

**Present:**

Chairperson - Mayor Locke  
Councillor Annis  
Councillor Bains  
Councillor Bose  
Councillor Elford  
Councillor Hepner  
Councillor Kooner  
Councillor Nagra  
Councillor Stutt

**Absent:****Staff Present:**

Acting City Manager  
Deputy City Clerk  
General Manager, Community Services  
General Manager, Planning & Development  
Manager, Area Planning & Development, North Division  
Manager, Area Planning & Development, South Division  
Land Development Engineer

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**A. DELEGATIONS**

**1. Renie D'Aquila, Executive Director  
Reach Child and Youth Development Society (REACH)**

The delegation provided an overview of its Surrey based programs, an update on the continued increase in ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) prevalence rate in B.C., and initiated discussion with City of Surrey regarding possible partnerships with REACH to help strengthen the system of support in Surrey and highlighted the following information:

- REACH is a nonprofit society operating since 1959 specialized in ASD support by providing Autism programs, respite options, parent support, and Indigenous support. The organization assists over 1,200 children in South Fraser region, with 400 of them in Surrey. REACH is collaborating with all levels of government and community groups, providing 33 years of Autism specific experience.
- Autism is a human brain disorder in areas of language, sensory, motor skills, perception, or executive function. Early intervention improves development but there are barriers in language, culture, and complexity of support system. 1 in 50 children in Surrey was diagnosed with Autism in 2019 and in 2021 the ratio was 1 in 26. REACH is proposing to assist the 866 diagnosed children that are not currently receiving support by delivering REACH services in Surrey recreation centres. The total proposed space requirement is 2,500 square feet in areas of Newton, Clayton Heights, Cloverdale, and Whalley-Guildford. Services that will be provided include counselling, peer connection, diagnostic support, early intervention, family education, and indigenous program. The goal of these services is to decrease access barriers, normalize seeking support, increase access to Autism specific services, strengthen families, and improve quality of life.

- REACH is requesting the City examine location inventory and develop a lease agreement with REACH. The organization is willing to setup fundraiser events for building improvement and pay operational costs for the space they occupy. Fundraisers can raise awareness for Autism and with the City's reinforced communication, it can help strengthen the fundraiser events and raise public awareness.

**2. Nicomekl Riverfront Park Concept Design**  
**Mickella Sjoquist, Landscape Architect and Neal Aven, Manager of Parks,**  
**City of Surrey**

The delegation provided a presentation on the final concept plan for the Nicomekl Riverfront Park Phase 1 Hadden Mill and Oxbow Zones and highlighted the following information:

- The Nicomekl Riverfront Park is an 80 acre park with development in 3 phases. Phase 1 is 24 acres, divided by King George Boulevard into the East Oxbow Zone and West Hadden Mill Zone. Phase 1 of the park is opening in late 2025, with master designs used for phase 1 being applied to phase 2 in 2026. 2,700 responses were received through the public engagement campaign and resulted 86% in support for the design and concept plan. Semiahmoo First Nation has provided valuable input and expressed strong support for the project. There was also input from First Nations, Urban Indigenous Peoples, stakeholders, and the public leading to the final concept plan.
- The park design aims to enhance the existing ecosystem with little disturbance. The Oxbow Zone on the east side of King George Boulevard is focused on ecology and hydrology. There are two new fish channels to reestablish off-channel habitat for fish and wildlife. The Hadden Mill Zone is focused on ecology, programming, and social gathering with more amenities. There will be a primary trail along the river and secondary trails connecting to the neighbourhood. There are four kayak and canoe stopover points in the phase 1 final design to provide river activity space. Parking will be situated on the north side of the river to provide more space and avoid disturbing the ecosystem.
- The park project is working with Ocean, Coastal and River Engineering Centre of National Research Council Canada. The centre performed a 2D hydrodynamic digital model used to vet the design of fish channels and floodable spaces. The project also involves three Indigenous artists who are incorporating culture, values, and history of Indigenous Peoples in artistic elements throughout the park.

**B. ADJOURNMENT**

It was

Moved by Councillor Bose

Seconded by Councillor Stutt

That the Council-in-Committee meeting be

adjourned.

Carried

The Council-in-Committee adjourned at 5:31 p.m.

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Stephanie Nichols, Deputy City Clerk

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Mayor Brenda Locke, Chairperson