

Present:

Councillor Hepner, Chairperson
Councillor Kooner, Vice-Chair
D. Baird
G. Bhurji
B. Burnside
N. Sangha
K. Sidhu
R. Prasad

Absent:

T. Allen, School Trustee

Staff Present:

L. Cavan, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture
N. Aven, Manager, Parks
L. White, Manager, Recreation Services
H. Norris, Manager, Park Facility Operations
D. Merry, Manager, Parks Planning
P. Zevit, Biodiversity Conservation Planner
A. Sodha, Administrative Assistant

A. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**1. Adoption of the Agenda**

It was

Moved by B. Burnside

Seconded by K. Sidhu

That the agenda of the Parks, Recreation and
Sport Tourism Committee meeting of May 10, 2023, be adopted.

Carried

2. Adoption of April 5, 2023 Minutes

It was

Moved by Councillor Kooner

Seconded by R. Prasad

That the minutes of the Parks, Recreation
and Sport Tourism Committee meeting held on April 5, 2023, be adopted.

Carried

B. DELEGATIONS**1. Emrul Hasan, Director, Last Man Stands Canada**

Emrul Hasan presented information regarding the organization's initiatives and plans. Last Man Stands Canada aims to provide amateur cricketers with a professional experience in a shorter format of the game. The organization uses technology to connect players worldwide and offer a global ranking system. Last Man Stands Canada organizes global events, such as tournaments and tours, and has achieved recognition in the global cricket arena.

Emrul Hasan highlighted the establishment of Last Man Stands Canada DEI Foundation which focuses on diversity, equity, and inclusiveness. The foundation aims to support deserving groups, including LGBTQ+ individuals and newcomers to Canada. Last Man Stands Canada has received government funding and aims to

provide free cricket opportunities to newcomers to help them integrate into society.

In their first year, Last Man Stands Canada had nearly 5,000 registered players and organized various tournaments and events across Canada. Qualified teams are recognized for international championships, putting their name on the global stage. Last Man Stands Canada plans to expand their operations in 2023, increasing the number of matches and collaborating with local leagues and universities.

The organization strives to offer a shorter format of the game, making it more accessible and suitable for modern lifestyles. Umpires are provided ensuring a safe and inclusive environment for players. Last Man Stands Canada also aims to contribute to the quality of life in the South Asian community in Vancouver, which has a significant cricket-playing population. The organization has seen rapid growth and are globally insured, prioritizing the safety and reputation of their participants.

Emrul Hasan mentioned the challenges faced, including issues with monopolistic leagues and limited grounds. Last Man Stands Canada seeks support from the city to create more grounds and increase capacity to accommodate the growing number of participants. Last Man Stands Canada aims to coexist with other leagues and enhance the overall cricketing experience in the city.

Emrul Hasan highlighted issues such as the accessibility of cricket facilities, dress code for players, funding for amateur youth cricketers, and control of junior cricket by specific organizations. Last Man Stands Canada is also focused on increasing opportunities for female players and removing barriers for underprivileged groups. The league games are open to the public, with about 30% of the games being live-streamed. Last Man Stands Canada is dedicated to making positive changes in the cricket community and is actively working towards promoting the sport and supporting newcomers and youth. Emrul Hasan emphasized the importance of Last Man Stands Canada's mission to provide amateur cricketers with a professional experience and foster inclusivity in the sport.

2. Laura Ballance, Representative, Softball City Non-Profit, and Greg Timm, Chair Canada Cup/Canadian Amateur Sports Society

The organization's mission is to inspire young women to play softball and promote positive improvements for underrepresented communities. The presenters highlighted the success and impact of the Canada Cup tournament, including its economic benefits and media coverage. Upcoming events such as the Men's Fastpitch Championships, the Brew Ball tournament featuring local craft breweries and wineries, and the Renegades Pride Power tournament, are expected to generate substantial economic impact and media attention.

The presenters provided information regarding future plans, including hosting the International Softball Congress Men's World Tournament and bidding for the 2026 Canadian Native Fastpitch Championship. The presenters requested support from the City for upgrading the lighting and the gravel parking lot at event facilities, acknowledging the exceptional quality of the fields, and expressing pride in their partnership with the city. An invitation to attend the Canada Cup tournament and support their fundraising efforts for teams from Israel and Ukraine was brought forward.

The tournament garners international attention, generating numerous news stories and positive media impressions for the city, while emphasizing the event's positive influence on inspiring young women in sports and acknowledges the partnership with local authorities.

The organization operates with a volunteer-driven board and aims to inspire young women to play softball. The organization plans to expand its mission to include underrepresented communities, such as indigenous and underprivileged children.

C. STAFF PRESENTATIONS

1. Bear Creek Park Improvements

The Manager of Parks Planning, Research and Design provided an overview of the Bear Creek Park Improvements and highlighted the following information:

The proposed improvements and additions to Bear Creek Park covered various aspects such as the park's amenities, trail network expansion, natural restoration, and the construction of a boardwalk.

The park currently has multiple playgrounds, a dog off-leash area, an arts centre, and a new stadium that is on track for completion. The proposed improvements include a trail network expansion and natural restoration efforts.

The trail network expansion aims to connect existing trails and fill in gaps in the park. The proposed trails would be a combination of gravel paths, boardwalks, and bridges across the creek. The additions would allow visitors to access different sections of the park more easily.

The boardwalk construction is specifically designed for areas with wet ground cover. It helps with water drainage and provides a pleasant experience for park visitors. The boardwalk also serves the purpose of guiding people and limiting access to designated trails.

In terms of construction materials, the use of ground screws instead of traditional footings and concrete reduces the environmental impact and allows water and critters to flow through.

In response to questions from the Committee, staff provided the following information:

Regarding the boardwalk's toxicity, there was no mention of specific studies on the toxicity of pressure-treated or cedar materials once the boardwalk is complete. It was noted that no recent studies or information are available on this topic. The concept of the boardwalk is aimed at improving accessibility, particularly for people with disabilities, as it is designed with ramps instead of stairs.

2. Parkland in Surrey's Agricultural Land Reserve – A Comprehensive Plan for Agriculture

The Biodiversity Conservation Planner, provided an overview of the parkland in Surrey's Agricultural Land Reserve ("ALR") and highlighted the following information:

Surrey's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy ("BCS") is a comprehensive plan that integrates landscape-level planning with site-level operations throughout the city. The Parks Division takes the lead in implementing the strategy, working in collaboration with other divisions and departments such as Parks, Recreation and Culture, Engineering, Planning and Development.

The implementation of the BCS revolves around several core themes:

- **Planning and Development:** The strategy aims to incorporate biodiversity initiatives at all levels of the city's planning and development framework. This involves considering and integrating measures to promote and protect biodiversity in urban development projects.
- **Agricultural Areas:** The BCS seeks to enhance biodiversity within Surrey's ALR by focusing on habitat protection and enhancement, as well as promoting sustainable agricultural practices. This approach aims to maintain and enhance biodiversity within agricultural landscapes.
- **Climate Change:** Recognizing the anticipated impacts of climate change on ecosystems, the BCS aims to improve the resilience of Surrey's ecosystems. This involves adapting to changing ecological conditions and implementing measures to mitigate the effects of climate change on biodiversity.
- **Community Education and Awareness:** Increasing awareness and understanding of local biodiversity and its significance for community sustainability is another key aspect of the BCS. By educating and engaging the community, the strategy aims to foster a greater appreciation for local biodiversity and encourages actions that support its conservation.

By addressing these core themes, Surrey's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy aims to protect and enhance biodiversity across the city, while promoting sustainable development practices and engaging the community in conservation efforts.

The recommendations provided in the plan for agriculture encompass several crucial aspects pertaining to farming in parks while aligning with the city's plans and policies.

1. Enhancing interdepartmental communication and capacity (internal and external): This recommendation emphasizes the need for improved communication and collaboration among different city departments and external stakeholders involved in farming initiatives. It aims to ensure effective coordination and sharing of resources and expertise.
2. Indigenous partnerships: Recognizing the importance of Indigenous food sovereignty and cultural significance. This recommendation suggests fostering partnerships with Indigenous communities to incorporate their knowledge, practices, and priorities in farming projects. It promotes collaboration and respect for Indigenous perspectives.
3. Official Community Plan (“OCP”) updates: The recommendation highlights the need to review and update the OCP to include provisions and guidelines related to farming in parks. This ensures that farming initiatives align with the city's long-term planning objectives.
4. Review land tenure agreements: This recommendation suggests reviewing existing land tenure agreements, particularly those related to farming in parks. It aims to ensure that the agreements reflect the current objectives, priorities, and regulations while considering the needs and interests of farmers and the broader community.
5. Partnerships with local food security organizations: Encouraging partnerships with local food security organizations emphasizes the importance of collaborating with established organizations working towards improving food access and security. This can enhance the impact and sustainability of farming initiatives in parks.
6. Compliance with Provincial and Federal legislation and regulations: This recommendation highlights the necessity of complying with relevant legislation and regulations related to land use, water management, soil conservation, wildlife protection, and fisheries. It ensures that farming activities in parks adhere to legal requirements and environmental standards.
7. Establish best management practices (“BMPs”) for farming near watercourses and other environmentally sensitive features: BMPs provide guidelines for implementing sustainable farming practices near watercourses and other environmentally sensitive areas. This recommendation suggests developing and implementing BMPs specific to farming activities in parks to minimize environmental impacts.

These recommendations collectively aim to improve the integration of farming in parks while addressing various considerations such as interdepartmental collaboration, Indigenous partnerships, policy updates, legal compliance, and environmental stewardship. By implementing these recommendations, the city can create a robust framework for successful and sustainable farming initiatives within parkland.

D. REPORTS

1. Parkland in Surrey's Agricultural Land Reserve - A Comprehensive Plan for Agriculture

Pamela Zevit, Biodiversity Conservation Planner, City of Surrey
File:0360-06

It was

Moved by Councillor Kooner

Seconded by B. Burnside

That the Parks, Recreation and Sport

Tourism Committee receive the report dated April 26, 2023 regarding Parkland in Surrey's Agricultural Land Reserve - A Comprehensive Plan for Agriculture, for information.

Carried

2. Outdoor Sport Advisory Committee 2022-23

Hugh Norris, Manager of Parks Facility Operations, City of Surrey
File:0360-06

It was

Moved by Councillor Kooner

Seconded by G. Bhurji

That the Parks, Recreation and Sport

Tourism Committee receive the report dated April 26, 2023 regarding Outdoor Sport Advisory Committee 2022-23, for information.

Carried

3. Seniors Week BC – June 4-10, 2023

Laurie Cavan, General Manager of Parks Recreation and Culture, City of Surrey
File:0360-06

It was

Moved by Councillor Kooner

Seconded by B. Burnside

That the Parks, Recreation and Sport

Tourism Committee receive the report dated April 24, 2023 regarding Seniors Week BC, for information.

Carried

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

1. Bear Creek Park Improvements – Corporate Report R053

File:6120-01

A copy of Corporate Report R053 was circulated for information.

F. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Verbal Updates

The Committee provided the following verbal updates:

- Reopening of the Surrey Sport and Leisure Complex: The complex, which includes a busy pool, underwent a six-week shutdown, and successfully reopened.
- Rodeo and country fair at Cloverdale Fairgrounds: The rodeo and country fair at the Cloverdale Fairgrounds was hosted in Surrey after a three-year hiatus. The event has scheduled a lineup of events, including food trucks, an indigenous village, country music, and the second-largest rodeo in Canada.
- Opening of the Glades Woodland Garden park: The unique park located on 172nd Street in South Surrey had its grand opening on Mother's Day. Visitors are encouraged to explore the beautiful gardens.
- Synthetic turf field replacement at South Surrey Athletic Park: Field #9 at the park is undergoing a replacement of its synthetic turf. The project, delayed from last year due to supply chain issues, is expected to be completed by mid-August.
- Hosting sports events: The City of Surrey is hosting various sports events as part of its sport tourism plan. One notable event is the Coastal FC Spring Classic tournament, which will feature over 200 soccer teams, including the U13 category.
- Youth Week and Digital Technology Hub: The City recently concluded a successful Youth Week from May 1st to 7th, which included numerous activities across the city. Additionally, a new digital technology hub has been launched on the City's website. The hub aims to reduce barriers for individuals aged 55 and above to access to technology and provides resources on internet access, device setup, training modules, and technology support.

G. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, June 7, 2023.

H. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Councillor Kooner

Seconded by K. Sidhu

That the Parks, Recreation and Sport

Tourism Committee meeting be adjourned.

Carried

The Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Jennifer Ficocelli, City Clerk

Councillor Hepner, Chairperson