

Parks, Recreation & Sport Tourism Committee – Minutes

Present:

Councillor Hayne– Chairperson
C. Annable
R. Benson
M. Booth
B. Burnside
Gurpreet Rai

Regrets:

Councillor Gill
T. Allen
C. Murphy
S. Gill – Youth Representative

Staff Present:

L. Cavan, General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture
T. Uhrich, Parks Planning, Research & Design Manager
L. White, Manager Community & Recreation Services
L. Anderson, Legislative Services

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was

Moved by C. Annable
Seconded by B. Burnside

and Sport Tourism Committee meeting of June 21, 2017, be adopted.

Carried

B. DELEGATIONS**C. STAFF PRESENTATION****1. Perry Fulop, Newton Manager, Community & Recreation Services**

Perry Fulop, Newton Manager, Community & Recreation Services, was in attendance to provide an update on the recent Newton Recreation Centre (NRC) expansion and Newton Senior Centre (NSC) renovation.

A PowerPoint presentation was shown to provide an overview of the extensive renovations and expansion to the NRC from April 2016 until June 2017, and the upgrades and positive changes that have taken place at the NSC from mid-January to May, 2017.

The following comments were made:

- During the NSC closure alternative spaces for some core programming in a retail space at the nearby shopping plaza and at the Newton Cultural Centre was provided. This met some of the community needs during the closure but participants were thrilled to see the centre reopen on May the 1st.
- There were a substantial amount of improvements and changes made at the NSC, including: new carpet and flooring throughout, extensive renovations to both bathrooms, the front counter renovated to gain more floor space and accessibly, and all lighting was upgraded to LED lighting.

- In addition to the recent renovations to the inside of the NSC, there was a new accessible outdoor exercise circuit installed in June 2016 as the result of a grant from the radio station Red FM, who contributed money from their annual Walk and Run held at Bear Creek Park. There is also a pathway to the back of the circuit that is part of the Grove Greenway Project, also sponsored by Red FM, that creates a wonderful gateway for pedestrian traffic from the bus loop. The walkway passes by the NRC and Newton Arena and finishes off by the NSC and Library.
- With respect to the NRC extension and renovations, the original scope of the project was to remove and replace the wave pool roof panels and insulation, but the removal of the roof identified significant corrosion which led to future investigation.
- As a result of the extensive work required for the roof, and in addition to the regular maintenance program to all the mechanical components (vital to the running of this facility), the overall project provided the opportunity to take on a few other tasks, which included:
 - redesign of the slide tower;
 - refurbishment of the interactive water feature;
 - replacement of the north and south facing windows (providing more natural light to the pool deck);
 - pool side lockers, new pool signage and overhead pool lighting (improved for safety);
 - improvements to the Birthday party area; and
 - enhancements to some staff areas.
- The expansion features a new fitness centre with approximately 4,000 sq. ft.; doubling the fitness capacity to almost 8,000 sq. ft., which includes a wonderful variety of selectorized machines, free weights, suspension equipment, cardio equipment and areas to stretch and perform functional exercises. All cardio machines in the expanded space are configured to look out at the front of the playground and the Grove for enhanced CEPTED principals.
- Another part of the expansion includes a childminding space accessible from the lobby, providing an added benefit for parents utilizing fitness, gymnasium and pool facilities. The space will also be available for multi-use programming.
- The design was intended to strengthen links to the surrounding community by opening up the expansion to the south and east both in terms of visual connection and pedestrian access.
- Some of the new additions to the outside of the building include a new children's play area (which extends into the Grove), benches, planting and lighting features, public call for assistance pillar with link to 24/7 security and upgrades to the parking lot lighting.
- The NRC has one of the only public recreation wrestling mat rooms in the lower mainland. Currently used on a daily basis by five wrestling clubs, this new designated mat room gives parents and supporters the ability to watch their children's successes.

- The old fitness space has been transformed into the Wellness Centre, which includes new exercise machines (cardio equipment, selectorized machines), some free weights and a stretching room. Guests will have the ability to use either of the fitness spaces within the Newton Recreation Centre with a paid admission or pass.
- An expansion to the office space allows the ability to house the City Wide Aquatic Leadership and First Aid portfolios. These relatively new portfolios provide the opportunity to teach young people how to become Lifeguard Instructors for the City and other organizations, and also offer a First Aid course and CPR classes for everyone; instrumental in training potential City employees.
- Feedback following the renovations has been tremendous, with both facilities receiving positive comments regularly.

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

- Working with Fraser Health, the City offers space within the Wellness Centre to accommodate users for cardio rehabilitation.
- The NSC renovations provided better use of the existing space, with additional capacity and a refreshed, updated facility.
- Trees within the Grove area and around the outdoor play area have been trimmed back to ensure eyes are on the space, and provide a welcoming entrance to the NRC.
- The mat room is very well attended by the five wrestling clubs (approximately 120 participants per club) predominantly after school use (3:30 -7:30).
- The grand re-opening of the NRC is planned for September 30. In the meantime, there have been a number of mini-celebrations combined with the Newton BIA summer events and activities (e.g. Doors Open and Newton Days), that have drawn attention to the newly enhanced facility.
- It was suggested that the media be provided with a personal tour one week prior to the grand opening, in order to get the word out to the community that the facility is open and ready to support their recreation and leisure needs.

2. **Sahra-Lea Tosdevine-Tataryn, Project Manager, Age Friendly Strategy for Seniors, Project Manager, Community & Recreation Services**

Sahra-Lea Tosdevine-Tataryn, Project Manager for Age Friendly Strategy for Seniors (AFFS), was in attendance to provide a presentation and update on the AFSS, the various achievements and action plan initiatives.

A PowerPoint presentation was given to summarize the AFSS, and the following points were noted:

- Through the leadership of Councillor Steele and the Seniors Advisory and Accessibility Committee (SAAC), the AFSS was adopted in 2014 to develop a

more formal approach to Surrey's commitment to seniors, their families and/or caregivers.

- The framework of the strategy was developed from the World Health Organization which identifies a number of areas that support 'age friendly communities'. Through the process of the AFSS development there were four key outcomes that were identified:
 1. Safety, Health and Wellness;
 2. Transportation and Mobility;
 3. Home; and
 4. Buildings and Outdoor Spaces.
- To achieve the outcomes, four key strategies were identified:
 1. Programs and Services;
 2. Engagement with Seniors;
 3. Collaboration with Partners; and
 4. Communication and Promotion.

These strategies are used to achieve the outcomes. Although all four are identified separately, the work and achievements are not possible without an integrated approach that encompasses all strategic areas of focus.

- In 2016, the seniors' population accounted for 14.1% of Surrey's total population. Within that year there were over 417,308 visits to Surrey's recreation facilities and almost 9,000 full facility passes purchased by those ages 60+.
- Key to the success of the AFSS model is the collaboration and partnerships of many community agencies and City departments and services, providing opportunities to engage seniors, promote communication and share information.
- Approximately 3,000 seniors have participated in community forums, workshops and events in the past year, many of which have been offered in various languages. These opportunities are a great source of information ranging from education on frauds and scams, wills and estates, pensions and housing possibilities, to transportation options, fire and fall prevention, personal and home safety, nutrition, chronic disease management and caregiving (to name a few).
- Working with the City's Transportation Department to help connect seniors and mobility, the City has been installing countdown timers at all signalized intersections to help pedestrians better judge the time they have to cross an intersection; this includes re-timing signals to increase pedestrian "walk" times near hospitals and seniors care centres. In addition, 15 bus shelters were installed in 2016 and by summer 2017, 15 more will be installed, improving accessibility to transit use. Currently 81% of the bus stops in Surrey are accessible.
- Continuing to influence independence and quality of life for older people, the Seniors Services Connector program is one of many programs hosted within the City recreation facilities.

- The Seniors Come Share Society partners closely with the City to support addressing the needs of seniors in Surrey. The Society provides telephone assurance calls, valuable to those who are living alone, ensuring information on essential services, 'Better at Home', Focus on Seniors Forums and any other assistance requirements, is easily accessible.
- The City provides parks and outdoor spaces that support healthy, active living and enable outdoor outreach as well. Community rooms are located within parks (North Surrey - Bear Creek Pavilion, Newton, Guildford and Fleetwood) providing seniors with a gathering place to socialize and make connections. In addition, the AFSS team works with RCMP and other partners to host information sessions at these locations, providing further resources and supports for seniors.
- 2017 annual special events include:
 - Active Aging Resource Fair (March 25)
 - Healthy Active Aging Conference – June 3 (kick off 'Seniors' Week)
 - Seniors Strawberry Tea (Canada Day)
 - International Day of Older Persons (International Seniors Day) – (October 1)
- 'Raising the Profile Project' is a provincial initiative started in 2016 with a goal to highlight the key role played by non-profit and municipal community-based Seniors Services in supporting seniors to build new social connections. Seven regional consultation meetings (focus groups) were held across BC throughout the spring of 2017, to gather information and identify ways to support and sustain the community-based seniors' services sector in BC. The Provincial Summit on Aging takes place on November 2 and 3, 2017, where the primary objective will be to raise the profile and increase the capacity of the community-based Seniors Services sector to deliver health promotion and prevention programming that supports seniors' independence, resilience and social connectedness.

The Committee expressed their appreciation for the presentation, in particular the information and upgrades with respect to pedestrian crosswalks and traffic timers. It was suggested that with the increase of seniors utilizing the City's recreation facilities, the pedestrian crosswalks within the perimeters of those facilities should also be considered for similar implementation. Staff advised they will consult with the Engineering staff to see if the strategy can be applied to accommodate seniors utilizing those City recreation facilities.

3. Ted Uhrich, Parks Planning, Research and Design Manager

Ted Uhrich, Parks Planning, Research and Design Manager, was in attendance to provide a Dog Off-Leash Area Update and Fraser View Dog Off-Leash Area Concept Plan.

A PowerPoint presentation was given to summarize the planning and design guidelines of the Dog Off-Leash Strategy, completed in 2012, provide a current dog off-leash area update, and to outline the concept plan established for a new dog off-leash area at Fraser View Park.

The following comments were made:

- Off leash dog areas are in demand; people often walk to in the morning and/or evening and meet up with other dog owners, while providing a fenced, safe environment for dogs to get the exercise and socializing they may need.
- The provincial average for dog off-leash areas in other jurisdictions ranges from two to five per 100,000 residents. As outlined in the Dog Off-Leash Strategy (Strategy), the provision for dog off-leash areas for Surrey was anticipated to grow from eight (average of 1.6 per 100,000 residents) to 22 by 2021, providing at least two dog off-leash areas per Town Centre (or 4.4 dog off-leash areas per 100,000 residents).
- With the opening of three new dog off-leash areas in 2017 (Wills Brook, Bolivar Park and Forsyth Park) there are currently 12 dog off-leash areas in Surrey (including the Metro Vancouver Tynehead Park site); increasing the provision of dog off-leash areas from 1.6 to 2.4 per 100,000. There are still some gaps to be addressed: West Cloverdale and Fraser Heights (also identified in the Strategy).
- As noted in the Strategy, the addition of Fraser View Park is recommended to meet the demand in Guildford Town Centre, specifically in Fraser Heights. The entire 2.2 acres of open area had been proposed for the dog off-leash area, receiving a high level of support and no articulated concerns.
- Consultation planning for the Fraser View Park dog off-leash area began in the spring, 2017. Throughout May, June and July there were several engagement opportunities to help guide the planning and design. Through this, over 70 responses were received with approximately 70% in support.
- On Friday, July 14th, staff received a petition from 159 residents in Fraser Heights, representing 99 households, opposed to the dog off-leash area. The concerns expressed were increased vehicle traffic, cleanliness of the park, the loss of green/grassy areas and environmental impacts.
- To address these concerns, the City reduced the off-leash area to 1.3 acres and placed it away from the street to protect more of the park as open grass and increase distance from the residents on 112 Avenue. To further create some disconnect from the surrounding homes and remove the association with any noise, the existing trees will remain for the off-leash area while invasive plants will be removed and replaced with native species.
- The off-leash area will be fully fenced, with a path around the perimeter. Benches will be installed and there will be a kiosk to congregate and post notices. The kiosk will also have a location to 'take a bag – leave a bag'. All dog off-leash areas are on a frequent garbage removal schedule to minimize odors.
- The park is currently inventoried as passive grass with sloping forests north. There are no red flags as far as sensitive habitat, etc. Drainage approvals will be needed that will address the soft/often wet ground.
- Parking for approximately 40 vehicles is proposed on the north side of 112 Avenue (currently 'no parking' signs) to curtail any parking for the park in

front of the homes across the street. Parking within the park was not considered as it would significantly reduce the size of the park.

- With the endorsement of the Fraser View Park dog off-leash concept plan, drainage improvements will commence in the fall, with completion of the dog off-leash area anticipated spring, 2018.
- With respect to the Strategy, next steps include further research on waste issues and the planning and design of four new dog off-leash areas: Newton (Newton Central Park); Cloverdale (Cloverdale Hydro ROW); South Surrey (Grandview Heights); and City Centre South (QE Meadows). If delivered, together with the Fraser View dog off-leash area, a total of 16 dog off-leash areas will be realized for Surrey; 3.2 per 100,000 residents.

A brief discussion ensued with respect to pedestrian safety, parking concerns and the limited line of sight, the increase of vehicles and absence of any traffic calming measures. Staff reported there is a sidewalk, no bike lane, and that Engineering will review for any traffic calming measures necessary to ensure pedestrian safety.

The Chair acknowledged the Fraser Heights residents in attendance to support their petition (as submitted on July 14th) and reported that a delegation request had not been sought to allow them to present to the Committee. However, permission was given to a representative of the group to express the collective concerns with respect to the location of the proposed dog off-leash park as follows:

- There were a total of 164 signatures on the petition gathered predominantly around the proposed dog off-leash area in Fraser Heights.
- Fraser View Park is a naturally beautiful, peaceful and serene green space held dear by those residents fortunate to reside close by; perhaps the best in Fraser Heights.
- A dog off-leash area in the park would not only visually impact the park, it would introduce a number of traffic and safety issues and would affect the cleanliness of the park.
- The parking, as presented, would greatly impact the residents across the street. There are four new homes soon to be built opposite the park and driveway access would be significantly affected as there is nothing in place to control the traffic. In addition, there are children and elderly pedestrians always nearby - sightlines would be impossible with additional vehicles parking in the area.
- Families have suggested footpaths to accommodate children and adults that would like to walk in the area, as well as those who would like to walk their dogs on-leash. Some designated benches would also be a welcome addition, but not a dog off-leash area.
- Fraser View Park is mostly water logged during the spring and fall and really should be left as green space; children are the future and should have the opportunity to enjoy natural spaces.

In response, the Manager, Parks Planning, Research and Design reported that, working with the Fraser Heights Community Association, alternate locations in Fraser Heights for a dog off-leash area as suggested by the petitioners had been

considered and were not suitable. Erma Stephenson is a high density athletic park without any additional space; Northview Park is entirely forested and would require the removal of trees to provide open space; J.R. Douglas Park space would be directly adjacent to a playground, which the City does not support; the sloping landscape to the north is not suitable; and there further south east is not considered as the pedestrian overpass provides access to Tynehead Regional Park, where a dog off-leash area has already been established.

D. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Fraser View Park Concept Plan

File No. 6140-20/F

The memorandum from the Parks Planning, Research and Design Manager, dated July 10, 2017, regarding the above subject line, was reviewed. It was recommended that the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee:

1. Receive the report as information;
2. Endorse the Concept Plan for Fraser View 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's consideration.

Staff reported the challenge is that many residents have dogs and there are proven benefits to having a dog-off leash area (e.g. people clean up and patrol themselves). Costs to the City are greater when these areas are not provided; dogs can do an awful lot of damage to sports fields. There is a general need in Fraser Heights and it would be great to find a location.

Discussion ensued with respect the possibility of alternate locations for the dog off-leash area. Staff confirmed of the pocket of opportunities in Fraser Heights, Fraser View Park is the only one that made sense and has received overall support throughout the planning process; keeping in mind it is difficult to encourage residents to attend open house events when they may already be supportive.

The Committee stressed the importance of pedestrian safety, vehicle traffic calming and parking concerns, and also acknowledged that high density playing fields are respected and appreciated and not an appropriate alternative to Fraser View Park. The City does not provide dog off-leash areas near playing fields as there is a greater risk of injury (e.g. concussion) if a child falls when running from an off-leash dog or slips on waste from a dog not permitted in the first place.

In response to the information presented and discussed, and the concerns expressed by the Fraser Heights neighbourhood residents in attendance, it was suggested that Staff review further any potential dog off-leash park locations

within the Fraser Heights neighbourhood. Staff will take under advisement and continue to work with Transportation and Traffic Operations and report back to the Committee.

The Committee further requested, if possible, the attendance numbers of at Tynehead Dog Off-Leash Park.

It was
Moved by R. Benson
Seconded by M. Booth
That the Parks, Recreation and Sport
Tourism Committee request that staff review the traffic, parking and pedestrian safety concerns expressed with respect to the proposed Fraser View Park Concept Plan.

Carried
With C. Annable opposed

2. Grandview Heights Park Planning
File No. 6140-20/G

The memorandum from the Parks Planning, Research and Design Manager, dated July 10, 2017, 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 G. Rai
That the Parks, Recreation and Sport
Tourism Committee receive the report from the Parks Planning, Research and Design Manager, dated July 10, 2017, entitled "*Grandview Heights Park Planning*", 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 update:

- **Free Outdoor Movie Nights** - will be playing in Cloverdale on Friday nights all summer long at Don Christian Recreation Centre and Katzie Elementary School. Families are encouraged to come at 8pm to enjoy activities and movies start at dusk.
- **Cloverdale Recreation Centre shutdown** - Cloverdale Recreation Centre will experience its first scheduled maintenance shutdown that will address a deep clean of the facility and new floors. It will be the first closure of its kind since it opened its doors to Cloverdale's community.
- **South Surrey Indoor Pool** -reopened from its scheduled maintenance shutdown on July 4, 2017.
- **Summer Fun Pass** - The Summer Fun Pass is in full effect and keeping families active over summer! To date, almost 2,000 passes have been sold, bringing in over \$100,000 in revenues. The Summer Fun Pass is now being sold at a prorated price as the days go by this summer.
- **Outdoor pools** - All eight City outdoor pools officially opened on July 1st for free public swimming until September 4th.
- **National Drowning Prevention Week** – taking place at all City of Surrey indoor pools from July 16 to July 22. Officially proclaimed by Mayor Hepner, this is also a great opportunity to remind citizens to take safeguards when engaging in water recreation sports.
- **Fall Recreation Guide** – Registration opens on Sunday, July 23rd at 9pm. This will be the second time promoting the new registration time at 9pm. Providing the change from midnight to a 9pm registration time was very successful last season. A large intake is anticipated again in the fall.
- **The South Surrey Community Festival** – will be held on July 29th, providing lots of fun and free activities for families including live entertainment, face painting, local vendors, all-wheels jam, children's play zone, prizes and much more.
- **Social connectedness in Clayton** – The City received a \$10,200 grant through Plan H funding from BC Healthy Communities for a project that will explore social connectedness in Clayton for families. Social connectedness is an important factor in health. Staff will be having conversations with families in Clayton over the summer to learn more about what creates and holds back a sense of belonging in the community, and how the City and its partners can encourage the development of social connections.
- **Partners In Parks (PIP) Celebration** - The Parks Division held its annual PIP Volunteer Celebration at Darts Hill Garden Park on Saturday, July 15th. On behalf of Mayor and Council, Councillor LeFranc greeted the 205 park volunteers in attendance for the "Picnic in the Park" themed event, entertained by the gypsy swing sounds of Van Django.

- **Park Play Palooza** - Holly Park was the location for the annual Partners In Parks Park Play Palooza on June 24th. The event, attended by an estimated 550 people, is the official kick off for the Park Play program that occurs in a variety of parks throughout Surrey each summer. Park Play is a free program where children and their guardian are able to participate in games and other activities in a casual atmosphere. The program will wrap up with a special event at the end of August at Unwin Park in Newton.
- **Sounds of Summer Concert Series** - The Partners in Parks Sounds of Summer Concert Series is underway. The series is made up of 13 concerts occurring at various park sites throughout Surrey. There are special activities occurring relating to the City of Surrey's Canada 150 program. A highlight of the series to-date was the Armadillo String Quartet, that played to a crowd of over 400 people at the feature garden, the Glades.
- **Community Picnics** - Partners In Parks Staff are busy with the community picnics happening at a different park each week throughout the summer. The first community picnic was held at TE Scott Park, where the surrounding community were really involved, bringing samosas, games, activities, bhanga dancers and even a live band to complement the day. It is estimated that 650 people came out to the community picnic making it one of the most successful picnics to-date.
- **2017 Fusion Festival** (July 22 - 23) - The 10th annual Surrey Fusion Festival is a free event, a celebration of music, food and culture, that will take place at Holland Park from 11am - 10pm on Saturday, July 22 and Sunday, July 23. There will be 44 pavilions showcasing food and culture, an extensive number of activities for all ages, and a great musical line-up - something for everyone!

The Committee expressed appreciation to staff and the dedicated volunteers, on behalf of the players, their family members, coaches and spectators, for the tremendous success of the 2017 Canada Cup International Softball Championship, held July 7 - 17, at Softball City.

J. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on **Wednesday, September 20, 2017** in **Meeting Room 2E - Community Room A**.

K. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by B. Burnside

Seconded by G. Rai

That the Parks, Recreation and Sport

Tourism Committee do now adjourn.

Carried

The Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Councillor Bruce Hayne

Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee