

Parks, Recreation & Sport Tourism Committee – Minutes

Present:

Councillor Hayne– Chairperson
Councillor Gill
T. Allen
M. Booth
B. Burnside
S. Forde
Gurpreet Rai

Regrets:

H. Bohan
C. Murphy
S. Gill – Youth Representative

Staff Present:

L. Cavan, General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture
N. Aven, Manager, Parks
H. Norris, Manager, Park Facility Operations
L. White, Manager Community & Recreation Services
L. Anderson, Legislative Services

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was

Moved by B. Burnside

Seconded by S. Forde

That the minutes of the Parks, Recreation
and Sport Tourism Committee meeting of April 18, 2018, be adopted.

Carried

B. DELEGATIONS**1. Stephen Terry, President South Fraser Track and Field Club, Robert Esmie, Air Blast Off and Sue Kydd, President, Universal Athletics**

On behalf of the South Fraser Track and Field Club (Stephen Terry, President), Air Blast Off (Robert Esmie) and Universal Athletics (the User Group), Sue Kydd, President, Universal Athletics, was in attendance to make a presentation with respect to track and field safety at Bear Creek Park.

A PowerPoint presentation, providing historical sport group use of the Bear Creek Park track and concerns relating to the safety of training athletes and the general public was given. The following comments were made:

- Three Surrey track and field clubs and many members of the walking public regularly use the track at Bear Creek Park.
- Often unaware, users may assume they are safe to walk on the track at all times, with its level, smooth surface, it's very comfortable to walk on and push baby strollers, and they simply are not alert to track athletes.
- It is understood there is a long history of walking on the track, however there is concern for the safety of all users of the track. When a member of the public collides with a track athlete it can be dangerous, especially when track sprinters, known for their power and speed, come out of the starting blocks and have their heads down for the first 20 metres, significant injuries can happen to all parties. (An example of a serious collision, resulting in medical treatment, long recovery and compromised athletic performance, was given.)

- Three hours per day of track practice times (5:00 – 8:00 pm, Monday-Friday) are shared between the three clubs, five days a week, for a total of 15 daylight hours (out of approximately 70 daylight hours per week). The remainder of the time is open to the general public.
- Unlike other sports (baseball, football, soccer, diving, etc.) where athletes are not expected to share their training facility at the same time with the public, track athletes are unable to focus as they should, as they have to be aware of dangerous situations. Similarly, coaches cannot concentrate on their programming as they continually need to monitor the public.
- Historically Surrey has produced fine Track & Field athletes. The sport is growing and developing, with five track clubs now in Surrey. Surrey residents are receiving university athletic scholarships in Canada and the USA and Surrey clubs are producing a large number of national and international athletes, who require a calm, non-distracted environment in which to train. Sustaining a training injury could potentially jeopardize a university education and opportunities.
- The facility condition is also of concern. The surface of the track undergoes a great deal of wear due to the constant walkers, strollers, bikes and skateboards all taking a toll. The grass fields at Bear Creek Park are closed to recover, but tracks aren't.
- The three clubs agree that given the condition of the track and safety concerns, they are putting themselves and athletes at risk.
- Although the track is supposed to be dedicated for the athletes use only for 15 hours a week, efforts have been made to cone off lane 8 and provide some use of the track for public use, but that has not improved the situation. It seems the only real solution may be to close the track entirely during athlete use.

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

- The 15 hours per week of use is during prime time due to the available hours of the young athletes coming from school and university. It can be difficult when students are also running late from school.
- Universal Athletics were training at North Surrey, but the track there is not in very good condition and they moved to Bear Creek Park, a premier park for training, with a wide open track that also feels safer.
- There is signage in several languages that notes the track is closed. The entire track is booked for the athletes, however it is understood that it is also prime time for those coming from work and wanting to be outside before it gets dark, which is why efforts were made to reduce any tension and open up some space for the public and cone off lane 8 for those users. It may be more effective to separate with pylons and rope.
- Unfortunately there are some track users that do not want to be in lane 8 and gravitate toward lane 1; for the most part it isn't deliberate, but it does place a lot of people in a tight area and increase the likelihood of injury to both the athletes and the public.
- It is very hard to ensure the security of the track and coach at the same time. Having Bylaw officers patrolling the track during the times that the track is

booked might help and/or finding a way to continue to provide lane 8 for the general public while securing the remainder of the track with a greater visual divider, e.g. taller pylons. Introducing more walking tracks within the park to alleviate the pressure on the track may also help.

- The season will end middle of August and break until September and then train through the fall and winter.

Staff noted there is a big social element for the individuals that walk the track. Trying to find a way to have a safe training environment for athletes and also facilitate the needs of all the park users. Currently looking at a potential opportunity for a walking track at another location within Bear Creek Park. Creating a level surface and installing lighting will be required; costing still to be determined.

From early morning throughout the day, Bear Creek Park is very busy, including other formal bookings and various school group event days. Requests for lights turned on early morning have also been received to facilitate early morning walks.

Staff further reported that efforts have been made to alleviate some pressure to Bear Creek Park by adding a walking loop to appeal to walkers and also adding surfaces at Newton Athletic Park.

The Committee thanked the delegation for the presentation noting that staff will review the information and report back to the Committee with further analysis.

2. **Larry Jurovich, General Manager, Surrey Tennis Centre**

Larry Jurovich, General Manager, Surrey Tennis Centre was in attendance to provide a presentation with respect to the Surrey Tennis Centre (STC).

A PowerPoint presentation, providing a historic overview and accomplishments to date was provided. Comments were as follows:

- With a desire to contribute to tennis in the community and develop junior tennis players, STC opened in 2015 and has the most qualified coaching team in western Canada.
- STC is a value driven organization, offering a variety of junior and adult tennis programs in a year round, fully insulated, indoor tennis centre.
- Facilities include:
 - 6 indoor plexipave courts (same as the US Open);
 - ATP tour standard lighting (highest quality lighting);
 - First red clay courts west of Toronto;
 - 6 outdoor courts (same as the French Open); and
 - Clubhouse, proshop and gym.
- Adult programs are National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) based. Introducing new people to the game, building relationships with new people and improving the quality of play.

- There were over 1000 adult registrations in the first 2.5 years; over 150 new adults playing tennis; over 100 players a week in “socials”; host to 3 league teams; and host to BC Ladies Master’s association.
- Junior programs are based on level of interest: Developmental – introduce new people to the game; Competitive – make people in to tennis players; and Performance – maximize a players potential.
- There were over 2,000 junior registrations and over 250 U8 registrations in the first 2.5 years; over 100 players identifying as “tennis players”; and 5 players who have qualified for junior nationals (3 Surrey/2 Langley). Average UTR improvement the highest in BC (.83).
- Have worked with eight schools and over 1,000 children; there is still a large potential for improvement in this area.
- There have been 46 junior and adult events hosted in the last 12 months including: 4 junior Provincial Championships, 15 junior Provincial Selections Series events, 6 adult open events and 12 adult NTRP events.
- With the success of STC, a second location was opened in Coquitlam in January and a third location is being sought.
- Also looking at ways to offer camps and programs and increase awareness in the community to the City’s facilities and programs.

The Committee thanked the delegation for the presentation and update, noting the successful partnership with STC and the many people now playing tennis as a result. Indoor tennis was something the City wanted to have, and by utilizing City land, STC has been able to develop opportunities great in all fronts: social, athletic and tennis; hoping to have the penetration continue even stronger in the community.

3. **Cathy James, Executive Director, Surrey Tourism**

Cathy James, Executive Director, Surrey Tourism was in attendance to provide a presentation of the Sport Tourism Highlights of 2017.

A PowerPoint presentation, which included an overview of Sport Surrey, a strategy update and challenges faced, was shown and the following comments were made:

- Sport tourism is an initiative that involves three different partners: municipal, sport and tourism. It is a stabilizing force during times of volatility within the tourism industry (e.g. helping to relocate an event with very short notice due to unforeseen circumstances), with travel specifically related to participating in or viewing an event.
- The economic impact of sport tourism is a \$6.5 billion segment of the tourism industry, supporting sport development objectives at all levels, enhancing exposure and promoting the perception and legacy of the community.
- Sport Surrey is a partnership between the City of Surrey and Discover Surrey. Discover Surrey typically handles the administrative duties, whereas sport tourism managers look at bringing the events to Surrey.

- Sport Surrey provides support to local, regional, provincial, national and international events across a spectrum, including multi-sport and major games, professional/amateur sport leagues and events, and amateur single sport events.
- Every effort is made to assist teams and visitors during their time in Surrey and ensure they have a memorable and successful experience, e.g. look to various restaurants to host and offer discounts, etc.
- The 2016 redesign of the sportsurrey.com website is designed to attract events rights holders. It showcases everything Surrey has to offer for sport hosting, including event planning assistance, links to travel planning tools, a dynamic events calendar, comprehensive facility listings and new case studies and news releases. Analytics for January 1, 2018 to date indicate over 10,500 visits to the website.
- An e-newsletter, targeted to events rights holders, provincial and national sports organizations (PSOs and NSOs) and local community groups, is the main communication piece for Sport Surrey, advising user groups of facility development, upcoming grant opportunities and community sports news and events. Currently 148 subscribers.
- Attending the 2018 Sport Events Congress in Halifax in March, provided an opportunity to meet with NSOs and events rights holders to successfully 'sell' Surrey and the facilities available.
- Sport Surrey does not plan the various events, it is through a bidding process they are brought to Surrey. Once awarded, contracts for facilities and accommodations are signed. Sport Surrey then works with the PSO and/or NSO to secure transportation, ceremony space and equipment rentals (bleachers, tents, etc.).
- Sport Surrey also works with the PSO and/or NSO to develop marketing materials, grant applications, sponsorship, pre and post event tours for travelers, and also completes economic impact assessment for the event (which helps NSO attract future bids and funding).
- A decline in RFPs distributed to accommodation providers since 2015 (dropping from 27 to 7) has been noted, which may be, in part, the result of some organizers having created relationships with hotels directly. As there have been seven RFPs issued from January to June in 2018, an increase up to 15 is anticipated by the end of the year.
- Key features of the Sport Tourism Strategy for 2018 include Surrey Sport marketing strategies – Ahead of the Game objectives, to advance the City of Surrey as a leader in the sport tourism industry, maximize economic and sport development and promote Surrey as the premier destination in the Pacific Northwest and Canada. Looking at emerging sports such as e-sports and air hockey and increasing focus on Masters and Seniors (provincial and national) sport organizations and local community groups.
- Challenges facing Sport Surrey include:
 - Facilities able to accommodate large shoulder season events;
 - NSOs and PSOs decision making in a timely manner;

- Accommodation providers:
 - Limited hotel inventory in Surrey during peak seasons - compression to Surrey from Vancouver, where prices are considerably lower than the average Vancouver rate. Rooms are often set aside for those visiting Vancouver. Trying to get ahead of the event to book the facility and secure accommodation. One year ahead of the event provides a better chance to work with hotels;
 - Unwillingness to accept sport teams or certain events rights holders;
 - Non-reporting of sport numbers; and
 - Events booking directly with City and not using Sport Surrey services.
- A Sport Hosting Grant is available which allows for funding support to be given to a variety of user groups and events rights holders. Applicants range from local, regional, provincial and national.
- Events for 2018 include:
 - 2018 Canada Cup Women's International Softball Championship
 - Synchro Canada FINA World Series
 - Canadian Soccer National U17 Championships
 - Canadian Ultimate Mixed Championships
 - Synchro Canada National Espoir Championship
 - National Masters Championships (Curling)
 - Flowerbowl Ultimate Tournament
 - Cricket Canada Cup
 - BC Summer Swimming Association Provincial Championships

The Committee expressed their appreciation for the presentation and update.

C. STAFF PRESENTATION

D. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Canucks Autism Network 10th Birthday Festival 2018** File No. 6980-01

The memorandum from the General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture, dated June 6, 2018, 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 this is result of a long standing relationship with the City to partner and deliver adapted sports and recreation programs, and that the City is honoured that the Canucks Autism Network have chosen to host their event in Surrey at City Hall.

It was Moved by B. Burnside
Seconded by M. Booth
That the Parks, Recreation and Sport
Tourism Committee receive the report from the General Manager, Parks,
Recreation and Culture, dated June 6, 2018, entitled "Canucks Autism Network 10th
Birthday Festival 2018", as information.

Carried

F. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

G. CORRESPONDENCE

H. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. 100th Anniversary Exhibition - Crescent Beach Swimming Club
File No. 7800-01

Beginning June 30th, a temporary community-led traveling exhibition, celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Crescent Beach Swimming Club, can be viewed at the Crescent Beach Swimming Clubhouse, located at the foot of McBride Avenue, adjacent to Blackie Spit, in Crescent Beach, Surrey. The exhibit will remain with the Crescent Beach Swimming Club over the summer and be shown at multiple centennial events until Labour Day.

A complete list of events is found at: <https://www.cbswimclub.ca/Centennial-Program>

It was Moved by B. Burnside
Seconded by M. Booth
That the Parks, Recreation and Sport
Tourism Committee receive the information of the 100th Anniversary Exhibition of
the Crescent Beach Swimming Club.

Carried

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:

- **Espoir Canadian Championships and the FINA Artistic Swimming World Series** - Synchro Canada hosted two events from May 29 to June 3, 2018 at the Surrey Sport and Leisure Complex. The events drew international attention to Surrey and brought approximately 400 athletes along with coaches and supporters from seven provinces and eight countries, including Austria, Canada, France, Japan, Korea, Serbia, Ukraine and the United States to compete in various events.
- **Chuck Bailey Youth Services** - Through the City's partnership with WRAParound in April, a coordinator has been hired to work during youth drop-in at Chuck Bailey Recreation centre with some of the vulnerable youth. Since this new initiative there has been a difference in behaviour, no incidents during Saturday night drop-in and three youth have successfully completed their Acceptable Behaviours Agreements and started volunteering at the centre.
- **WRAParound Program** - The City partners with Surrey Schools and RCMP to deliver the Wraparound Program which serves Surrey's most at risk youth. In 2018 so far, 28 youth in the program participated in the City's PRC based activities and six youth volunteered with the City.
- **Youth Employment Preparation Program** - This new pilot program will serve youth ages of 16 - 24 years, and will support youth transitioning to adulthood, provide youth with employment and transferable skills, create opportunities for youth to gain work experience, and connect young people seeking employment with the City of Surrey. The program will engage six youth in the pilot.
- **End Gang Life Presentations** - From 2017-2018 City of Surrey Youth Services partnered with Surrey Schools and Surrey RCMP to speak and deliver End Gang Life Presentations to over 1,000 elementary age children.
- **Surrey Firefighters Girls Empowerment Program** - A partnership between City of Surrey, Surrey Schools and Surrey Fire Services served 54 vulnerable female youth from January to June 2018 that participated in over 80 activities prosocial and recreation based activities.
- **Summer Fun Pass** - The Pass will be on sale as of June 1, 2018 and be valid from June 30 - September 3. Last year over 3,300 Summer Fun Passes were sold, providing Surrey residents and visitors of all ages, access for drop-in activities (not registered programs or day camps).
- **Positive Parenting Workshops** - A series of Positive Parenting Workshops have been developed for for parents and caregivers of youth ages 5-18. Workshops take place at locations throughout the city on June 5, June 12 and June 19, and are free to attend. Registration is not required.
- **National Indigenous People's Day and Wellness Event - June 21, 2018** - Taking place at Holland Park, the National Indigenous People's Day and Wellness event recognizes the contributions, culture and traditions of Indigenous people in Canada, and will be hosted in partnership with the local

First Nations, Metis Nation BC, Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association, RCMP First Nations Policing and Diversity Team, Fraser Health – Aboriginal Health and the City of Surrey. A free community barbeque will take place from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. along with several traditional cultural activities and performances combined with outreach and engagement from a variety of service providers working with the Urban Indigenous population in Surrey.

- **2018 Canada Cup Women's International Softball Championship** – Will be held July 17 – 22 at Softball City, and will showcase the best female softball players from Canada and some of the top female athletes in the world.
- **Outdoor Pools Opening** - Bear Creek Outdoor Pool, Greenway Outdoor Pool and Sunnyside Outdoor Pool are now open. The other remaining pools open on June 30th. Surrey has eight outdoor pools and admission is free.
- **Single Use Park Washroom** – To help address demands, design of the new standard single use park washroom building is well underway. The process will be entering detailed design phase within the next few weeks, in collaboration with a manufacturer. The project is on track for production and installation of the prototype in Maple Green Park later this fall.
- **Cloverdale Athletic Park – Surrey United FC Fieldhouse** – Schematic design phase completed and preparing for Development Permit application within the next two weeks. Detailed design and Building Permit application is anticipated for early August and on track to commence construction in early November 2018.
- **South Surrey Athletic Park** - Field #10 turf replacement is underway and is on track for completion at the end of August. Scope of work also includes enhancements to players' benches and a roof cover over the bleacher pad on adjacent Field #9.
- **Newton Athletic Park** – New synthetic turf practise field will be getting underway in early July.
- **Francis Park** – Construction of new playground amenities is underway. Playground equipment installation is scheduled for early July, on track for completion in time for the Fleetwood community festival.
- **Sport Tourism Coordinator - Sport Surrey** – Pleased to announce that Kelsey MacInnes has been appointed Sport Tourism and Sponsorship Coordinator, with her portfolio being half Surrey Sport and half City Special Events. In her new role Kelsey will be working on developing strategic partnerships and working with all levels of sport organizations, accommodation and hospitality industries, sporting hosting facilities, and working with sponsors to support sporting event initiatives within Surrey. Kelsey will also continue to support the City's Special Events Team with a focus on corporate sponsorship programs for the City's signature events.

Committee member B. Burnside reported that she had attended the International Picnic Day, held on June 18th at Forsyth Park and noted the importance of having events such as these to activate neighbourhoods.

J. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on **Wednesday, July 18, 2018** in **Meeting Room 2E – Community Room A**.

K. ADJOURNMENT

It was	Moved by B. Burnside
	Seconded by M. Booth
	That the Parks, Recreation and Sport
Tourism Committee do now adjourn.	
	<u>Carried</u>

The Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Councillor Bruce Hayne
Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee

Please note that these minutes have not been adopted as this Committee has been disbanded.