



Parks & Community Services Committee - Minutes

Parks Boardroom 1
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2009
Time: 7:00 pm
File: 0540-20

Present:

Chairperson: Councillor Martin
Councillor Gill
C. Annable
R. Benson
K.C. Gilroy
J. Grewal
S. Hundal
G. Rai
M. MacAulay (RCMP Staff Sergeant)

Absent:

T. Allen
C. Girardi

Also Present:

L. Cavan, General Manager, Parks,
Recreation & Culture
O. Croy, Manager of Parks S. McKinnon,
Manager, Arts Services
D. Vestergaard, Administrative
Coordinator, Parks, Recreation & Culture
H. Dmytriw, Legislative Service
K.C. Gilroy, Surrey Arts Council

School Board Trustee:

Councillor Martin welcomed Staff Sergeant M. MacAulay to the committee.
Round table introductions were made.

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was

Moved by Cliff Annable

Seconded by Shaba Hundal

Services Committee held on May 20, 2009 to be adopted.

Carried

That the minutes of the Parks & Community

B. DELEGATION - no delegation**C. REQUEST(S) FOR DELEGATION****D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES****E. STAFF PRESENTATIONS(S)**

- 1. Newton Athletic Park**
File No. 6140-20

Owen Croy, Manager of Parks provided a presentation regarding the long term plans for Newton Athletic Park. The following comments were provided:

- There is more land than shown on the concept plans.

- The hydro utility corridor runs north along the left side. Serpentine Greenway is owned by city, as is the land where Action BMX has a facility.
- There are soccer fields 7 and 8 to north on the site, three softball diamonds and a casual field. There is the possibility of kabaddi fields on the casual field and softball diamond 3 in the future.
- Water retention pond at north east corner.
- Another retention pond at intersection of 74 Avenue and 128 Street.
- A large open space in rough grass. This property once contained homes that were purchased over the last 15 years, the last one 2 years ago.
- At the bottom of concept drawing are 3 soccer fields (fields 4, 5, 6) and a mini soccer field (field 2).
- At centre of drawing are 2 turf fields (soccer fields 1, 2) and two ball diamonds to the left (softball field 4 and 5). To the north are three gravel all-weather fields (all-weather fields 1, 2, 3).
- The fieldhouse is being renovated to improve the public restrooms and the change rooms.
- Upstairs are meeting rooms and preschool and early childhood care facilities.
- Long term plans include an "events" lawn. Shown on smaller drawing, an *Events Lawn* will provide some aspects for stage ceremonies, etc. for neighbours and sports groups to use. A multi-purpose sports box is located there but will be better when renovated.
- A water spray park would be great (the nearest water spray park is at Unwin Park).
- Shelters are shown on the drawing, but still in the design stage.

Discussion commenced and in response to queries the following information was provided:

- Covered shelters will go in to the west of the softball diamond 2 and nearer the playground.
- The last of the homes have been removed.
- Kabaddi may go in the area along 128th at the north east corner. Softball enrollment is dropping off in Newton but growing in south Surrey. The diamonds could be converted to Kabaddi. Parking would be in Lot 1 to north and Lot 2 to the south.
- A Kabaddi field can be at the top field (softball 3) and the school's all weather gravel field could be booked for parking: Kwantlen University on 72 Avenue, Princess Margaret Park and Princess Margaret School at 128 and 72 Avenue have significant parking, and the locale is near the Strawberry Hills bus loop.
- Softball field 3 will stand up to kabaddi use. Kabaddi is played during the warmer dryer months. Portable benches can be placed around the Kabaddi field.
- Are looking at filling in and turfing for a cricket wicket between soccer fields 8 and 7.
- All groups to be served. Provincial Cup games in March and April could be supported here when weather is inclement.
- Are looking at covered picnic shelters south of field 7 near the playground close to the washroom building, at the location specified and requested by the public.

- The long term plan for the casual field is for a storm water retention pond for the event of a *150 year storm*. We will work with engineering to ensure availability for casual practice.
- The 5 year financial plan is presently looking at converting a gravel soccer field into a synthetic turf field in 2011. Hjorth Road Park to receive a second turf field in 2011, followed by Newton Athletic Park in 2013. The 5 year is a rolling plan that can be adjusted.
- A walking track would be an 8 lane track at a cost of \$2 Million, but is not in the long range plan. The strategic plan is based on many groups interviews, public meetings and a survey of 3,500 home owners. Could look at a rubberized walking track that could be made into a smaller loop.
- For track and field purposes the track in North Surrey is very underutilized. Will take this issue into advisement and look into a 3-4 meter wide non-competitive walking track.

Committee recommendations:

- Cricket play is tremendous demand but conflicts with summer soccer season. Could put cricket wickets into Enver Creek Park to take some pressure off.
- Decommission softball fields 5 and 6, soccer fields 1, 3 and 5 and make a wagon wheel. Senior ball has grown exponentially (100% over last 3 years). Senior ball is a revenue generator. If that came to fruition, it would create softball specific and a soccer and softball area within the park to alleviate some pressure from south Surrey. This could serve a multi-purpose use. Newton could move into this area and south Surrey could go to Cloverdale. (Owen Croy to look at the demographics and the wagon wheel concept.) There is greater demand for cricket.
- The future plan is for one all weather gravel field as these fields are important for play with no booking cost but are hard on the sports balls and can cost some groups upwards of \$20,000 per year for balls!
- There is demand for water parks. Very expensive and intensive to maintain. North east Surrey and south Surrey have quite a few water parks compared to Newton, which has few. Looking at the demographics and of combining water parks with pools for cross use of warm water.
- Sufficient parking is always of concern. Could convert some lands under the hydro right of way and the BMX track for parking, but access is an issue. Try to build for non peak usage times since a sea of asphalt generates much heat and storm water run-off.
- Sight-lines to the parking lot and field house could be impaired if trees and landscaping are placed in the area on the west side of 128th Street. Parking lots are gated at the field house at night, which prevents some inappropriate activities.
- A covered facility for the USSL is not in the financial plan at this time.
- Soccer field 3 and softball field 5 are rock hard. This has been an unusually dry spring but irrigation and aeration just for this purpose would be extremely expensive and not supported in the operating budget.

2. **Fire Hall #10**
File No. 7800-01

Sheila McKinnon, Arts Services Manager provided a presentation on the adaptive reuse plans of Fire Hall #10 for the Arts Hall. The following comments were provided:

- Fire Hall #10 has been in operation since 1962. It was decommissioned two years ago. At 6,010 sq.ft., it is centrally located, high profile, and easily accessible.
- 29,000 cars per day travel past the building.
- The population of Newton has doubled over the last 18 years, rising from 19,400 to 37,000, and continues to grow at a rate of 1,000 people per year.
- Carol Girardi, President of the Arts Council, notes the Arts Council is a non-profit organization working on behalf of Surrey for the past 43 years. It as an umbrella organization for all the performing and visual arts groups.
- Mandate is exciting: The Arts Council of Surrey exists to increase awareness, appreciation and pride in the artistic and cultural achievements of our community. The Arts Council has enjoyed steady expansion, increasing in membership from 136 in 2002, to 343 in 2009.
- The Arts Council has been very involved working with city initiatives:
 - Has promoted all Cultural Capitals of Canada projects, Civic Treasures awards, Vaisaki, Fusion Festival in their Spotlight on the Arts magazine.
 - Supports development of artists. This year they offered a conference called the Work of Art Conference.
 - The Arts Council is goal oriented: a few years ago their main focus was to get youth involved and youth leadership is still a high priority.
 - They organized a theatre project, *Let Me Sing*, all proceeds went towards forming a Youth Arts Council for Surrey (YACOS).
 - YACOS has implemented many successful projects that have become annual events including: Imagination Fashion Show and Photography project, *Surrey Shines*, a performing arts event. Side by side a benefits show with the Vaudevillians and a high school Film Festival.
 - The ACS is involved with the Art Gallery: *Arts 2009* – Exhibit will be on for the summer time. Youth Scholarships will be given out at that opening event, Thursday, June 25, 2009 at 7:00 pm..
 - ACS partnered with the City at the Children's Festival.
 - Were active in consultation with the PRC Strategic Plan. This lead into the fire hall arts project.
 - The Arts Council's current space is 1,000 sq.ft., with the Festival of Dance Society sharing the space. The goal was to find a larger space. The Surrey Arts Centre theaters are used to capacity during prime time.
 - The Surrey Art Gallery receives hundreds of unsolicited proposals from artists who want to do exhibits in the space. More exhibition space is required.
 - July 2008 the Council took all this into consideration and targeted funds for a future arts facility and approved funds for an adaptive reuse of the Fire Hall No. 10 facility.

- Fire hall information:
 - Arts Council, Festival of Dance Society, Royal Canadian Theater Company will share the space.
 - Hose tower will remain, with cladding and infill cladding on sides.
 - City will enter into a 10 year lease agreement with Surrey Arts Council.
 - 2,000 sq.ft. capacity in the truck garage will become a black box studio theatre space. One garage door will be retained as a delivery bay for large sets and pieces of art. There will be gallery space, a kitchen area and washrooms and dressing rooms at the rear.
 - Upstairs is 1,325 sq.ft. with a large multi-purpose room, two offices, washrooms and a small kitchenette for the administrative area.
 - The adaptive reuse will save over \$1 Million. This retrofit approach is in keeping with the Sustainability Charter objectives.
 - Community consultations were conducted and an open house held at the Newton Wave Pool on May 13, 2009. Feedback indicated that there were 28 people in strong support of the project, a few neutral, and none opposed. Positive responses were received along with a lot of energy and enthusiasm. Wanted more parking, storage, and brighter colours. Staff are working with architects to implement recommendations.
 - The ACS feels that it is important to retain and develop artists in the community. The project will allow the ACS to expand artistic offerings to the city. Everyone involved is looking forward to getting construction underway in the fall and opening the facility in January 2010!

In response to queries the following information was provided:

- The budget cost of \$1.5 Million was determined in July 2008. Actual costs will be determined when the project has been tendered. Costs may have come down since.
- The tower will remain as a historical marker. The tower was the hose drying tower. It will provide storage space below but will be closed off at the top.

The Chair thanked staff for the presentation and noted according to the artist's rendering, it will look fabulous. Would have liked it to open by the fall, but the group working with the Arts Council is giving them more time. They are comfortable with the January 2010 opening date as well. This new facility is very exciting.

KC Gilroy, Arts Council noted that they will have outreach packages related to fundraising. This will provide good opportunities for different groups who may want to contribute to this project.

F. NEW BUSINESS

G. STAFF VERBAL REPORTS – DELIVERY OF SERVICES**Verbal Updates – June 17, 2009****Access Day - - Rick Hanson Wheels in Motion Day**

Access Awareness Day raises awareness of the need for accessibility and inclusivity, and plays an important role in building a healthy community for all. Through events like Wheels in Motion we are working towards a more accessible and inclusive community. On Saturday, June 13, 2009 this great community event took place at South Surrey Athletic Park.

Arts 2009 - Annual Juried Art Show at the Surrey Art Gallery

On Thursday, June 25, 2009 at 7:00 pm, members of the Parks and Community Services Committee are welcome to attend the opening of Arts 2009, the annual juried art show presented by the Arts Council of Surrey at the Surrey Art Gallery. This year, marks the 25th exhibition and there were 220 artworks submitted by 127 local artists and 54 have been selected for this exhibition.

Sporting Events

Staff are working closely with the kabaddi event organizers to ensure that requirements and conditions are met regarding clean up of fields after events. Of particular concern was the amount of debris left behind at the May 25, 2009 kabaddi event at Sullivan Heights Park. Similarly there was an instance at Bolivar Heights Park in late May where a considerable amount of garbage and debris were left in the park. Staff are working with the groups to address these issues.

Surrey Bend

The first open house for joint planning with Metro Vancouver for Surrey Bend was held on May 28, 2009 and attended by approximately 40 residents. There is keen interest from Surrey's Environmental Partners to see much of the lands protected for the natural values, interest from residents for waterfront access, walking, hiking, and cycling trails as well as boating – kayaking and power boats.

Joe Brown Park

A report for adoption of the conceptual plan will be brought to Council shortly. The Department is applying for a federal grant (National Trails Coalition) to help fund a first phase of implementation.

Entry Area to Blackie Spit Park (formerly Wickson Point)

Staff is completing detailed designs for the park entry including a new beach shower. Construction should start in July 2009.

Kennedy Park

A public open house for an improvement plan for Kennedy Park was held on Tuesday, June 16, 2009. Approximately 30 residents attended the meeting, including representatives from the Friends of Kennedy Park. The preliminary feedback received about the renovation plans was positive, with support for a dog off leash area, walking trails in the natural areas, and a tot playground.

Darts Hill Garden

A successful workshop was held on Saturday, June 13, 2009 with the Dart's Hill Society Trust, members of British Columbia Landscape and Nursery Association, the South Surrey Garden Club, and Kwantlen Polytechnic University. The purpose of the workshop is to develop plans for a school of horticulture adjacent to the historic property, and to update the current master plan for the gardens. Conceptual plans will be completed over the summer and fall.

Unwin Park –picnic shelters and water park renovation

Plans for the new picnic shelters are evolving, and planning for a fall water park renovation have started.

Canada Day – July 1st

Plans are underway for our Canada Celebration, the largest Canada Celebration west of Ottawa. We were also successful in receiving a \$15,000 Heritage Canada grant.

New Museum Exhibit – *Once Upon a Time*

On loan from the Bruce County Cultural Centre in Ontario, *Once Upon a Time* takes visitors on a journey through the medieval past to the days of castles, cathedrals, knights and conquests.

Newton Days

On Saturday, June 13, 2009 Newton was host to the 14th Annual Newton Community Festival. The community enjoyed over 140 entertainers on the indoor and outdoor stages, there were 28 vendors including Surrey Association of Sustainable Communities, Surrey Food Bank, Surrey Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, TransLink, RCMP, Surrey Arts Centre, Newton Library among others, there was a Youth Zone and a Kid's Zone, the Newton Seniors Centre kitchen served more than 75 pancake breakfasts and over 250 hamburger lunches. Staff estimate that more than 5,000 people attended.

Fraser Heights Recreation Centre**Fraser Heights Wellness Room (former RCMP Policing Station)**

Renovations are nearing completion. Electrical and painting now completed. Final installations include black rubber floor tiles, tiling and installation of water fountain, mirror installation and miscellaneous hardware.

Filipino Independence Day

First Annual Surrey Filipino Independence Day supporting the Filipino community took place June 7, 2009. Over 500 people participated in a full day event at the Fraser Heights Recreation Centre.

Guildford Recreation Centre

Gymnasiums were closed June 15-20, 2009 for floor sanding and refinishing. Facility closed on Wednesday, June 17, 2009 at 1:00 pm – Thursday, June 18, 2009 at 1:00 pm.

Seniors Forum

This will be held on Saturday, June 20, 2009 at South Surrey Recreation Centre from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. These forums include a guest speaker as well as have discussions on safety and wellness.

Goldstone Park Opening

This successful event took place on May 30, 2009 with over 400 people in attendance. The circular walking path, tennis courts, playground, sport box and soccer fields are already well used by the local residents. This is home to the Surrey Breakers.

Hazelnut Meadows Community Garden

The open house on June 3, 2009 was very successful.

Dr. John Crompton

The "Repositioning of Parks, Recreation and Culture" workshop at the Surrey Arts Centre this morning was very successful and well attended by representatives from various municipalities throughout the Lower Mainland.

Partners in Parks

A reminder that the Partners in Parks event will be taking place Thursday evening, June 18, 2009 at Darts Hill Garden.

Further comments:

The Chair noted the following:

- Partners in Parks - Darts Hill - June 18, 2009, 7:00 pm.
- Disappointed with Newton Festival. The Community Association has been downplayed this year. There were no awards done this year. This event is typically a more community development event. Staff to follow up.

Sheila McKinnon presented the 2009-2010 Surrey Arts Centre Theatre Season brochure. Staff are very excited that Lisa Brokop will be on the Main Stage November 13, 2009, and The Canadian Tenors on February 8, 2010.

H. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL**I. CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Letter, dated March 2, 2009, from **Adrienne Boothroyd, Manager, Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada**, regarding constructive steps to improve accessibility for the handicapped within Surrey.

It was
 Moved by Gurpreet Rai
 Seconded by Rick Benson
 That the Parks & Community Services
 Committee receive the correspondence.

Carried

J. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. **Calendar of Events**
 File No.: 7710-01

K. EMERGING PRIORITIES/POLICY DISCUSSION

L. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

M. NEXT MEETING

It was
Committee recommend that the July 15, 2009 meeting be cancelled.
Carried

Moved by Cliff Annable
Seconded by Councillor Gill
That the Parks & Community Services
Carried

Next meeting of the Parks & Community Services Committee is on September 16, 2009.

N. ADJOURNMENT

It was
Committee meeting do now adjourn.

Moved by Cliff Annable
Seconded by Councillor Gill
That the Parks and Community Services
Carried

The Parks and Community Services Committee adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Certified as true and correct:

Jane Sowik, City Clerk

Chairperson, Councillor Mary Martin
Parks & Community Services Committee