



City of Surrey

Council-in-Committee

Minutes

Council Chamber
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2007
Time: 4:51 p.m.

Present:

Councillor Higginbotham – Chair
Mayor Watts
Councillor Villeneuve
Councillor Steele
Councillor Gill
Councillor Hepner
Councillor Bose
Councillor Hunt

Absent:

Councillor Martin

Staff Present:

City Manager
City Clerk
General Manager, Planning & Development
City Solicitor
General Manager, Engineering
General Manager, Finance & Technology
General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture
General Manager, Human Resources

A. DELEGATIONS

1. Dr. Jim Richardson, President Surrey Off-Road Cycling Enthusiasts Society (SORCE) File: 6140-20; 0550-20-10

Dr. Jim Richardson, President, Surrey Off-Road Cycling Enthusiasts Society (SORCE) was in attendance to provide a history of mutual cooperation in the hopes that increased funding can be put in place to complete the South Surrey Bike Park in time for its 10th anniversary in 2008.

A PowerPoint presentation was provided outlining the background and benefits of having the South Surrey Bike Park as well the capital cost estimate with proposed improvements. The following comments were made:

- The work that remains to be done to the 2005 plan and the proposed park entry improvements include:
 - beautifying the entry point to the park;
 - an information kiosk;
 - a picnic area;
 - bleachers for spectators;
 - an emergency phone;
 - a bike wash station;
 - a larger skills area; and
 - public art (which appeared in the 2005 proposal).
- A spreadsheet of the costs was developed when the plan was brought forward in 2005; in the interim there has been a washroom facility added and, due to the weather that is experienced in this region, a request for a bike wash/rinse area.
- Metro Vancouver will not allow development in the skills area.
- Recommend that there be a person that could liaise with the people involved with the structures and urban forestry and those that have the understanding of these specialized facilities.

- There are various manmade skill structures and nature trails with a hierarchy of skill level.
- Seeking increased civic support for events such as bike fest, which does not incur any entry fees and provides the public with demo rides, skill centres for children, tours of the bike park, concession, etc.
- There are many benefits to having these facilities for the community:
 - It appeals to youth as it is non team based;
 - through trail work and advocacy it promotes responsible citizens; and
 - the multi-purpose allows dog walkers, joggers, etc., not just a single user group.
- There are approximately 200 members, the majority of which are under the age of 18, however the cycling clinics that are offered receive enrollment from all age groups.

After a brief discussion of the funding required for completion by the 10th anniversary, the G.M. Parks, Recreation and Culture requested an opportunity to consider the figures, prioritize and come up with a couple of different phases based on the available funding resources. A report with this information will be provided in due course.

The delegation was encouraged to engage the members of SORCE in an on-line study currently being conducted by Parks, Recreation and Culture.

**2. Guy Gensey, Senior Trade Policy Advisory
Ministry of Economic Development
File: 2280-20; 0550-20-10**

Guy Gensey, Senior Trade Policy Advisory, Ministry of Economic Development was not in attendance to answer questions and provide input with respect to the British Columbia-Alberta Trade, Investment, and Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA) as he provided a further letter, on table, requesting to be heard in a closed session.

Staff were requested to correspond with Mr. Gensey to determine whether or not the issues to be discussed are eligible to be heard in a closed session.

**3. Ray Eagle, Directors
Rainforest Reptile Refuge
File: 0250-20; 0550-20-10**

Rainforest Reptile Refuge representatives Ray Eagle, Jason Jordan, Jordan McBain and Paul Springate were in attendance regarding the problems facing the facility and to seek assistance in ensuring its continuity as the only accredited refuge in Canada for abandoned reptiles and amphibians.

Note: At the July 23, 2007 Regular Council - Public Hearing, Councillor Steele requested that staff and the SPCA make contact with the reptile refuge and

analyze the cost implications of staff and/or the SPCA in assisting with the reptile refuge to avoid the euthanization of any reptiles.

Following are comments provided:

- Exotic animals are being brought into the Province illegally.
- The trade in exotic animals is both sophisticated and brutal.

It was

Moved by Mayor Watts

Seconded by Councillor Hepner

That the booklet provided to Mayor and

Council regarding the exotic pet trade be received.

Carried

- The reptile refuge is now closed to the public due to the lack of funding and manpower.
- With the refuge closed and only taking the dangerous, venomous animals, there is concern about where the number of animals that are being turned away are going.
- This has been the most difficult time for the refuge in its 22 year history.
- Surrey is home to this “tourist attraction” which is an asset to the economy, a benefit to the community and an educational facility for the youth.
- At present there are 300 reptiles, amphibians and other exotic species that have been rescued and rehabilitated at no cost; of the 5,000 rescued over the years, 96% have had outstanding health issues that were fatal.
- These animals should not be kept as pets, they are illegal here and ultimately end up neglected and abused.
- There is capable and willing professional help, however in order to operate the refuge, there needs to be paid staff.
- An outline of the costs incurred and funding required was included in the package provided.
- Funding for employment costs is being sought from the City.
- It is anticipated that the monthly wages will be \$11,000.00 per month; to run the society, including funded staff, would be approximately \$18,000.
- There are some donations received from private citizens.
- The Vancouver Aquarium has been approached to join up with the refuge, however a response has not been received.

It was noted that funding should be considered a shared expense throughout the region as it is a benefit to all areas.

The delegation was advised that a review of the information provided will be done with a report back expected over the coming weeks.

It was

Moved by Councillor Steele

Seconded by Councillor Hepner

That the information provided by the

P. Springate in support of the request for funding, be received.

Carried

B. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL**C. CORPORATE REPORTS**

1. The Corporate Report, under date of September 10, 2007, was considered and dealt with as follows:

Item No. C018 Livability Accord Between High Growth Municipalities
File: 6520-01

The City Manager submitted a report to provide information regarding discussions that have taken place between the Mayors and City Managers of Abbotsford, Coquitlam, Langley Township and Surrey regarding how the collective interests of these local governments could be best serviced through working together on some key areas and to seek Council approval of a "Livability Accord" between the four local governments.

The City Manager was recommending approval of the recommendations outlined in his report.

Mike Harcourt was in attendance regarding this Corporate Report and provided the following comments:

- The Livability Accord includes the high growth communities of Coquitlam, Abbotsford, Langley Township and Surrey; it is an idea whose time has come.
- As the footprints in Burnaby, New Westminister, Richmond and the North Shore are filled, there is a need for infrastructure on a huge scale in the Fraser Valley.
- Municipalities can not survive solely on the property tax; our challenges are far too great for that, we need access to the national wealth.
- Many positive changes are expected within the next six months to a year.
- We are one of the most livable regions in the world, but we are not sustainable; we now face the crunch from going from livability to sustainability.

The City Manager provided a PowerPoint presentation supporting the information in the Corporate Report and the following comments were made in closing:

- It is important that other levels of government realize the growth we are experiencing and the challenges we are faced with.
- Transportation issues are huge; a skytrain that can link the communities together is much needed.
- The Livability Accord gives the power of a stronger voice in terms of redefining cities.
- These discussions should include White Rock.
- The MPs and MLAs need to be involved; they need to be a part of the solution.

- An accord can set out some common objectives that may fill some of the gaps that remain within current political structures; sometimes more can be achieved through accords than through legislation.

It was
Moved by Mayor Watts
Seconded by Councillor Heppner
That Council:

1. receive this report as information;
2. approve the "Livability Accord" (the "Accord") that is attached as Appendix I to this report;
3. authorize the Mayor to sign the Accord on behalf of City Council; and
4. authorize the City Clerk to forward a copy of this report and Council's resolution to the other local governments that are parties to the Agreement.

Carried

D. DELEGATION REQUESTS

E. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

F. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

G. ADJOURNMENT

It was
now adjourn.

Moved by Councillor Higginbotham
Seconded by Councillor Hunt
That the Council-in-Committee meeting do

Carried

The Council-in-Committee adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Margaret Jones, City Clerk

Chairperson