



City of Surrey

Council-in-Committee

Minutes

Council Chamber
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2007
Time: 5:00 p.m.

Present:

Chair: Councillor Martin
Mayor Watts
Councillor Villeneuve
Councillor Steele
Councillor Gill
Councillor Hepner
Councillor Bose

Absent:

Councillor Hunt
Councillor Higginbotham

Staff Present:

Acting City Manager
City Clerk
Acting General Manager, Planning &
Development
City Solicitor
General Manager, Engineering
General Manager, Finance, Technology & HR

A. DELEGATIONS

The Chair indicated that the agenda order would be varied.

3. **Dr. John O'Brien-Bell and Catherine O'Brien-Bell** File: 4900-01; 0550-20-10

Dr. John O'Brien-Bell and Catherine O'Brien-Bell were in attendance to propose that the City form a Health and Fitness Council that advocates and promotes excellence in nutrition, fitness and health.

The following comments were provided:

- They wish a Health and Fitness Council to be struck and accountable to City Council to promote excellence in nutrition, fitness and health.
- This is a B.C. Medical Association sponsored project.
- Their intention is to visit each Council in the GVRD with the intention of convincing them to set up a Council of Health and Fitness.
- They chose the City of Surrey because of the residents and Ms. O'Brien-Bell's past ties with City Hall.
- Dr. O'Brien-Bell noted that he is a former member of Council and former Chairperson with Boundary Health.
- He noted that the City of Surrey had won a prestigious award from the B.C. Medical Association relative to Community Health.
- He noted that Council had struck a Health Committee already and that nothing he said today would infringe on the Terms of Reference of that committee.
- City Council is proposing a significant contribution to the Surrey Memorial Hospital Foundation, which shows its interest in community health care.
- There is a pattern emerging to all levels of government with concern about obesity and lack of fitness, particularly in the young.

- Lack of fitness and obesity is at epidemic proportions; today's younger generations will be the first generations with lesser life expectancy than parents.
- The Federal Government has recognized this concern and has given tax support to fitness related sporting programs.
- The Medical Health Officer, FHA, has made a point of working to achieve success in the battle of obesity and fitness levels; Government legislation will be required.
- There needs to be a central organization or Council to assist with this project.
- There is enough information available to indicate that it is time to try some strategies and pilot projects.
- By providing after school activities, youth will achieve better physical health and would be less likely to participate in criminal activities.
- Catherine O'Brien-Bell commented that she sit on the Parent Advisory Committee at her children's school and is a member of the Queen's Park Running Club, which allows different perspectives on obesity, health-related activity, and physical fitness issues.
- We need to instill in children that this is a lifestyle issue.
- Educational programs need to be provided in schools and a pilot project struck.
- Such programs as encouraging children to ride bikes or walk to school would require a level of supervision; other programs such as teaching them to walk and run properly could be provided.
- Some communities hold small, fun runs.
- An ideal fun run would be a run from Bear Creek Park across the Patullo Bridge into Queen's Park. The bridge would be closed to traffic.
- Provide circuit training on school grounds; have a 7th inning stretch during the afternoon in schools to allow students to stretch; feature PE training that actually works and instills healthy lifestyle concepts.
- Encourage kids to drink water in the classroom.
- Encourage space for community gardens to promote the growth of healthy food.

The original agenda order then resumed.

**1. George Singh & Edward (Ted) Hewlett, Co-chairs
Society for the Preservation of the Kensington Prairie Site
File: 6800-10; 0550-20-10**

George Singh and Edward (Ted) Hewlett, Co-chairs, Society for the Preservation of the Kensington Prairie Site were in attendance to make a presentation on the preservation of the former site of Kensington Prairie Elementary School at the corner of 168 Street and 32 Avenue.

The following comments were provided:

- In June of 2006, after over 90 years of existence, Kensington Prairie Elementary School, as an institution, was permanently closed and replaced by a new school in a different location at 16842 – 32 Avenue.
- The land at the corner of 168 Street and 32 Avenue (Coast Meridian and Brown Roads) had been associated with the school for 92 years, the original building having been constructed in 1914 and used until the end of the school's history.
- They are asking what will happen to the Kensington Prairie School site, with its valuable facilities and historic structure.
- The land is of great commercial value and could be sold to developers; this would result in the loss to the community of an already-developed facility of great historic use and utilitarian value.
- A local citizens community meeting was held on May 29, 2006 and the following unanimous vote made:
"That this meeting favours the preservation for community use of at least the historic 1914 building and the gym as well as the playground area of Kensington Prairie School."
- The "Society to Save the Kensington Prairie Site" was formed.
- They urge Council to take action to ensure the historic Kensington Prairie school site be set aside and preserved for the continued use of the local community and the citizens of Surrey as a whole.

It was

Moved by Mayor Watts

Seconded by Councillor Villeneuve

That the 646-signature petition as submitted

by Mr. Hewlett be received.

Carried

- They commend the city for listing the Kensington Prairie School (KPS) site as a heritage registry site recognizing those qualities as significant and contributing to the City's heritage.
- However, there is no automatic protection and the City can, if so decided, place an order for temporary protection for up to 60 days for a building when demolition or alteration is proposed.
- A voluntary heritage protection through agreement between the owner and the City or a Council-initiated heritage protection through the Heritage Protection By-law are alternatives.
- The Surrey School Board and the City of Surrey could enter into an agreement or Council could enact a by-law protecting the property.
- They wish to advocate for the permanent protection of the site.
- They are in favour of the Surrey School Board's offer to sell the property to Surrey for less than market prices; where a public body retains control of the property and remains accountable to the public.
- There are many reasons to preserve the site: a long history of association with the community to preserve the 1914 building and a site of tremendous potential value to the surrounding community.

George Singh then provided the following comments:

- The school is said to have started out in a private home on the corner of Brown Road and Coast Meridian Road.
- It began its history as an institution when the land at the corner of 40 Avenue and 168 Street, was donated by Mr. Parr for the benefit of the community.
- The land now occupied by the present school building, which replaced the land donated for the 1887 school should be preserved for public use.
- Surrey Historical Society sent a letter to the Surrey School Board and to the Heritage Advisory Commission supporting the resolution passed at the community meeting of May 29th.
- The old school is classified architecturally as being of the craftsman style; we need to preserve what we can as a reminder of the past.
- The symmetrical, attractive old building is a reminder of the value that our pioneer forebears placed on the education of their children.
- An example of a preserved school building used for demonstrations of early school life is Anniedale School in North Surrey.
- By preserving KPS as a period schoolhouse, it could be the destination of many field trips by future generations of school children.
- The historical value of the school might be less significant than its potential value, however it could be a multiple-use site, serving people of all ages and many interests in the community.
- The gymnasium could continue to serve as a site for neighbourhood athletic events and small concerts.
- Interest has been expressed for more than one possible use for the site.
- Interest has also been expressed for the establishment of a daycare and preschool for the building.
- A private function during the day could contribute financially to the maintenance of the site as a whole for use during the rest of the day and evening.
- There is a dearth of parks and playgrounds within walking or easy driving distance of the community surrounding the site.
- The area occupied by the school playground should be preserved for local children's use.
- The play field should continue to be available for soccer and softball for the community.
- The site consists of 2.9 acres and they ask that Council oppose any use that will prevent this property from continuing to serve the community as a whole.
- The South Surrey area is growing rapidly. Based on census figures the population in the area has increased from 26,400 to 54,100 from 1981 to 2001.
- The projected population figures for 2021 are 93,000.
- There will be a greater need for parks and playgrounds in the area.
- All buildings and grounds require regular upkeep. The KPS site offers a valuable park property with drainage, an historic building on site, and a gymnasium for indoor community activities.
- If the newer building is preserved, it promises to be a source of income to help defray upkeep costs.

- They ask that Council consider preserving KPS for present and future generations; and they would welcome the opportunity to work with the City to further discuss this property.

2. Mohammad Islam
MIGENIX Inc. (formerly Micrologix Biotech Inc.)
File: 7800-01; 0550-20-10

Mohammad Islam, MIGENIX Inc. (formerly Micrologix Biotech Inc.) was in attendance regarding a public art donation (Mother Language Monument) to the City of Surrey.

The following comments were provided:

- He wishes to put forth the idea to develop a public art project for a Mother Language Monument in the City of Surrey.
- He would not gain anything from this project and he appeared at a Public Art Advisory Committee meeting on December 14, 2006, to discuss this matter.
- The Public Art Advisory Committee gave his proposal support-in-principle.
- He is a Surrey resident and likes art and culture.
- He works for "The Mother Language Lovers of the World", an organization engineering to recognize February 21st as the "International Mother Language Day" from UNESCO.
- He has proposed support to a number of B.C. cities for the Mother Languages concept.
- The International Mother Languages Act has been tabled for the first time in parliament.
- A number of senior level governments have indicated support for his proposal.
- There are 6700 distinct languages spoken and 115 sign languages used around the world.
- At least 3000 mother languages are seriously endangered; we may be losing a language every two weeks.
- We may be losing 50% of the spoken languages of this planet in 125 years.
- Canada has 89 indigenous mother languages; 85 are living and 14 are extinct.
- Of these 14 endangered languages, 7 are from B.C.
- B.C. is the home of multilingualism: English 76.5%, French 1.5%, Aboriginal 0.3%, and non-official mother languages 21.7%.
- More than 125 non-official mother languages exist in B.C.; the majority of speakers of non-official mother languages are immigrants.
- Surrey City Council adopted a Cultural Strategic Plan in 1999 and one of the key strategic directions and recommendations stated "the diversity of Surrey is one of its greatest assets and a characteristic which makes it unique. Opportunities to celebrate this diversity through cultural sharing are integral to the success of the Cultural Strategic Plans; the skills to further recognize and share this diversity must be built into future actions."

- Recently he became a member of the Arts Council of Surrey, B.C. who have shown great interest in working on the project.
- They have plans to apply to the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation for funding; apply to the 2010 Legacies Now for grant, and the Expatriate Fund of Bangladesh, as well as local resources, etc.
- He requests Council to approve this project-in-principle, request that staff identify a City site to host the monument, and consider locating the Mother Language Monument in proximity to a proposed new "Spirit Square".
- There are similar monuments around the world.

3. Dr. John O'Brien-Bell and Catherine O'Brien-Bell

File: 4900-01; 0550-20-10

This item was heard earlier in the meeting.

**4. Sarah Morgan-Silvester, Chair
Amalgamation Transition Committee
Fraser River Port Authority, North Fraser Port Authority and
Vancouver Port Authority**

File: 5650-01; 0550-20-10

Sarah Morgan-Silvester, Chair, Amalgamation Transition Committee, Fraser River Port Authority, North Fraser Port Authority and Vancouver Port Authority was in attendance to discuss the "Global Competitor, Community Partner: An Integrated Port Entity in the Lower Mainland" report and to hear the City's ideas on how to incorporate local governments' perspective into the new entity.

Note: See correspondence in the binder flap regarding this delegation appearance.

This item was not in order for consideration at this time.

B. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

C. CORPORATE REPORTS

1. The Corporate Report, under date of February 26, 2007, was considered and dealt with as follows:

Item No. C002	Road, Lane and Walkway Closure Process & Proposed Policy Revisions
	File: 0340-05

The General Manager, Engineering submitted a report concerning the road, lane, and walkway closure process and the proposed policy revisions.

General Manager, Engineering was recommending that the report be received for information.

It was

Moved by Councillor Hepner
Seconded by Councillor Steele
That Corporate Report C002 be received for

information.

Carried

Note: At the January 15, 2007 Regular Council - Public Hearing, Council referred Corporate Report R004 back to staff for clarification and to provide an overview at Council-in-Committee.

Note: See Corporate Report R004 of the Regular Council - Public Hearing agenda.

D. DELEGATION REQUESTS

E. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

F. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

G. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Councillor Villeneuve
Seconded by Councillor Gill
That the Council-in-Committee meeting do

now adjourn.

Carried

The Council-in-Committee adjourned at 5:46 p.m.

Certified as true and correct:

Margaret Jones, City Clerk

Chairperson: Councillor Mary Martin
Council-in-Committee