

Present:

Councillor Hepner, Chairperson
Councillor Kooner – arrived at 6:12
T. Allen, School Trustee
D. Baird
G. Bhurji
B. Burnside
N. Sangha
K. Sidhu

Absent:

Staff Present:

L. Cavan, General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture
N. Aven, Director of Parks
D. Campbell, Park Partnerships Coordinator
S. Nichols, Deputy City Clerk
D. Nielsen, Landscape Operations and Park Partnership
Manager
L. Sim, Park Operations Coordinator

A. ADOPTIONS

1. Adoption of the Agenda

It was Moved by T. Allen
Seconded by B. Burnside
That the agenda of the Parks, Recreation and
Sport Tourism Committee meeting of February 7, 2024, be adopted.
Carried

2. Adoption of the Minutes

It was Moved by G. Bhurji
Seconded by K. Sidhu
That the minutes of the Parks, Recreation
and Sport Tourism Committee meeting of November 1, 2023, be adopted.
Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

1. Chimney Heights Park – Request for Walking Track - Gurbux Saini and Kewal S Taggar

The delegation requested that the City install a walking track at Chimney Heights Park, citing the many physical and mental health benefits to the neighbourhood and potential use by the adjacent school. The delegation spoke to the petition submitted to the City of Surrey and the Surrey School Board which received support from 95% of the neighbourhood. The delegation also spoke to the lack of accessibility when walking around the park due to the 16 stairs patrons are required to climb during each trip around the park.

In response to questions from the Committee, staff advised that a feasibility study would be required to address the sloping terrain, identify ideal location and usage.

Councillor Kooner entered the meeting at 6:12pm.

2. **Natural Burials - Tricia Keith**

The delegation provided a PowerPoint presentation on the practice of natural burials. The following information was highlighted:

- Natural burials are an environmentally oriented practice which contributes to new life.
- The process does not use excess natural resources; it does not create excessive greenhouse gas emissions; and it does not require multiple phases and personnel and facilities in the supply chain. Bodies are brought to the burial ground where graves have been minimally dug, the body placed, and the grave closed in a way that allows soils and plants to be regrown as efficiently as possible.
- Unlike the conventional burial process, natural burial does not require mechanical devices to lower the body into the ground and allows the family and others to assist in the partial or complete filling of the grave.
- The most popular forms for final disposition include fire cremation and conventional burial. Given the cost associated with conventional burial, fire cremation is chosen in 90% of cases.
- There are six states across America which practice natural burial and there is a call for this legislation in BC.
- A recent study identified more than 91% of respondents as interested in more environmentally friendly funerals and burials, with 84.4% saying they would choose natural burial if it was available.
- Benefits of natural burial include protecting the land and its inhabitants, allows family values related to environmental responsibility and global sustainability to be honored, enables families to participate more fully in the decisions and rituals associated with death, and enhance and protects a community's natural spaces for generations.

Staff advised that the City has three civic cemeteries: Hazelmere Cemetery, Sunnyside Lawn Cemetery, and Surrey Centre Cemetery, which fall under the Parks division. The City is currently conducting a master plan for the Sunnyside Lawn Cemetery and have invited the delegation to participate in the process.

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

- The delegation was sent to the Committee by Council as the Parks Division oversees cemetery services. The delegation provided an opportunity for education on options available for burial and cemetery use.
- Different faiths and ethnic groups use natural burials, and other burial processes, and churches have not voiced concern with the practice.

C. STAFF PRESENTATIONS**1. Bear Creek Park Restoration Project, Director of Parks**

The Director of Parks provided a PowerPoint presentation on the background of the project, a summary of the Environment and Climate Change Sub-committee (“Sub-committee”) recommendations, and the project schedule and next steps report to Mayor and Council.

The Sub-committee 3 priority recommended restorations were presented as follows:

1. Constructed wetland and rearing pond;
2. Riparian enhancements and natural restoration; and
3. Wildlife exclusion fencing.

In response to questions from the Committee, staff advised that:

- consultation and approval is required by BC Hydro and other regulatory bodies who have utilities in the area.
- Wetlands are not intended to be walking spaces for the public.
- Friends of Bear Creek Park support the recommendations presented.

G. Bhurji left the meeting at 6:50pm and did not return.

2. Park Partnerships Program and Service Delivery, Landscape Operations and Park Partnership Manager

The Park Partnerships Coordinator and the Park Operations Coordinator provided a PowerPoint presentation highlighting:

- The scope of work for Park Partnerships includes park events, volunteer park care and park activations.
- Community Picnics are made possible with the support of community partners and ParticipACTION funding.
- A survey was used to engage the community in meaningful dialogue. Findings included that participants came to park specifically for the community picnic and to learn more about recreation services, library services and community art projects. The program will be expanding into Newton.
- The Sounds of Summer concert series, which runs July to August, is hosted with the support of community partners. The event will be expanding in 2024 to include more concerts at more venues. This program is enjoyed by adults, seniors, young families and youth. The Bollywood dance event, which took place in the plaza at City Hall, was very well attended.
- The Bear Creek Lights is a free event with a 1km walking loop where participants enjoy the lights of the holidays. The event in 2023 saw an increase of almost 10,000 visitors from 2022. The park recorded over 36,000 visitors who participated in family programs, story time and nature walks. Construction has commenced on a new, expanded grandstand with completion anticipated in early 2024. The Bear Creek Lights event may incorporate this new amenity in the years ahead.
- Looking ahead, the Park Partnerships program is expanding senior programming, mobile library services and ongoing public engagement.

In response to questions from the Committee, staff advised:

- The Bear Creek Park Lights event is only two weeks in duration because there are a lot of staff resources that go into setting up and running the event, and there are so many other popular events that require resources. The City leverages community partnerships to keep costs contained.
- The Darts Hill tea is developing this year and staff are looking into a bus program to bring seniors to the event.
- Event schedules are online and disseminated across social media, as well the City works with community partners to be included in their event calendars.
- Park picnic locations are chosen by reviewing stats from the previous year and staff consider bus access and washroom availability. Staff do work with residents and community groups wanting a park picnic as they see the community benefits. Due to the demand of the park picnic event, staff have secured grant funding through ParticipACTION and the BCRPA to help communities hold the event themselves.

D. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

1. Chimney Heights Park – Petition for Community Centre

File: 0360-06

It was

Moved by T. Allen

Seconded by D. Baird

That the Parks, Recreation and Sport

Tourism Committee receive the Chimney Heights Park – Petition for Community Centre report for information.

Carried

2. Reach Child and Youth Development Society

File: 0360-06

Staff spoke to the staff report and advised that there will be future collaboration with the group.

It was

Moved by B. Burnside

Seconded by N. Sangha

That the Parks, Recreation and Sport

Tourism Committee receive the Reach Child and Youth Development Society report for information.

Carried

E. NEW BUSINESS**1. 2024-2025 Fees & Charges – Admissions, Passes and Rentals**

File: 0360-06

Staff spoke to the staff report noting that the 3.5% increase is not across the board and that consideration was given to exceptions outlined in the report. It was noted that some of the fees are not at the point where they can sustain an increase as they will be out of alignment with other communities.

In response to comments from Committee staff advised that:

- The age 70+ admission passes have received a 75% discount off the adult pass and that will be going down to 70%. Additional fees are not collected for seniors other than their annual pass.
- The last increase was 2.9% last year due to inflation.
- Other cities, such as White Rock and Coquitlam have a lower tax base and are more expensive.

It was

Moved by D. Baird
Seconded by T. Allen
That the Parks, Recreation and Sport

Tourism Committee:

1. Receive the report for information; and
2. Endorse an overall 3.5% change to the PRC's Fees and Charges with the exceptions as generally described in this report and attached as Appendix "I";
3. Recommend that Council approve the recommendations of this report upon receipt of the PRSTC's meeting minutes during the next Council meeting;
4. Attach a copy of this report to the minutes of the meeting for Council reference; and
5. Direct staff to update the existing Surrey Parks, Recreation & Culture Fee-Setting By-law, 2004, No. 15391 upon Council's approval of the recommendations of this report.

Carried

2. 2024 Meeting Schedule

File: 0540-20

It was

Moved by B. Burnside
Seconded by T. Allen
That the 2024 Parks, Recreation and Sport

Tourism meeting schedule be received.

Carried

F. CORRESPONDENCE

This section has no items.

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

- 1. Civic Distinction Awards Program 2024**
File: 0360-06

It is recommended that the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee receive the Civic Distinction Awards Program 2024 report for information.

It was
Moved by T. Allen
Seconded by N. Sangha
That the Parks, Recreation and Sport
Tourism Committee receive the Civic Distinction Awards Program 2024 report for information.

Carried

Member Burnside volunteered to participate on the Sport Tourism nomination review committee .

- 2. Marketing Support Initiative to Promote Community Youth Sport**
File: 0360-06

It was
Moved by T. Allen
Seconded by D. Baird
That the Parks, Recreation and Sport
Tourism Committee receive the Marketing Support Initiative to Promote
Community Youth Sport report for information.

Carried

In response to a question from the Committee, staff advised that the city promotes minor sport organizations under the banner of youth sport and promotes the program in conjunction with sport group registration timing. A direct link to the organization registration page is provided.

- 3. Bear Creek Park Restoration Project**
File: 0540-20

It is recommended that the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee:

It was
Moved by D. Baird
Seconded by B. Burnside
That the Parks, Recreation and Sport
Tourism Committee:

- 1. Receive this report for information; and
- 2. Endorse the proposed restoration projects recommended by the “Bear Creek Park Restoration Project (Sub-Committee to Environment and Climate Change Committee)”, as described in this report.

Carried

In response to comments from the Committee, staff advised the budget for the project is \$836,000 and that the wetland work will fully exhaust the budget. The remainder of the projects will be budgeted in the following years.

4. Sport Tourism in Surrey: April to June 2024

File: 0360-06

It is recommended that the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee receive the Sport Tourism in Surrey: April to June 2024 report for information.

It was

Moved by B. Burnside

Seconded by N. Sangha

That the Parks, Recreation and Sport

Tourism Committee receive the Sport Tourism in Surrey: April to June 2024 report for information.

Carried

H. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Verbal Updates

- L. Cavan, GM, Parks, Recreation and Culture provided the following updates:
 - The first tree sale of the year goes live on the City's website on February 28, 2024.
 - The urban forestry team will commence the spring tree planting March 14, 2024, in partnership with the Sri Guru Singh Sabha Gurdwara
 - Family Day takes place on February 19, 2024 and the City will be hosting many family free events and activities between February 17-19. Additional information is on the City's website.
 - Council adopted the Age Friendly Strategy and staff have received a grant to implement the plan.

I. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee is scheduled for April 3, 2024.

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by D. Baird
Seconded by B. Burnside
That the Parks, Recreation and Sport

Tourism meeting be adjourned.

Carried

The adjourned at 7:27pm.

Jennifer Ficocelli, City Clerk

Councillor Hepner, Chairperson

**PARKS, RECREATION AND SPORT TOURISM COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATION INDEX
February 7, 2024,**

That Council:

1. Receive the 2024-2025 Fees and Charges – Admissions, Passes and Rentals report dated January 26, 2024 for information;
2. Approve an overall 3.5% change to the PRC’s Fees and Charges with the exceptions as generally described in this report and attached as Appendix “I”;
3. Approve the recommendations of the report; and
4. Direct staff to update the existing Surrey Parks, Recreation & Culture Fee-Setting By-law, 2004, No. 15391.