
Present:

Councillor Guerra – Chairperson
Councillor Annis
Councillor Elford
Councillor Patton
B. Burnside
S. Drysdale
C. Girardi
G. Tymoschuk, School Trustee

Regrets:**Staff Present:**

L. Cavan, General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture
B. Aasebo, Community Safety Program Manager
L. Davison, Manager of Culture
C. Gain, Arena Operations Manager
S. Gosse, North Surrey Manager
D. Nielsen, Landscape Operations and Park Partnership Manager
T. Neufeld, Park Development Service Manager
L. White, Manager, Community & Recreation Services
L. Anderson, Legislative Services

The Agenda was varied to add the following new item first:

H. INFORMATION ITEMS**2. Proposed Surrey City Centre YMCA**

At the start of the meeting, the Chair advised of on-table correspondence pertaining to the City's partnership initiative with the YMCA.

The General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture, provided an overview as follows:

- The much-anticipated project was conceived in partnership with the YMCA approximately seven years ago to advance a second YMCA facility in Surrey.
- Based on the success of the Tong Louie YMCA facility in south Newton, various locations were considered, and it was determined the second facility would be located in City Centre, with the City and the YMCA each committing to \$20 million for development in 2021.
- Since negotiation of the project seven years ago, a partnership for land was secured with SFU and all parties were excited about the opportunity to further advance the SFU campus in City Centre. Over time, the project was refined to include aquatic facilities, preschool, community programming, etc. (similar to the Tong Louie YMCA) and some potential mixed-use development. However, as the project continued to refine further, costs escalated to \$75 million, a significant increase over \$40 million and far beyond funding sources available.
- All parties remained positive and committed and have worked hard to find ways to accommodate the funding gap between \$75 million and the \$40 million, but the gap is too large and fundraising would be very challenging. Therefore, it was felt best to communicate to the public that the project could not proceed at this time.

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was Moved by Cllr. Annis
Seconded by S. Drysdale
That the minutes of the Parks, Recreation and
Culture Committee meeting of February 19, 2020, be adopted.
Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

C. STAFF PRESENTATIONS

1. Sherri Gosse, North Surrey Manager, Alison Rajah, Surrey Art Gallery Manager and Dan Nielsen, Landscape Operations and Park Partnership Manager

Sherri Gosse, North Surrey Manager, Alison Rajah, Surrey Art Gallery Manager and Dan Nielsen, Landscape Operations and Park Partnership Manager, were in attendance to provide a presentation on online programs, services and outreach.

A PowerPoint presentation was given, showcasing examples of how each division of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Department has provided online engagement during the COVID-19 pandemic, connecting with residents to help cope during this challenging time and overcome the social isolation many are experiencing.

The following was highlighted:

- A rich portfolio of online programs and events were created, offering opportunities for participation to be active, engaged and creative; communicated broadly to multiple demographics through the City's website, social media platforms and YouTube channel, along with e-newsletters, emails and personal phone calls.
- From March 10 to May 20, the popular at-home PRC activities have been viewed over 43,000 times.
- Parks partnerships staff developed an increased online presence as some activities, such as community gardening, had to be adjusted due to the BC Health Authority recommendations for physical distancing.
- Webpages were developed, such as "Gardening How To" and "How to Host a Sustainable Family Picnic in a Park", along with a story time video with a focus on Redwood Park, told inside the tree house with a virtual interpretive walk outside in the park after story time (over 500 views in April).
- A recently released Glades Woodland Garden virtual tour has already received almost 1200 views on YouTube and a similar virtual tour is in development for Darts Hill Garden Park. In June, Senior's Week will be recognized with online engagement highlighting springtime colours and blooms in parks spaces and including local musicians performing from a feature garden.

- The first City Nature Challenge took place the weekend of April 24 – 27, where residents documented nature in their neighborhoods by taking photos of plants and wildlife and uploading them to the City's City Nature Challenge site. Over the four-day event 161 residents participated, making over 2,300 observations and identifying 545 species across the City.
- Social media messaging has been developed to encourage proper park etiquette and street tree care, including watering and tree well maintenance. Residents have also been encouraged to submit their photos of flowering street trees and other signs that spring has arrived.
- Community Recreation staff have been helping to keep residents active and engaged by offering a variety of online fitness classes for participation safely at home; with 18,229 views to date, these videos are the most viewed on the City's YouTube playlist.
- Webpage resources were developed to provide support for preschool families from their own home, promoting:
 - Physical Literacy: resource library of activities that support the development of physical literacy;
 - Food Literacy: healthy snack recipes and ideas on how to involve children with food preparation; and
 - Literacy: educational resources that support early years literacy skills.
- With social distancing procedures in place, youth leadership and planning committees have continued e.g. Girls Empowerment programs, run in partnership with Surrey Safe Schools, using the Microsoft Teams platform, and staying engaged with the Girls Got Game program, run in partnership with Options, via email.
- Through the City's virtual programs and committees, have engaged with approximately 100 youth per week during the month of April and, for the month of May, will be piloting a registered youth drop in on Thursday evenings at 7pm. Youth will register through PRCMS and tracked to provide stats in real time.
- In April the youth team worked with social media to develop key messaging to target the skate community. Stay at home and flatten the curve messaging were posted on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, receiving positive uptake from the community.
- Quickly launched a Seniors Engagement Task Force – primary goal of engaging seniors and individuals with disabilities in their home so they can remain connected to programs and services such as:
 - Seniors Centre Without Walls (SCWW) – a free interactive telephone-based program that connect seniors 55+ to a variety of engaging activities; and
 - Seniors Engagement Friendly Telephone Tree (1556 calls have been made, with 65 in languages other than English).

- A 'Special Issue' E-Newsletter was distributed to 6,198 seniors on April 1, which provided updates and links to various resources available to them. Monthly Special Issue E-Newsletters will continue with the addition of a mid-May issue distributed to launch 'Seniors Week' (on-line activities) June 1 – 7.
- With social distancing, the Surrey Anti-Gang Family Empowerment (SAFE) Program partners have been finding creative ways to enhance collaboration and continue to deliver services. One such initiative that the City is directly supporting is the Chalo Baat Karein (Come Let's Talk) virtual South Asian caregiver group. This drop-in style group is hosted by CRS' Community Safety section every Tuesday from 6-7 pm (beginning May 5) in partnership with PICS, PCRS, Options Community Services and the Surrey School District. To date there have been 20 families attend.
- The Culture division (Special Events, Surrey Civic Theatres, Museum of Surrey, Surrey Art Gallery and Heritage Surrey) is working with the Seniors Engagement Task Force, piloting a range of phone, online and live event seniors programs, throughout the season and as part of Seniors Week.
- For its online initiatives, Culture has over 65,000 followers (with an increase of over 1,500 Facebook followers since March 16) and 40,000 e-newsletter subscribers.
- Surrey Canada Day 2020 will transition to a virtual Canada Day livestreamed event on July 1. The livestream will feature diverse programming and themed segments and include over 30 musical performances. Cultural exhibitions and gallery displays will educate viewers on Surrey's history and heritage.
- Surrey Fusion Festival is postponed until July 2021. A cultural campaign will be implemented to showcase cuisine/recipes, dances, music and traditions through an online video campaign.
- Surrey Civic Theatres has begun hosting online live and recorded music concerts featuring local musicians, and is also producing a series of radio plays working in partnership with local theatre company Peninsula Productions, as well as video performances and art activities for children and their families.
- The Museum of Surrey now offers virtual tours of its exhibitions, including Arctic Voices, modified for a range of accessibility needs. Fun crafts, scavenger hunts and downloadable education programs based off the BC curriculum are also available for teachers and parents (currently being translated into French).
- The Surrey Art Gallery launched Art Together, a series of online programs that explore art and artists in the community, spark the imagination and celebrate the ways that art can impact our lives. As part of this, the Gallery is presenting virtual tours of art exhibitions (released as part of Seniors Week) and the Art's Council's juried ARTS 2020 exhibition will also be online.
- Heritage, including the Historic Stewart Farm, has created numerous self-directed online activities, including popular heritage driving tours (also available virtually).

- Surrey Archives continues to provide remote reference services and has launched a campaign to acquire records, stories and images in response to the COVID-19 pandemic that document the experiences of Surrey's communities and their residents for future generations to learn from.
- In summary, Parks, Recreation and Culture is offering these initiatives through the phone and online so residents can be active, engaged and creative during this time. Collectively to date, there has been 152,172 connections and growing. Feedback from the public of the City's overall online engagement has been very positive; people are grateful to have a way to stay engaged and connected to the City in a positive and meaningful way.

The Committee expressed their appreciation for the informative presentation, acknowledging the commendable efforts to transition to an online format and deliver exceptional services to the community in a very short period of time.

2. **Tim Neufeld, Park Development Service Manager**

Tim Neufeld, Park Development Service Manager, was in attendance to provide a presentation update on 2020 park development projects.

A PowerPoint presentation was provided and an overview of the various 2020 park development projects currently underway and anticipated in 2020 was provided as follows:

- New Park Projects
 - Edgewood Park – Phase 1 completion fall, 2020
 - Orchard Grove Park – Phase 1 completed late 2019/ final phase summer 2020
- Clayton Community Centre – Will be handed over to Parks in next few weeks for landscape completion, approximate duration of works is eight weeks.
- Major Park Upgrades
 - Hawthorne Rotary park – Phase 2.
 - Cloverdale Athletic Park – Surrey United Soccer Club Fieldhouse – Final inspection and occupancy anticipated in mid-June.
 - South Surrey Athletic Park – Rugby Fieldhouse (partnership with Bayside Athletics) substantial completion anticipated mid-July.
 - Bear Creek Park – Install LED solar system lighting around new rubberized walking loop – completion October.
 - Surrey Nature Centre – Phase 1 parking expansion currently underway.
 - Sullivan Park – Overflow parking completed.
 - Chimney Heights Park – Roll out of second precast serviced washrooms – anticipate delivery early June – one week onsite.
 - The Glades – lifecycle replacement of pedestrian bridge and remove and replace reflection pond.

- Athletic Amenity Upgrades
 - Tamanawis Park Field #2 - turf replacement completion mid June and covered bleacher anticipated mid July.
 - Hjorth Road Park – East field turf replacement, postponed to July/August 2021.
 - South Surrey Athletic Park – Parking lot and high mast netting completed.
- Trails/Pathways - 15.5 kms of new/additional paths in existing parks: Kettle Crescent Park, Hunter Park, 112L Greenbelt, 135G Greenbelt and 25A Greenbelt.
- Playground Renovations: Guildford Heights Park, Holland Park, Alexandra Tot Lot – Crescent Beach, Ellendale Park, Pioneer Park and 77G Greenbelt.

The Committee queried the nature of maintenance, management roles and responsibilities and service levels for park amenities on Metro Vancouver reservoirs. In particular, concern was expressed with respect to maintenance service levels at Kennedy Park for the tennis courts on the Metro Vancouver reservoir lid.

Staff reported there are often operating agreements that govern roles and responsibilities and they will take a look at that site to see if it is being compromised and how it is being maintained. It was further noted there are a number of reservoirs in parkland systems, some of which Metro Vancouver is doing some integration to repurpose for recreation use.

3. **Liane Davison, Manager of Culture**

Liane Davison, Manager of Culture, was in attendance to provide a presentation update on public art - poetry commissions.

The Public Art Program proposes to launch a pilot poetry commission project that would result in an inventory of poems that could be permanently presented to the public in forms such as sidewalk stamps, carved into boulders in parks, or attached to infrastructure such as bridges or fences or applied to windows using vinyl. The Public Art Program would work in partnership with Parks and Engineering to determine locations.

Images of precedent examples were shared, including the example of Poetry Rock public artwork in Bear Creek Park.

The project timeline is to launch the call specifically to Surrey's published poets, and to convene a selection panel to recommend the final works, which would be announced in the fall. The theme recommended for the pilot projection is "Love Where You Live."

If this pilot initiative is well received, it could be relaunched as an open call in the future.

D. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS**E. NEW BUSINESS****1. Update on the Parks, Recreation & Culture Department – Online Engagement Strategies**

File No. 1810-01

The General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture submitted a report to provide the Committee with the Parks, Recreation & Culture Department's online engagement strategies that support residents to be active, engaged and creative during the time of COVID-19, which started in March 2020.

It was

Moved by C. Girardi

Seconded by S. Drysdale

That the Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee receive the report from the General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture, dated May 12, 2020, entitled "*Update on the Parks, Recreation & Culture Department – Online Engagement Strategies*", as information.

Carried**2. Surrey Eagles License Agreement 2020 - 2023**

File No. 0250-20/S

The General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture submitted a report to address the request of the Surrey Eagles Jr. A Hockey Team for additional subsidy from the City at the South Surrey Arena and authorization to negotiate a three-year License Agreement.

The General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture reported the request was for a five-year lease, which was determined to be a significant time and level of certainty; the City is continuing to provide a level of subsidy to the organization and would really like to encourage some fundraising.

It was

Moved by B. Burnside

Seconded by G. Tymoschuk

That the Parks, Recreation & Culture

Committee:

1. Receive the report from the General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture, dated May 12, 2020, entitled "*Surrey Eagles License Agreement 2020 - 2023*", as information.
2. Recommend staff negotiate a three-year License Agreement for 550 hours of ice use for the 2020/2021, 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 seasons with the Surrey Eagles at a total annual cost of \$31,900 plus an annual three per cent (3%) increase or in accordance with the *Surrey Parks, Recreation and Culture Fee-Setting By-law, 2004, No. 15391*;

3. Increase the Surrey Eagles office rental contract rate fee annually by three per cent (3%) or in alignment with the *Surrey Parks, Recreation and Culture Fee-Setting By-law, 2004, No. 15391* for the Surrey Eagles; and
4. Recommend that the Surrey Eagles continue to pay the applicable Junior A rate for all ice times that exceed the 550 hours, in accordance with the *Surrey Parks, Recreation and Culture Fee-Setting By-law, 2004, No. 15391*.

Carried

3. **Surrey Anti-Gang Family Empowerment (“SAFE”) Program Activity Report**
File No. 1810-01

The Community Safety Program Manager submitted a report to provide the Committee with activity reporting for the Surrey Anti-Gang Family Empowerment (“SAFE”) Program from October 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020.

The General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture provided a brief overview of the report, acknowledging the benefits of having the SAFE program within PRC programming, which aligns well with other programming within the community, making a very important connection towards healthier paths. In particular, some of the numbers reported for the period October 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020 were highlighted that speak to the necessity of this type of project:

- Support of 843 unique children, youth and caregiver clients – a 29% client increase compared to 656 clients supported in the first half of year two.
- The Children and Youth At-Risk Table (CHART) met 23 times and accepted 114 cases of six to nineteen year-olds vulnerable for gang involvement - equates to an average of five new cases accepted per meeting and a 70% increase in total cases accepted during this period, compared with the first half of year two.

A brief discussion ensued with respect to options available for youth that may not be receptive to services.

The Committee expressed their appreciation to Community Safety staff for their dedication to the SAFE and CHART programs and the extensive information provided within the report. It was further noted staff involved in the program have been invited to give presentations across the province at various symposiums, speaking once again to Surrey's leadership in this regard.

It was

Moved by S. Drysdale
Seconded by B. Burnside
That the Parks, Recreation & Culture

Committee receive the report from the Community Safety Program Manager, dated May 5, 2020, entitled “*Surrey Anti-Gang Family Empowerment (“SAFE”) Program Activity Report*”, as information.

Carried

F. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL**G. CORRESPONDENCE****H. INFORMATION ITEMS****1. Corporate Report Ro78 – Livestreaming Surrey Canada Day 2020**
File No. 8200-01

The subject report was adopted by Council at the Regular Council Public Hearing meeting of May 4, 2020 (RES.R20-654).

The General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture noted the report was provided to the Committee for individual awareness and advised that staff are moving forward working with several corporate and community sponsors and will promote as much as possible. Hayley Wickenheiser has been confirmed as MC.

I. OTHER BUSINESS**1. Verbal Update**

L. Cavan, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture, provided the following update:

- **Facility Maintenance** – Taking advantage of the current shutdown, maintenance of the South Surrey Indoor Pool took place April 14 to May 19. Similarly, the Guildford Aquatics Centre will enter into its maintenance shutdown in May while the facility is currently closed and the gymnasium and fitness studio floors at the Guildford Recreation Centre are being re-finished. Completing this work now will prevent the need for an additional and/or lengthy facility shutdown in the future.
- **Youth Peer Mentorship Program** – The City was successful in obtaining a \$30K Civil Forfeiture Grant for the Peer Mentorship Program and is currently working on a virtual option for this program. All the grants received through this program can be found at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/crime-prevention/community-crime-prevention/grants>.
- **Accessibility and Inclusion** – Has been asked to deliver a one-hour webinar for BCRPA on Creating Supportive Camp Environments; an opportunity to share some of the great leadership Surrey provides in that area. This workshop will look at supporting behaviours through creating sensory-friendly spaces in recreation settings.
- **UBCM Childcare Planning Program** – For a second year, confirmation has been received of \$25K from the UBCM Childcare Planning program for continuing childcare initiatives in 2020.

- **SNAP** (Surrey's Natural Areas Partnership) - Urban Forestry staff are currently working with the Green Timbers Heritage Society, the Sunnyside Acres Heritage Society and the White Rock/Surrey Naturalists to formalize the 2020 SNAP team. This is the 20th year the SNAP program has worked in City parks removing invasive plants, maintaining shade trees and engaging the public. Working a modified season this year beginning in June (rather than May) through August and then another team working into the fall. Programs have been modified that will enable this year's team to complete their work in a safe manner.

J. NEXT MEETING

The next virtual meeting of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on **Wednesday, June 17, 2020**.

K. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by G. Tymoschuk
Seconded by S. Drysdale
That the Parks, Recreation & Culture

Committee adjourn.

Carried

The Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Jennifer Ficocelli, City Clerk

Councillor Laurie Guerra
Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee