

Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee Minutes

2E - Community Room A
City Hall
13450 - 104 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2023
Time: 6:01 pm

Present:

Councillor Hepner, Chairperson
Councillor Kooner
T. Allen, School Trustee
D. Baird
G. Bhurji
B. Burnside
N. Sangha
K. Sidhu

Absent:**Staff Present:**

L. Cavan, General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture
S. Nichols, Deputy City Clerk
M. Sjoquist, Landscape Architect
E. Balmer, Community Services Coordinator
N. Aven, Director, Parks
H. Norris, Park Facility Operations Manager
L. White, Director Recreation Services
E. Balmer, Community Services Coordinator

A. ADOPTIONS**1. Adoption of the Agenda**

It was Moved by T. Allen
Seconded by Councillor Kooner
That the agenda of the Parks, Recreation and
Sport Tourism Committee meeting of September 6, 2023, be adopted
Carried

2. Adoption of the Minutes

It was Moved by D. Baird
Seconded by K. Sidhu
That the minutes of the Parks, Recreation
and Sport Tourism Committee meeting of June 7, 2023, be adopted.
Carried

B. DELEGATIONS**1. Joanne Nellas and Sadie Gilker
CityHive**

Joanne Nellas, Programs Manager, and Sadie Gilker, Civic Education Program Coordinator, CityHive, provided a PowerPoint presentation on youth engagement programs in the City, highlighting the following:

- The mission of CityHive being to transform the way that young people are engaged in shaping the cities they live in;
- The program started in 2016 by two youth who did not feel they had a place in the decision making of their city;
- The program gives youth the skills and real opportunities to develop more meaningful civic engagement, and assists municipalities in working with youth;
- The guiding principles of youth-centred engagement, collaboration first, and centre underrepresented and systematically excluded voices;

- The continuum of engagement which includes classroom programs, workshops and events, civic ed cohort programs, and innovation labs and alumni workshops;
- The CityShapers in Schools program, the Surrey Shapers program and the Clayton Corridor Idea Jam program;
- Feedback on the programs has been very positive;
- A new Young City Leaders Mentorship Program is being launched this year for BIPOC communities.

In response to questions from the Committee, related to growth and funding, the delegation advised that the current programs have been one-off and there is a need for funding to provide multi-year programs. Growth of the program has been by word of mouth and some targeted outreach, and each new program solicits more interest.

2. Nick Sandhu and Susan Ahrens
Field Hockey Canada

Susan Ahrens, Chief Executive Officer, Field Hockey Canada, provided a presentation regarding field hockey in Surrey and the benefits that a third field and facility upgrades at Tamanawis Park could bring to Surrey. The delegation highlighted the following:

- The vision for Team Canada and for the City of Surrey;
- The benefits to the community, the sport and local businesses that the sport brings to Surrey;
- The potential benefits a third field and upgraded facilities would have on attracting international matches and events, and enable Field Hockey Canada to move their head office to Tamanawis Park;
- The 2024 Junior Pan American Championships will be held at Tamanawis Park in July with junior women's and men's division participating;
- Interest in the sport is growing exponentially, and ages of participants range from 5-84 years of age.

In response to questions from the Committee, regarding funding, the delegation advised that the 3rd field was in the City budget when they submitted the bid for the 2024 Pan American Championships. Staff advised that \$4.7 million has allocated in the 2026 budget, which is reviewed annually by Council. The delegation advised that when the first field was created there was only one field hockey club. There are 10 clubs all vying for the same field and facility use.

The Committee commented on the success Field Hockey Canada has had with recent tournaments and that the players and families bring great economic growth to the City of Surrey.

In response to questions from the committee regarding sharing the field with other sports and organizations, the delegation advised that the high school utilizes the field during the school year and that having a third dedicated field would attract multi-sports internationally. Staff advised that the field is used for multi-sport, however not for soccer, and that priority is given to the local community for use.

3. Mark Smeets, Podcast host, We are the ADHD Family
ADHD Advocate Society

Mark Smeets provided a PowerPoint presentation on his request for sensory friendly swimming opportunities in the City of Surrey. The presentation highlighted:

- Three asks of the City:
 1. The creation of a regular sensory friendly or calming swim schedule;
 2. Updating City publications to include affirming language; and
 3. Create a City Speaks survey for disabilities
- The support received by disability/advocacy groups, government officials and Facebook groups;
- The benefits of removing common barriers such as sounds, lights, smells, touch, crowds and water to everyone, not just those with disabilities;
- A pilot project was proposed at the Surrey Sports & Leisure Centre in Fleetwood as the area is going through a massive transformation and accessibility is on everyone's mind;
- The need to educate and train recreation staff, especially lifeguards, on how to make the recreation experience inclusive and comfortable for all users.

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

This section has no items to consider.

D. STAFF PRESENTATION

1. Nicomekl Riverfront Park Phase 1 (Hadden Mill and Oxbow Zones) Final Concept Plan

Mickella Sjoquist, Landscape Architect, City of Surrey
File: 0360-06

Mickella Sjoquist, Landscape Architect, City of Surrey, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Nicomekl Riverfront Park Phase 1 (Hadden Mill and Oxbow Zones) Final Concept Plan highlighting:

- The park is 3km long on the south side of the Nicomekl River, from Elgin Rd to 40 Ave. It is 80 acres in size, 14x larger than Crescent Beach Park;
- Planning for the park started in 2020 and has been split into 3 phases. The first phase dealing with the largest parcel, 24 acres has been split into 2 zones, the Hadden Mill and Oxbow zones. The final design and start of construction is hoped for summer 2024;
- Phase 2 will begin shortly after applying master design characteristics from phase 1 to ensure continuity throughout the entire 3km park;
- The project timeline showed the various stages of the project and that the park should open in 2025;
- The final concept plan for the Oxbow and Hadden Mill zones shows that the Oxbow zone is focused on ecology and hydrology. It will accommodate floodwater and reestablish habitat for fish and wildlife. It will have a boardwalk system and some gathering areas. The Hadden Mill zone is focused on ecology

and program areas. It will protect and enhance existing ecology. It will have a variety of amenity areas, like playground, amphitheatre, etc.

- The various park spaces and circulation around the park allows connectivity to the neighbourhood beyond and recreational water access. Motorboats will not be permitted.
- The engagement and feedback from the public, First Nations, Urban Indigenous Peoples and SUILC, and other stakeholder groups resulted in 85% support;
- Unique project components include Flood Adaptation which will be used to design fish channels and floodable spaces, and Nature Based Solutions, and Semiahmoo and Kwantlen Creatives and the Cultural Ribbon which will integrate culture, values and history into the park through artistic elements.

Staff distributed a Discussion Guides to the Committee.

In response to questions from the Committee, staff advised that fishing access under the bridge will still be allowed depending on the season and whether fishing is permitted. Staff advised that a new sea dam is being constructed and will be designed for fish passage. Staff are exploring opportunities to allow large canoe passage through the dam as well. Staff are working with Al Johnson in relation to spawning fish in the existing pond and the Nicomekl Hatchery has shown interest in releasing the fry.

E. REPORTS

1. Nicomekl Riverfront Park Phase 1 (Hadden Mill and Oxbow Zones) Final Concept Plan

File: 0360-06

It was

Moved by Councillor Kooner

Seconded by D. Baird

That the Parks, Recreation and Sport

Tourism Committee:

1. Receive the report for information; and
2. Endorse the Nicomekl Riverfront Park Phase 1 Hadden Mill and Oxbow Zones Final Concept Plan attached as Appendix "I" to this report.

Carried

2. Golf Putting Course and Urban Garden Park

File: 0360-06

It was

Moved by B. Burnside

Seconded by K. Sidhu

That the Parks, Recreation and Sport

Tourism Committee receive the report for information.

Carried

3. Parks, Recreation and Culture Programs and Services for People with Disabilities in Surrey

File: 0360-06

It was

Moved by N. Sangha

Seconded by B. Burnside

That the Parks, Recreation and Sport

Tourism Committee receive the report for information.

Carried

4. Senior Women's Hockey

File: 0360-06

It was

Moved by B. Burnside

Seconded by D. Baird

That the Parks, Recreation and Sport

Tourism Committee receive the report for information.

Carried

5. Sport Tourism in Surrey September to December 2023

File: 0360-06

It was

Moved by Councillor Kooner

Seconded by B. Burnside

That the Parks, Recreation and Sport

Tourism Committee receive the report for information.

Carried

F. CORRESPONDENCE

This section has no items.

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

This section has no items.

H. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Verbal Updates

L. Cavan, GM, Parks, Recreation and Culture updated the Committee on the following:

- Facility Shutdowns: Grandview Heights will be shutdown Sept. 5 to Oct. 16 for critical maintenance work and the South Surrey Arena was shut down over summer for facility upgrades;
- Child Care at Elgin Centre: There will be an additional 20 new childcare spaces at Elgin which is being operated by Alexander Community House. This is a

result of provincial funding. The new spaces will qualify for \$10/day subsidy and the application is in process;

- Swimming Lessons: There were 1,500 summer lessons registered over last summer, resulting a 48% increase. Demand far exceeds availability due to the lifeguard shortage. Recruitment is ongoing. Outdoor pools contracted out lifeguarding for additional swim time to make up for the Grandview shut down.
- National Tree Day: September 23, 2023, is National Tree Day at Bear Creek Park. There will be various tree planting opportunities throughout the City this fall via the Releaf tree planning program.
- Surrey Leadership Youth Council: The group will be coming to present at an upcoming Council meeting to showcase the work they are doing and to promote their Youth Speak Up event on November 10, 2023.

2. Delegation Requests

a. Chimney Heights Park Association

Submitted petitions and are requesting to appear before the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee to provide a presentation regarding a walking track and Community Centre at Chimney Heights Park.

Staff spoke to the request advising that Chimney Heights Park is a heavily utilized park.

In response to questions from the Committee staff advised that there is no funding currently in the budget for either of the requested items and suggested that the Committee hear the delegation to get a better understanding of what the group is looking for and the potential impact on other parks.

It was

Moved by T. Allen

Seconded by B. Burnside

That the Chimney Heights Park Association

be invited as a delegation to the October Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee meeting.

Carried

I. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee is scheduled for October 4, 2023.

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Councillor Kooner
Seconded by D. Baird
That the Parks, Recreation and Sport

Tourism Committee meeting be adjourned.

Carried

The adjourned at 7:38 pm.

Jennifer Ficocelli, City Clerk

Councillor G. Hepner, Chair