

City of Surrey

Annex Boardroom
7452 - 132 Street
Surrey, B.C.
**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17,
2004**
Time: 7:00 p.m.



Parks & Community Services Committee Minutes

Present:

Chairperson: Councillor Tymoschuk
N. Beuk
M. Connor
M. Martin
R. Soares
Councillor Villeneuve – 7:06 p.m.
Councillor Higginbotham

Absent:

School Board Trustee:

P. Glass

Also Present:

L. Cavan, General Manager, Parks, Recreation
& Culture
O. Croy, Manager of Parks
J. McLeod, Manager Long Range Planning &
Policy Development
K. Swaele, Legislative Services

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was Moved by M. Martin
Seconded by Trustee Glass
That the minutes of the Parks & Community Services Committee
meeting held on October 27, 2004, be adopted.
Carried

B. APPRECIATION – COUNCILLOR STEELE

Prior to commencement of the meeting, the Chair expressed appreciation to Councillor Steele, for her valuable role as a member and Chair of the Parks & Community Services Committee and the former Parks, Recreation & Culture Commission. The Chair noted Councillor Steele's new appointment as Chair of the Police Committee.

The General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture also expressed the appreciation of staff for the contribution made by Councillor Steele. The Chair made a presentation on behalf of the Committee and Parks, Recreation & Culture staff.

Councillor Steele expressed her gratitude to the Committee and to Parks, Recreation & Culture staff. Councillor Steele commented that she had enjoyed her years working with the Committee and former Commission, and appreciated the commitment and support of the Committee and staff.

Individual members of the Committee expressed their gratitude to Councillor Steele and wished her well in her new appointment.

C. ADDITION TO THE AGENDA

Under Correspondence, Item I. 2, Cloverdale Community Football Association – Note of Appreciation

D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. South Surrey Running Track Location

The General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture reported that Council had received a report from the Planning & Development Department on November 12, and approved the previously recommended location for the running track. She noted that the concerns of the community around site lines, safety, and development of other amenities such as washrooms, would be addressed through design. Staff will continue to communicate with the community as development is planned.

Councillor Villeneuve arrived 7:06 p.m.

The Manager, Long Range Planning & Policy Development advised that they are considering a community liaison who will work with the sport groups and community during the design and build phase of the South Surrey Running Track.

E. REQUESTS FOR DELEGATION

1. William F. Davidson Elementary and Lionel Courchene Park – Traffic & Parking

Letter and petition from Gerry Tiede, Principal, William F. Davidson Elementary School, requesting to be a delegation concerning traffic and parking problems around William F. Davidson Elementary and Lionel Courchene Park. The petitioners are requesting that additional parking be constructed in the Southwest field adjacent to the school.

It was
Davidson Elementary School be received.

Moved by Trustee Glass
Seconded by Councillor Villeneuve
That the delegation from Mr. Gerry Tiede, Principal, William F.

Carried

Mr. Gerry Tiede, Principal, William F. Davidson Elementary School advised that he was attending on behalf of the Parent Advisory Committee for the William F. Davidson Elementary School. He noted that the school is located at 15550 – 99A Avenue. Mr. Tiede displayed pictures of parking on streets surrounding the school, including 99A which is a half street. The pictures showed vehicles parked into the middle of the sidewalk. Mr. Tiede continued:

- That there is a large traffic and parking problem around William F. Davidson School and Lionel Courchene Park, which has an affect on safety.
- That it is recognized that more parents drive their children to and from school and that very few students walk to school anymore.
- That there is no actual parking area for the park and visitors must use the school lot.
- That before and after school there are many cars parked in whatever available space they can find.
- That drop-offs are forced to park illegally on 99A due to congestion.
- That the parents are requesting the vacant municipal field beside the school be made into a parking lot as soon as possible.
- That development of the municipal parking lot would be a significant step towards improving the safety of students and other park users.
- That they are also concerned with the quality of the field immediately west of the school, which could be addressed if the Preferred Park Concept Plan were to go ahead.
- That they would also like to see the additional playing field developed - currently there can be 3 simultaneous soccer games, all using the same goal posts.
- That they have 660 students in the school, kindergarten to grade 7.

In response to questions, Mr. Tiede introduced Dirk van Spaendonk, Manager of Grounds Maintenance for the Surrey School District who noted that the playing field to the west is one of the worst in Surrey.

The Manager, Planning Research and Design noted:

- That there have been complaints from residents due to parking congestion.
- That further development of the park is currently not funded and is not within the five-year Capital Plan.
- That a joint use agreement has not yet been implemented at this site.
- That Lionel Courchene Park is fully developed at this time, and the field that requires upgrading is

owned by the school District.

- That traffic congestion is common with several schools in Surrey, but at William F. Davidson the half road is a problem.
- That the remainder of the road will be developed when the property to the north is developed.
- That traffic concerns are usually referred to the Traffic Advisory Committee, which works with traffic around school sites.
- That Lionel Courchene Park has 22 parking stalls at this time.
- That with new joint school/park sites the City generally does not develop parking lots, but relies on the school which adjoins the park contributing to the cost of development.

The Parks & Community Services Committee discussed the issue of parking at William F. Davidson Elementary School and commented:

- That the School District might consider implementing programs such as the Walking School Bus, which would promote physical activity in the children and relieve some of the congestion.
- That there is also a track at William F. Davidson that brings in more traffic.
- That due to the rapid pace of development, in certain circumstances the City may need to look at advancing work. The money would be dedicated back to the City when development occurs.

The Parks & Community Services Committee suggested:

- *That advancing the works on 99A could be beneficial to the parking problem and increase safety for the children.*
- *That the issue of traffic in the area should be referred to the Traffic Advisory Committee.*
- *That staff look at accelerating development of the parking lot, which is within the City's plan for the park.*
- *That staff discuss maintenance of the gravel field with the School Board to make it a safer facility.*
- *That staff provide a report back to the Committee.*

The Manager of Parks noted that although the gravel field is school property, the City would provide technical assistance and participate as it can.

F. STAFF PRESENTATION

1. Tree Preservation in the City of Surrey

Planning & Development Corporate Report – for information.

The General Manager commented on the report (included in the Committee agenda package) that went forward to the November 1 Regular Council meeting. She noted that the report provided background on the tree preservation bylaw.

The Manager of Parks noted that the Parks & Community Services Committee may be interested to know what the Department is doing in relation to trees, and how these are currently managed in City Parks.

The Manager of Parks gave a brief history of trees in the City of Surrey, noting:

- That 200 years ago the area was temperate rain forest covered with large trees. That once European settlers arrived, land clearing started and there was an active timber trade.
- That the last of the first growth trees was lost in the 1930's.
- That the Provincial Government undertook replanting at Green Timbers, and that there are now significant stands of natural second growth, throughout the City.
- That the City of Surrey is now a community of almost 400,000 people.
- That unfortunately residential, road and commercial/industrial development means that trees do come down.

- That what is not well known is the City has been engaging in an urban forestry program and now has 42,000 street trees which have been planted in the last 25 years, and that the City's parks have approximately 2900 acres of forested land

The Manager, Urban Forestry gave a power point presentation on urban forestry in the City of Surrey. The presentation included:

- That urban forestry is the practice of managing individual trees and remnant forests as an integrated, connected system on City of Surrey public lands.
- That green infrastructure includes all that is green and living in the City
- That urban forestry is a primary component in managing the City's green infrastructure.
- That there are a number of directional documents - Annual Work Plans, Natural Areas Strategic Management Plan, the Specimen Tree Management Plan (scheduled for 2005) Parks Recreation & Culture Master Plan 1996 – 2006, the 1995 Future Surrey Vision, and the City of Surrey Official Community Plan.
- That in 2000 the City committed to a progressive approach to urban forest management and the current organization provides effective and accountable service delivery for the management of trees on City land.
- That natural areas management includes 1200 hectares (2,900 acres) that are primarily forested and comprise 42% of existing parkland.
- That they undertake specimen tree management, which includes planting and maintaining to ensure they become valuable City assets.
- That Council policy provides that all City roads will be designed to incorporate proper spacing for trees.
- That 3,000 to 4,000 new shade trees are planted annually in parks and on streets.
- That 200 to 300 replacement shade trees are planted annually.
- That 200 to 300 diseased or improperly planted trees are replaced each year.
- That the City charges the developer \$300 for each single family lot to put trees in after the houses are built.
- That improper planting generally results from trees being planted prior to a development being complete.
- That the funding pays for the initial planting, replacement if necessary, and watering through the two-year establishment period.
- That this process is generally less expensive for the developer.
- That in multiple family projects the developer usually plants after development is complete, so they undertake their own planting.
- That staff work with the developers and have established a good relationship.
- That the City wants to ensure trees are planted properly and consistently because the City will inherit and maintain the trees.
- That the arterial road-planting project is a collaborative initiative with the Parks, Recreation and Culture and Engineering Departments.
- That open soil is now being used in median planting so that the tree roots have somewhere to go.

The Manager Urban Forestry continued by reviewing tree preservation, pruning and management techniques. The Manager continued:

- That the movement of insects around the world, such as the Tortrix, Gypsy Moth, and Asian Longhorn Beetle, has resulted in the loss of several tree species in the City's inventory.
- That to prevent movement of insects on street trees, they plant several different varieties on a street, and also use native species that are more resistant.
- That many trees are planted in natural areas and invasive species are removed.
- That when trees are removed, compensatory planting is done.
- That planting and management of trees plans for people and wildlife.
- That the Department responds to all requests regarding hazardous trees and has very good assessment and disease management practices.
- That while several hundred trees were removed in Sunnyside Acres Urban Forest, this was done to

protect the other trees from root rot.

- That the root rot disease does not appear to have broken through the barrier area.
- That urban forestry for major urban parks includes fire management and risk assessments, fuel management, park closures and restrictions.
- That one of the cornerstones of natural area management is working with the many volunteers who assist the City to protect and care for these areas.
- That they have worked with the Heritage Advisory Commission and now have over 200 trees that are commemorated as heritage.
- That they are working with the Engineering Department to develop a map that shows heritage and significant trees within the City to avoid any errors.
- That trees are being grown from the acorns of the commemoration oak trees planted along King George Highway in 1937.
- That school kids have adopted the trees and each year come out and care for them.
- That they hope to have a number of these trees ready for planting when King George is expanded.

The Manager Urban Forestry concluded that 80% of Canadians live in urban areas and 85 to 90% feel that trees and woodlands are extremely important. He noted that trees increase property values, provide energy conservation, reduce pollution, provide for wildlife, shade for fish habitat, reduce storm water runoff, reduce noise and help make the City a vibrant and beautiful place to live.

The Parks & Community Committee thanked the Manager of Urban Forestry for the excellent presentation.

The Manager, Long Range Planning & Policy Development advised:

- That they are beginning a public input process regarding trees in the City of Surrey.
- That a letter will be sent to 30 different stakeholder groups, and staff will meet with them individually if they wish.
- That they will hold 3 open houses in January, and will have a permanent display in City Hall, on the web site and on the City page.

In response to comments from the Committee, staff noted:

- That the City used to give away seedlings but the mortality rate was very high due to improper placement and planting.
- That the City is now concentrating on larger trees being planted in the right place.

The Parks & Community Services Committee noted:

- That the City is being severely criticized for cutting down trees and not being given credit for the planting that is being done.
- That the presentation from the Manager of Urban Forestry should also be made available to local organizations such as Rotary Clubs, Chambers of Commerce, Parent Advisory Committees and other organizations so that they are aware of the work being undertaken by the City.
- That the City should consider holding Arbor Days.
- That staff should consider putting the presentation on video so that it can be made readily available and played at the open houses for people who wish to sit and watch it.

The Manager of Parks noted the rich inventory of trees in the 50 – 100 year old Shaughnessy area of Vancouver, and that the City of Surrey is trying to accomplish that same type of inventory City wide in our residential neighbourhoods.

In response to a question, the Manager of Parks advised that they are still in the planning and land assembly stage at Redwood Park and will look at a Pacific Rim Arboretum in the area when plans are more fixed.

G. NEW BUSINESS

H. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

I. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Surrey Cricket Club – Request to Use New Park Facility at 64th and 144th Street

Letter and information from Surrey Cricket Club requesting that they be allowed to use the new facility at 144th Street and 64th Avenue. The Club would like to register a new cricket team under the name of Surrey Cricket Club with the new facility as their home ground.

The General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture advised that the field will not be available until July, 2005, but staff will work with the Cricket Club and all Cricket Clubs to ensure that there is access and availability.

In response to a question, the General Manager noted that adult cricket clubs generally have a youth development component to promote their sport.

2. Cloverdale Community Football Association – Note of Appreciation

Email from Yeera Sami, President Cloverdale Community Football Association, expressing appreciation for Parks, Recreation & Culture staff support to help make the season the most successful season yet. Mr. Sami also expressed appreciation to the City of Surrey for providing a football field on the multi-sport synthetic field with lights at Cloverdale Athletic Park.

It was

Moved by Councillor Villeneuve
Seconded by M. Martin
That the items of correspondence be received.

Carried

J. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Development along Semiahmoo Heritage Trail

Letter from Fred Hardy expressing concern at development along the Semiahmoo Heritage Trail between 32nd Avenue and 34th Avenue.

was

Moved by M. Martin
Seconded by Trustee Glass
That the information item be received.

Carried

K. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

The Chair reminded members of the Parks & Community Services Committee that a special workshop would be held next week on November 24, at the Occasions Meeting Room. The workshop will begin at 6:00 p.m. and include a dinner.

The Chair reminded members of the Parks & Community Services Committee that all member terms on the Committee will expire December 31, and that those members who wish to reapply to serve on the Committee must do so in writing by November 30. The application should be sent to the City Clerk's Department.

Councillor Higginbotham reported on a GVRD Parks meeting she had attended and the proposed development of 280

acres in Tynehead Park. She noted that they are looking at an 18-hole championship golf course, 9-hole pitch and putt or other golf facility and a teaching and training center for juniors. If the Board of Directors approves the proposal to go forward, a call for proposals will go out in the Spring of 2005. It would be hoped to have a final plan by the Fall.

Councillor Villeneuve noted that she had received an email concerning volunteerism and the individual found information on the website sketchy and difficult to locate. The individual suggested that the City look at the Delta Assist site, which provides good information for potential volunteers, and something the City could emulate.

N. Beuk reported that "Let Me Sing" is now finished and as a result a Youth Arts Council has been formed. Proceeds from the "Let Me Sing" program provided a good financial stake for the Youth Arts Council.

L. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parks & Community Services Committee is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. December 15, 2004.

M. ADJOURNMENT

It was
adjourn.

Moved by M. Martin
Seconded by Councillor Villeneuve
That the Parks and Community Services Committee meeting do now

Carried

The Parks and Community Services Committee adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Margaret Jones, City Clerk

Chairperson (name and Committee)