be implemented. The rate would be subsidized with funding raised from other sources.

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

- Green Teams of Canada is provincially registered as a Society, with a Board of Directors who are all volunteers and only one paid staff member, Lyda Salation, Founder.
- A posting and emails are sent out to middle school and secondary school teachers within the municipalities where various events are planned. Depending upon the event, the date and time can be altered to accommodate schedules in order to ensure participation of students.
- As a result of the success in the Lower Mainland, Green Teams of Canada opened a branch in Victoria to expand on educational environmental activities. It is the intention to start Green Teams across Canada one day.

The Committee thanked the delegation for the presentation. The General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture, advised the Committee that staff will review the information provided and follow-up with Ms. Salation to gain an understanding of the financial model proposed. A report to the Committee will be provided in due course.

C. STAFF PRESENTATION

1. Lisa White, Manager of Community & Recreation Services

Lisa White, Manager of Community & Recreation Services, was in attendance to provide a presentation on the National Framework for Recreation in Canada.

A PowerPoint presentation was given, providing an overview of the process in establishing the National Framework for Recreation in Canada and the elements of that framework that align with and guide the City of Surrey's Parks, Recreation and Culture - Community and Recreation Services Strategy.

The following comments were made:

- The National Framework for Recreation in Canada is a co-led initiative by the Interprovincial Sport and Recreation Council and the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association, adopted by Canada's Federal, Provincial and Territorial Ministers of Sport and Recreation in February 2015.
- The last time there was a definition for recreation was 1974. In the last 10 years there has been much more evidence based information establishing that recreation provides multiple pathways to wellbeing for individuals, and

enhanced relevance in the community by building sustainable organizations and community capacity for citizen building and community building.

- The new definition for public recreation, established through the vision of the National Agenda for Recreation, is '*Recreation is a fundamental human need and right protected by international law, and is essential to the emotional, mental, social and physical wellbeing of every person in Canada*'.
- The document is a guide to help focus decision making, planning and policy development for and by a wide variety of local, provincial and national recreation agencies in the public and not for profit sectors. It helps set priorities, align efforts, and influence research priorities, providing a framework for practitioners to share; enabling rather than prescriptive, it doesn't delve into the operational processes of the work. The intention is that each agency can find its own way of implementing what is in the document and not be bound by one way of proceeding.
- The vision establishes that everyone is engaged in meaningful, accessible recreation experiences, that foster three focus areas:
 1. **Physical** - health and wellbeing of individuals;
 2. **Social** - health and wellbeing of places and spaces; and
 3. **Community** - health and wellbeing of Communities.
- There are five goals to the framework for practitioners to share:
 1. **Active Living** - foster active, healthy living through physical recreation;
 2. **Inclusion and Access** - increase inclusion and access to recreation for populations that face constraints to participation;
 3. **Connecting People and Nature** - help people connect to nature through recreation;
 4. **Supportive Environments** - ensure the provision of supportive physical and social environments that encourage participation in recreation and build strong, caring communities; and
 5. **Recreation Capacity** - ensure the continued growth and sustainability of the recreation field.

Under these five goals there are 22 priorities that are a collective approach across Canada.

- Asking citizens what they want, and providing what they say they want, is not a sound basis for planning recreation services or making decisions within the field. Sometimes people don't understand what their needs are. More strategically focusing limited available resources on contributing to real social issues and community needs is a rational basis on which to plan and act.

The exciting result is the evidence based outcomes:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| - Active holistic lifestyles | - Sustainable networks |
| - People connected to nature | - Legal obligations fulfilled |
| - Reduction in social problems | - A policy framework |
| - Vibrant inclusive communities | - Professional Standards |
| - Awareness and understanding | - Equity of Access |
| - A leisure ethic | |

The City's Community and Recreation Services (CRS) are strategically working to meet the outcomes of the National Agenda and have the indicators within their programming that demonstrate this. Collectively, this is what is being done across Canada, where success can be measured along the way.

- Recreation can and does play a key role in the economic sustainability of communities and regions by creating a more attractive place to live, work and play as well as specifically attracting investment and tourism.
- It is also worth measuring the direct economic impacts from recreation investments; for example, after school initiatives are part of the progress to achieve the eleven outcomes. The Canadian Sport Policy and professional and volunteer development are key initiatives that support and reach the outcomes.
- To align with sport and physical activity, the City is building infrastructure to have more sport and activity which can be measured.
- The CRS mission statement, "*Building healthy communities where all people are active and engaged for life*", integrates the four values, established through research and best practices:
 - **Public Good** - emphasis on accessibility for all, outreach to disadvantage groups and a belief in the universal benefits to the whole community, not just to users (e.g. if we're healthier, then health costs (hopefully) are less – an indirect benefit as well as the direct benefit);
 - **Inclusion and Equity** - inclusion is an organizational practice and goal in which all groups and individuals are welcomed and valued, equity speaks to fairness in access to resources, opportunities and experiences;
 - **Sustainability** - To deliver quality recreational experiences, recreation requires a system that is sustainable, in terms of human resources, economics and the environment; and
 - **Lifelong Participation** - individuals and communities benefit from lifelong participation in recreational experiences, from early childhood to old age.
- The CRS focus 2017 – 2020 is:
 - Equitable access to promote active individuals;
 - Building capacity for engaged communities; and
 - Welcoming and supportive spaces for inclusive environments.

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

- With respect to the public good and value, the ability to access recreation centres has changed over the years and provided opportunities for youth that previously were not available, including a pathway to volunteer for participation.
- There is still a lot to do - a recent article in the Globe and Mail rated Canadian youth activity as a 'D' across Canada. In addition, the number of youth engaging in organized sport has dropped in the last few years. As much as economics may play a role, it is important to address how to go about getting youth involved and increasing participation.

- Unstructured activity is becoming more popular, which means the value of drop-in membership is more important.

The General Manger, Parks, Recreation and Culture, reported that PRC works very closely with the Planning and Development and Engineering departments in many aspects, e.g. addressing walkability, recreation facilities, bike plans etc.; taking a very integrated approach to how the City plans. There are still improvements that can be made, but there are more collaborations happening than ever before.

It was further reported that the public good is also gaining a benefit by having individuals fully engaged in the community with positive outcomes. By advocating for more prevention money, PRC is more along continued investment to improve community healthy community outcomes.

With respect to public safety, the Clayton Heights Action Committee (CHAC) pilot, working with the community, shopping mall, recreation and parks, was put together as a model. The evidence suggests to start smaller and take the research from the pilot and learn from that first, before expanding the program further.

The Chair thanked staff for the informative presentation, and the on-going achievements of CRS, noting that a further presentation of the CRS Strategy will be provided to the Committee in due course.

D. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Framework for Recreation in Canada

File No. 7710-01

The memorandum from the Manager, Community and Recreation Services, dated November 7, 2016, 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 C. Annable
Seconded by R. Benson

That the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee receive the report from the Manager, Community and Recreation Services, dated November 7, 2016, entitled "*Framework for Recreation in Canada*", as information.

Carried

2. Naming Rights Assessment

File No. 7710-01

The memorandum from the General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture, dated November 7, 2016, 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 M. Booth

Seconded by R. Benson

That the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee receive the report from the General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture, dated November 7, 2016, entitled "*Naming Rights Assessment*", as information.

Carried**3. Sport Tourism Report – September 2016**

File No. 6980-01

The memorandum from the General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture, dated November 7, 2016, regarding the above subject line, was reviewed. It was recommended that the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee receive the report as information.

The General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture reported that staff are currently in the process of updating the Sport Tourism Strategy which will lay out an even stronger framework for the City with respect to sport tourism. In addition to the many bids that already happen throughout the year, the updated strategy will further help to identify where the best opportunities are for attracting and hosting events, and will also compliment the portfolio Matt Holbrook, Sport Tourism Manager, has established.

It was suggested that Matt Holbrook be invited to an upcoming meeting to provide an update.

It was

Moved by B. Burnside

Seconded by R. Benson

That the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee receive the report from the General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture, dated November 7, 2016, entitled "*Sport Tourism Report – September 2016*", as information.

Carried

4. White Rock/South Surrey Skating Club

File No. 8000-20

The memorandum from the General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture, dated November 8, 2016, 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. Provide a copy of the report to the White Rock/South Surrey Skating Club.

It was

Moved by B. Burnside

Seconded by R. Benson

That the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee receive the report from the General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture, dated November 8, 2016, entitled "*White Rock South Surrey Skating Club: Request for New Ice Sheet In South Surrey*" as information, and that a copy of the report be provided to the White Rock/South Surrey Skating Club.

Carried**5. Parks Development 2016 – Highlights**

File No. 6140-00

The memorandum from the Manager, Park Development Services, dated November 8, 2016, 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 B. Burnside

That the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee receive the report from the Manager, Park Development Services, dated November 8, 2016, entitled "*Parks Development 2016 – Highlights*", as information.

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, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture, provided the following updates:

- **Forsythe Park** - PRC is planning and building a new park in City Centre, which will include an Urban Nature Play area and a Dog Off-Leash area. The planning for the new park has started and the public will be engaged in consultation meetings through the winter, with plans to start construction in the spring of 2017.
- **Arenas** - Two new ice arenas to replace the aging North Surrey arenas were approved at Council on November 7th. An additional third sheet will also be accommodated to address the high demand for both ice and dry floor use.
- **Newton Recreation Centre** - The Newton Recreation Centre extended its pool and gymnasium closure to March 27, 2017 due to construction. The fitness centre will remain open and winter programs will be offered in adjacent facilities. Extensions will be provided to annual and monthly pass holders and staff will be encouraging the Newton community to continue their recreational needs at other City of Surrey facilities.
- **Seniors Volunteer Manager** - Jessie Sutherland, Healthy Communities, is the new Seniors Volunteer Manager. Jessie is working on the provincial funding received to increase meaningful volunteer participation and number of opportunities for seniors in the community. She will engage with seniors and volunteer portfolios to find creative and meaningful ways to support seniors' volunteerism.
- **Recreation Pass Promotion** – Beginning December 1st, all one-year recreation passes sold between December 1 and January 31 will have an extra month added for free and include access to weight rooms, drop-in gyms and drop-in fitness classes, plus unlimited public swimming and public skating. The goal of the Recreation Pass Promotion is to help people increase their commitment to an active and healthy lifestyle. The Recreation Pass Promotion can be used at over 25 facilities, 500 drop-in opportunities, no contracts, one time \$5 cancellation fee and low monthly payment options.
- **Awards** - Councillor Hayne recently went to England and was presented with one of the highest accolades in world engineering “The Supreme Award of Structural Engineering Excellence” for the Grandview Heights Aquatic Centre by the Institute of Structural Engineers.

The City of Surrey also won the Equitas – International Centre for Human Rights Education, National Play It Fair! Award 2016, for exceptional work with children and youth.

- **10th Annual Kids Conference** (theme "Celebrate Children!") – The 10th Annual Surrey Kids Conference takes place on November 18th and 19th at the Fleetwood Community Centre. There will be free, fun and educational workshops for children to participate in and a free presentation by Gary Anaka for parents to enjoy, entitled "Helping Your Child Love Learning".
- **Winter Ice Palace** – The Cloverdale Arena will be transformed into a winter wonderland for the 19th Annual Winter Ice Palace from December 17th until January 2nd, and will be open on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.
- **Remembrance Day Service** - Cemetery Services hosted a Remembrance Day family event at the Surrey Centre Cemetery, co-hosted with the Canadian Military Education Centre. Some highlights included a viewing of a variety of military vehicles and weapons, interaction with veterans, and entertainment. There was also air brushed tattoos and rock painting for the kids and they were invited to place their painted rocks in the veteran's garden. Approximately 700 people attended.
- **Ocean Park Community Orchard Planting** - On Saturday, November 12th, over 100 residents of the Ocean Park neighbourhood, as well as scout and guide groups, participated in the community orchard planting event. The orchard, located at Ocean Park Terrace park space, was transformed from a relatively underutilized passive grass area into the community orchard through the hard work of local residents. Fruit and nut trees, berry shrubs, herb plants, and over 2,300 daffodil bulbs were planted at the park site. The response in the community to the orchard has been very positive. The Parks Division will continue to work closely with residents in the area as the orchard begins to take shape in the coming years.

J. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on **Wednesday, January 18, 2017** in **Meeting Room 2E – Community Room A**.

K. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by B. Burnside
Seconded by R. Benson
That the Parks, Recreation and Sport

Tourism Committee do now adjourn.

Carried

The Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Gurpreet Rai, Chair
Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee