

Present:

Chairperson - Councillor Steele
Councillor Gill
Councillor Hayne
Mayor Hepner
Councillor LeFranc
Councillor Martin
Councillor Starchuk
Councillor Villeneuve
Councillor Woods

Absent:**Staff Present:**

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

A. DELEGATIONS**1. Ted Uhrich, Parks Planning Manager, City of Surrey**

File: 6140-20; 0550-20-10

In attendance before Council to present a draft Management Plan for a new community park named Fergus Watershed Biodiversity Preserve Park in South Surrey.

Note: See Corporate Report Ro46 of the Regular Council – Public Hearing Agenda

The following comments were made:

- Fergus Watershed Biodiversity Preserve Park is located in South Surrey between 168 Street and Highway 99. The main stem of Fergus Creek passes through the south of the Park with tributaries that run north and northwest through the Park.
- Fergus was formerly farmland and was grazed by cattle, resulting in degradation to the stream and other habitat areas within the site. The Highway 99 Corridor Plan envisioned this as a compensation area for development upstream that would rehabilitate this area and return Fergus to its former state.
- The process began in 2011 with the acquisition of the last large parcel of the Park; there are some smaller properties still to be acquired. In 2013, environmental studies were conducted and two public open houses held.
- An ad hoc stakeholder committee was created and together with Surrey environmental partners re-envisioned this Park with the focus on ecosystem rehabilitation, environmental preservation and enhancement, and biodiversity. Habitat compensation projects will continue with special consideration for habitat for Pacific Water Shrew, which was identified by Environment Canada as sensitive habitat in this area.

- A Management Plan has been created and identifies eight management units within the Park, each with its own objectives, goals and standard. Three of the eight management units will be open to public access. There will be a large walking loop through the site with controlled entrances at the southern and eastern ends of the site.
- Fergus will be designated as a "no dogs" area because of the sensitive habitats we are trying to recreate, and will be regulated through bylaws; educational signage will be installed in the Park. Alternate dog off-leash sites are being planned for the Grandview area so that bylaw enforcement staff has an alternate site to point people to.
- Next steps would be to continue to work with the development community on the habitat compensation projects; complete the detailed design; and start installing the park improvement as envisioned in the management plan.

Discussion

The Park is currently 68 acres; however, there are additional parcels yet to be acquired. The Highway 99 Land Use Plan states that 100 acres will be preserved for habitat throughout the land use area, including Fergus.

In terms of monitoring dogs in sensitive areas, staff has met with by-law enforcement who deal with this issue regularly. They would like to have an education program in place before the Park opens. This would include talking to dog walking groups, and establishing an active campaign so people understand the rationale behind the "no dogs" area; and there will be alternative dog-friendly sites.

2. **Jaime Boan, Manager, Transportation, City of Surrey**

File: 8310-01; 0550-20-10

In attendance before Council to present an update on the Transportation Plebiscite.

The following comments were made:

- There is general acknowledgement of the need for improved transit. Of the one million people expected to move into the region, 330,000 will be coming to Surrey, along with 160,000 jobs. Forty-five percent of the \$7.5 billion (\$3.5 billion) will come to Surrey.
- There is broad local support from the Surrey Board of Trade, business improvement associations, various universities, as well as Fraser Health medical officers.
- With a successful vote, 56% of Surrey residents would be within walking distance of bus service with frequency such that one would not have to check the schedule. Fraser Highway, King George Boulevard and

104 Avenue would all have LRT. This will transform the City economically and from a livability perspective.

- A City referendum webpage has been established and there has been a steady increase in visits to that page. Social media is a critical element with Twitter ads having reached over 27,000 people; LinkedIn reached 110,000. Print advertising blitz in local press, transit shelter ads and digital signs, radio ads and infographic mailer sent to 138,000 homes and street teams have distributed 5,000 flyers.
- Advocacy events have included:
 - the commuter blitz at 64th Avenue in Clayton;
 - Surrey Central session;
 - Surrey Fire Department and Vancouver PD media event;
 - student outreach at KPU & SFU Surrey campuses
 - two telephone town halls with a combined total of 20,000 calls;
 - City staff went to Central City mall and spoke to 3,000 people.
- In terms of business outreach, staff have attended six town hall meetings, City of Surrey Committee meetings, Community Associations meetings and engaged with community leaders to equip them to speak with others and spread the information more widely.
- The Better Transit and Transportation Coalition includes more than 120 organizations, exemplifying the strength of the Plan. They have an active on-line campaign with a web site where people can pledge their "yes" support www.bettertransit.info.
- Central Campaign has provided street teams at Surrey transit exchanges and other high-traffic areas and knocking on doors. Advertising coordinated by Mayors' Council includes TV and radio, print ads and SkyTrain/bus ads.
- Approximately 900,000 voting packages have gone out. A report will be received April 1 advising of the number of ballots received; final results are expected sometime around the end of June.
- Elections BC will have plebiscite service offices opening April 13. Staff are working with them to get locations set up in Surrey.
- Ongoing advocacy will continue to target stakeholder engagement and outreach, including major City events such as Vaisakhi on April 18, Party for the Planet on April 25 and the Cloverdale Rodeo which runs from May 15-18.

Discussion

It was suggested to use softer language in the advertising, possibly referring to the 0.5% increase as a contribution to our future and the future of our children rather than a tax increase. Emphasize that the increase amounts to a mere 35¢ a day per household.

There are many elements in the Plan that not everyone clearly understands. This .5% increase will mean millions of dollars in revenue from the tourist industry, so there will be contributions outside of the general regional contribution.

Council mentioned that they are frequently asked if this will affect property values and asked staff to put this in context. It is important that the public have that information.

B. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

C. CORPORATE REPORTS

D. DELEGATION REQUESTS

E. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

F. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

G. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Councillor LeFranc


Seconded by Councillor Martin

That the Council-in-Committee meeting do


now adjourn.

Carried

The Council-in-Committee adjourned at 5:45 p.m.



Jane Sullivan, City Clerk



Councillor Steele, Chairperson