
Present:

Councillor Hepner, Chairperson
Councillor Kooner
T. Allen, School Trustee
D. Baird
B. Burnside
R. Prasad
N. Sangha

Absent:

K. Sidhu
G. Bhurji

Staff Present:

L. Cavan, General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture
N. Aven, Director, Parks
N. Kothiwala, Community Services Coordinator
A. Sodha, Administrative Assistant

A. ADOPTIONS**1. Adoption of the Agenda**

It was Moved by Trustee T. Allen
Seconded by B. Burnside
That the agenda of the Parks, Recreation and
Sport Tourism Committee meeting of November 1, 2023, be adopted.
Carried

2. Adoption of the Minutes

D. Baird entered the meeting at 6:02pm

It was Moved by B. Burnside
Seconded by N. Sangha
That the minutes of the Parks, Recreation
and Sport Tourism Committee meeting of October 4, 2023, be adopted as amended
by noting B. Burnside in attendance remotely.
Carried

B. DELEGATIONS**1. Laura Balance and Greg Timm**

The Canadian Amateur Sport Society had a successful 2023 Canada Cup, which featured top female athletes from Canada and around the world, including teams from Australia, Mexico, Italy, and Japan. The Ukrainian National Junior Team's participation was a highlight, and the community raised funds to bring them to the tournament. The event received extensive media coverage in Canada and internationally.

The organization also launched the SuperKids Program, which aims to make youth sports more accessible by waiving camp fees for low-income families, immigrants, refugees, and Indigenous children. They plan to expand the program in the coming years to promote inclusivity.

Looking ahead to 2024 and beyond, the organization is set to host various international events, including the 2024 ISC Surrey World Championship and the 2025 Canada Cup. With softball and baseball's return to the Olympics, they anticipate increased attention and support for Team Canada, one of the world's top-ranked softball teams. They have also bid for events like the 2027 North American Olympic Qualifier.

The delegation and committee discussed the following:

- The establishment of a National Centre of Excellence for Softball was a key topic. There were discussions about meeting with federal and provincial governments to make Surrey the location for this center with the support of the Softball Society.
- Concerns were raised about the age and condition of the field lighting, which is currently 33 years old. It was emphasized that upgrading the lighting is crucial to remain competitive for international events and world championship bids. Failure to do so could impact Surrey's participation in the 2027 cups.
- The issue of inadequate lighting was raised by the national team coach of Canada, who expressed concerns about players not being able to play in such conditions. It was highlighted that this issue is not about ambiance but about the quality of the sport.
- Affordability of the electricity bill for a not-for-profit organization was discussed as a concern.
- Laura Balance and Greg Timm requested the North Parking lot to be paved. Councillor Hepner expressed a commitment to trying their best to address this.
- The success of the recent softball event was noted, and it was mentioned that its economic impact can help fund these important upgrades.
- The discussion touched on other sports in Surrey, such as soccer and field hockey, which have ongoing improvement processes. The community impact of these sports on the city was acknowledged.
- Plans for the 2027 men's cup were outlined, which is expected to be a significant event.
- Staff committed to maintaining communication with the delegation about the National Centre of Excellence for Softball and developing a five-year financial plan.
- Israel donated to Ukraine at the Canada Cup. The Israel team faced a tragic loss as team lost one of their players in a terrorist attack.

2. **Renie D'Aquila**

Reach Child and Youth Development Society (REACH)

REACH is a non-profit organization that has been serving children and youth in South Fraser since 1959. Its primary mission is to address developmental gaps, with a particular focus on supporting individuals with autism spectrum disorder. REACH offers a wide range of services, including developmental assessments, therapies, respite for parents, and support groups.

With extensive experience in providing autism-specific services, REACH has earned recognition as a leader in the field. The organization also boasts a strong foundation and donor base, having completed a successful \$5.7 million fundraising campaign in 2019. This support allows REACH to continue its mission of helping children reach their potential.

Autism is a significant concern, especially in Surrey, where the prevalence of autism cases is high. However, there are long waitlists for publicly funded diagnoses, and many children are not receiving the support they need.

To address this issue, REACH is seeking a partnership with the City of Surrey to co-locate its services within recreation centers, making it easier for families to access the support they require. The organization's goal is to improve the quality of life for children with autism and developmental delays, strengthen family capacity, and complement existing community services. REACH firmly believes that with the right support, children with autism can make significant contributions to society, and it is determined to help them reach their potential.

In response to questions from the Committee, staff provided the following information:

Parks, Recreation and Culture department will try to find more optimal locations and other partnerships that will be able to accommodate individuals with autism spectrum disorder.

L. Cavan reported on initiatives within the city, including:

Chuck Bailey Family Work with Métis Family:

- Chuck Bailey Family initiative and collaboration with the Métis family.

Accommodation in Facilities for Indigenous Children Care:

- Successful accommodation of Indigenous children cares in facilities at Newton and Bridgeview Community Centre.

OCP Childcare Centre by Guildford on 104:

- Childcare Centre in the Official Community Plan (OCP) near Guildford on 104.

Councillor Hepner mentioned existing sensory program in Surrey, which L. Cavan expanded on. These include sensory-friendly swims at Surrey Leisure Centre, South Surrey Indoor Pool, Grandview Aquatic Pool, and Surrey Museum.

Councillor Hepner suggested that these programs might provide collaboration opportunities between the City of Surrey and REACH.

C. STAFF PRESENTATIONS

**1. Nasima Kothiwala, Community Services Coordinator, City of Surrey
2023 Festival and Events Team**

Nasima Kothiwala, the Community Enhancement Coordinator in the Parks, Recreation, and Culture department, shared information about FEST (Festival Event Safety Team), a multi-agency committee in Surrey that reviews and oversees outdoor events on City land with more than 250 attendees. The committee includes representatives from various city departments and partner agencies like the RCMP, BC Ambulance, TransLink, Fraser Health, and the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch.

FEST's responsibilities involve screening event applications, addressing public safety needs, and ensuring that events on City land are safe and enjoyable for everyone. They work with over 190 event organizers annually and manage various major parades, cultural festivals, and special events. These events include the Vaisakhi Parade, Cloverdale Rodeo Parade, and cultural festivals like the BC Halal Food Festival, Surrey Latin Festival, Jamaica Day Festival, and Indian Cultural Festival.

Nasima highlighted the significance of these events in Surrey and mentioned a few first-time events like the Surrey Fiesta Extravaganza and Halal RibFest. The Civic Plaza has seen a busy year, hosting various events, including Surrey Pride Festival and 5X Block Party.

She also mentioned potential upcoming events, such as the weeklong Ramadan market in March and working with Live Nation to bring back FVDED in the Park and rock concerts in September.

The presentation provided an overview of the significant role FEST plays in coordinating and overseeing events that contribute to Surrey's vibrant and diverse community.

In response to the 2023 Festival and Events Team, the Committee acknowledged the following information:

- B. Burnside commended the Fest committee for their helpfulness and cooperation with event organizers, highlighting their capacity and support in managing logistics and regulations.
- There was appreciation for the committee's ability to handle multiple events simultaneously and their dedication to ensuring safety.
- The importance of adhering to safety regulations for events was emphasized, and the coordination efforts to prevent incidents were acknowledged.

- The conversation highlighted the unique success of Surrey in offering numerous free activities and events for citizens, even in comparison to larger cities like Vancouver.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Sport Tourism in Surrey: January to March 2024

File: 0360-06

It is recommended that the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee receive the report for information.

It was
Moved by Councillor Kooner
Seconded by B. Burnside
That the Parks, Recreation and Sport
Tourism Committee receive the report for information.
Carried

2. Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder Advocacy Society Delegation

File: 0360-06

It is recommended that the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee receive the report for information.

It was
Moved by Trustee T. Allen
Seconded by N. Sangha
That the Parks, Recreation and Sport
Tourism Committee receive the report for information.
Carried

3. Aquatic Operations and Recreation Program Registration

File: 0360-06

It is recommended that the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee receive the report for information.

It was
Moved by B. Burnside
Seconded by D. Baird
That the Parks, Recreation and Sport
Tourism Committee receive the report for information.
Carried

Key points are discussed regarding facility checks and registration for aquatic programs:

- Lifeguards conduct 15-minute checks across the facility, with critical areas being checked more frequently, every 7.5 minutes. These checks aim to ensure the safety and pleasant environment of the facility. This includes

ensuring people are not in the steam room with water bottles and clearing people from the stairs to the hot tub.

- Additional checks will be implemented for people attending aquafit classes to monitor participation and ensure that everyone has paid to be there.
- The conversation highlights the challenge of a shortage of lifeguards, especially for popular classes like aquafit. The facility is offering only 42% of the number of aquafit programs compared to before the pandemic. Efforts are being made to encourage lifeguards to become aquafit instructors.
- To address the issue of high demand for classes, a 72-hour pre-registration system has been implemented for certain programs like Zumba and Pilates. This system allows participants to secure their spots in advance.
- The importance of offering alternative registration methods is emphasized to accommodate seniors and others who may not have access to online registration or equipment.

Staff recognize the challenges of staffing and demand for popular programs at the recreation centres, as well as the need for a balanced approach to registration to accommodate a diverse range of participants.

4. 2024 Committee Meeting Schedule

The Committee is requested to review the proposed 2024 meeting schedule. Meetings are proposed to be held in person on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:00pm. No meetings are scheduled for August and December.

If the proposed schedule is in order, the Committee is requested to pass a motion to adopt the 2024 meeting schedule.

It was

Moved by Trustee T. Allen

Seconded by Councillor Kooner

That the Parks, Recreation & Sport Tourism

Committee adopt the 2024 meeting schedule as presented.

Carried

E. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Verbal Updates

L. Cavan, GM, Parks, Recreation and Culture updated the Committee on the following:

1. Guildford Centre is hosting the Ken Demchuk International Invitational swim event from December 1 to 3. This event is part of the Paralympic swimming program, featuring Paralympic Paris swimmers. It's the first time this event will be held in Canada, with various international federations participating, and it will involve around 150 athletes.
2. There are several upcoming Aquatics swim meets at the Series Sport and Leisure Complex in November and December, as well as numerous hockey tournaments and figure skating events during the same period.

3. The Cloverdale Arena will be hosting its popular "Winter Palace" event from December 17 to January 7. Attendees are encouraged to buy tickets early.
4. Diwali celebrations are happening in the community, including a celebration at the Newton Senior Centre on Tuesday, November 14.
5. A significant youth tree planting event will take place in Newton, organized by the Surrey Youth Stewardship Squad and their natural area partners. They will plant over 200 native trees and shrubs at Bob Rutledge Park.
6. The Bear Creek Lights event is returning for its 11th year, running from November 3 to the 17. It's a one kilometer walk through Bear Creek Park, featuring various lights and activities. While the event is free, pre-registration is requested.
7. Volunteer appreciation event is scheduled for November 8, 2023.

F. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee is scheduled for January 17, 2024.

G. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by N. Sangha

Seconded by D. Baird

That the Parks, Recreation and Sport

Tourism Committee meeting be adjourned.

Carried

The adjourned at 7:19pm.

Jennifer Ficocelli, City Clerk

Councillor G. Hepner, Chair