



PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, September 27, 2018, 6:00 p.m.

Douglas Room, Century House

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy
Shawna Barkley
Brynn Bourke
Andrew Hull
Maryam Naser
Ronnie Nicolasora
Deanna Tan

- Chair, City Council Member
- Community Member
- Community Member
- Community Member
- SD40 Representative
- Community Member
- Community Member

MEMBER REGRETS:

Aran Armutlu
John Davies

- Community Member
- Community Member

STAFF PRESENT:

Dean Gibson
Ron Booth
Jason Haight
Steve Kellock
Robyn McGuinness
Carilyn Cook

- Director of Parks and Recreation
- Manager, Queen's Park Facilities
- Manager, Business Operations
- Senior Manager, Recreation Services & Facilities
- Manager, Youth and Senior Services
- Committee Clerk

GUEST:

Noni Classen

- Director of Education,
Canadian Centre for Child Protection

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

1.0 ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

1.1 MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Agenda for the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting scheduled September 27, 2018 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED.

All members of the Committee present voted in favour of the motion.

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of June 20, 2018

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Minutes of the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting held June 20, 2018 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED.

All members of the Committee present voted in favour of the motion.

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Overview of Century House Programs and Services – Robyn McGuinness, Manager of Youth and Seniors Services

Procedural note: Shawna Barkley, Community Member, arrived at 6:02 pm.

Ms. McGuinness provided the following overview of Century House:

- Century House (CH), established in 1958, provides seniors with a place to connect with others and participate in various life enriching fitness, wellness, and education programs and lessening isolation which, according to the National Seniors Council of Canada, is the number one health risk for seniors;
- With members ranging in age from 50 to 107 years old, the Century House Association (CHA) has their own executive and funding and works alongside the City's Parks & Recreation Department;
- CHA's 300+ volunteers support over 45 activities and work with various social agencies to offer activities such as pickleball, dancing, card playing, cooking, Parkinson's exercise classes, etc., as well as lunchtime food service and catering for meetings;
- The CHA has been a registered charity since the 1980's and in the last three years has received over \$70,000 in Canadian Federal New Horizons Funding, some of which has gone towards the Learning Garden, furniture, and social programs such as the "Meeting in the Middle" (seniors working on a selection of projects with youth in the community);
- Staff work closely with social services agencies in the community including WINS (Welcoming and Inclusive New West), Family Services, Minds in Motion, etc., to provide support to members. Currently, CH is participating in a research and exercise program with the University of British Columbia's Hip Health and Mobility Program;
- Senior Peer Counsellors are psychologist-trained to provide emotional support as engaging seniors, mentally and physically, is an important aspect of disease prevention and staying active in the community; and,
- In honour of CH's 60th anniversary, a celebration was held on July 23rd and a diamond anniversary dinner will take place on October 24th.

In response to questions, staff advised:

- Most new members find their way to CH through friends who are already members. New member tours are provided each month;
- There are staff members with a focus on seniors in Queensborough to work with older adults in that community; and,
- Amongst other things, the CHA participates in the City's Seniors Advisory Committee, hosts the annual Seniors' Festival, and produces a monthly newsletter, the Clarion, which is distributed throughout the community.

Procedural note: Ms. McGuinness left at 6:14 p.m.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were no items.

5.0 REPORTS

5.1 Allocation Conflict - Ice Scheduling – Ron Booth, Manager of Queen's Park Facilities and Steve Kellock, Sr. Manager of Recreation Services & Facilities

Mr. Kellock introduced Ron Booth, Manager of Queen's Park Facilities, and provided a brief recap of the above-noted report.

Mr. Kellock advised that staff are seeking direction from the Committee with respect to resolving a conflict that has arisen as a result of the Ambassadors Hockey Club's Ice Scheduler's resignation and the determination needing to be made as to who the scheduled ice time belongs to: Ambassadors Hockey Club or the Ice Scheduler via the team Royal City Vets. Staff would like to move forward by recommending that the existing ice rental contract with the Royal City Vets be cancelled and the bookings be transferred to the Ambassadors Hockey Club, the organization that the City has been working with for over 30 years.

In response to questions, staff advised:

- From staff's prospective, the City's relationship is with the Ambassadors Hockey Club and not the individual (Ice Scheduler); and,
- Staff are reviewing other contracts to prevent this from occurring in the future.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the existing ice rental contract with the Royal City Vets be cancelled and a new contract naming the Ambassadors Hockey Club be created.

CARRIED.

All members of the Committee present voted in favour of the motion.

5.2 Child Protection Initiative - Steve Kellock, Sr. Manager of Recreation Services and Facilities

Mr. Kellock shared that Councillor McEvoy reached out to enquire what mechanisms the City has in place in terms of child protection in the City's aquatic environment and other City facilities. Upon looking into best practices on the issue, Mr. Kellock discovered the innovative work in the City of Winnipeg by the Canadian Centre for Child Protection (CCCP), a national charity dedicated to the personal safety of children. Mr. Kellock introduced Noni Classen, Director of Education, Canadian Centre for Child Protection and she commenced with her presentation, sharing the following information with Committee members:

- The CCCP's mission is to reduce incidences of missing and sexually exploited children, educate the public on child personal safety and sexual exploitation, assist in locating missing children, and advocate for and increase awareness of issues relating to missing and sexually exploited children;
- The CCCP initiative assisted Winnipeg in the examination and enhancement of safety protocols, reporting procedures, and staff training in support of child safety at city-run facilities such as pools, recreation centres, and libraries; and,
- The CCCP is willing to support and assist other cities and municipalities wishing to implement a program similar to Winnipeg's. Such programs build public confidence as people become more comfortable knowing that things are being dealt with proactively and may result in offenders staying away with the knowledge that certain procedures are in place at a facility.

In response to questions, staff and Ms. Classen advised:

- New Westminster's strategy would be very similar to Winnipeg's;
- The New Westminster Police, library, etc., have been engaged in the initial process and the City is looking to review policies, train frontline staff, and proceed with a public awareness campaign;
- The CCCP is a non-profit association with 50 percent of their funding coming from the Federal Government, some from the Provincial Government, and the balance from public donations. A portion of the funds is used to support initiatives that build public awareness and advocacy;
- In the next phase of the process, the CCCP will instruct the City on how to mitigate risk in the change rooms at the new aquatic and community centre;
- Staff training will take approximately 1.5 to 2 hours to complete and will be done in person for the first time as the initiative involves a cultural shift. There will be a \$10 per person online training option for those that cannot attend the class;
- Job reference interview questions are framed to assist employers in knowing where to do criminal record checks, for what time period, etc., as the biggest layer of deceit in job applications is misinformation around dates. When conducting references checks, specific questions need to be asked in order to collect enough information to make a good hiring decision. Generally, those

- contacted for reference checks are not permitted to provide a lot of information; however, the release will allow for more information to be shared;
- Two standards of measure for abuse include: does it violate reasonable boundaries of the child and, is it a misuse of the relationship with the child (noting that a parent doing something may be viewed differently than if a coach was doing it, for example, tickling);
 - Gray areas include having a “no touch” policy where you can still respond to the needs of the child, for instance, if they hurt themselves. The context of the situation changes and the determination needs to be made of whose needs are being met – the child’s or the adult’s; and,
 - When groups use City facilities, adhering to the standards outlined in the training could be included in the rental agreement.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- We can minimize risk in the design of the new pool facility;
- Hopefully, the City will include other groups in training opportunities which could be considered a professional development opportunity.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Parks and Recreation Committee endorse the Child Protection Initiative and direct staff to provide an information report to Mayor and Council.

CARRIED.

All members of the Committee present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Parks and Recreation Committee request that the City of New Westminster investigate the possibility of city-wide implementation of the Child Protection Initiative.

CARRIED.

All members of the Committee present voted in favour of the motion.

Councillor McEvoy advised that the request in the second motion would already be included in the scope of the first motion.

Procedural note: Ms. Classen left at 7:09 p.m.

5.3 Amendment to the Parks and Recreation Fees and Charges Bylaw – Jason Haight, Manager of Business Operations

Mr. Haight provided a brief summary of the report, reminding members that the purpose is to seek the Committee’s endorsement of various fee changes so they can proceed to Council for adoption. Mr. Haight advised that small annual increments to user fees was more acceptable than larger ones every few years and are made in order to keep up with inflation and rising costs. In order to allow for

public notice of fee changes and to provide the appropriate amount of notice to rental groups, approval of the Fees and Charges Bylaw is usually sought several months prior to implementation. Two amendments included in the report are:

- The seniors' admission fee has been under market value for approximately 25 years and the proposed fee correction will, in time, bring the fee in-line with the market value as compared to seven other municipalities; and,
- Revision of the Loonie Swim to a Toonie Swim is proposed with the fee adjustment modelling the same proposed skating admission. The City is well below age-based charges compared to other Cities for this fee as well.

In response to questions, staff advised:

- Both the swim and skate sessions attract a high number of people and the concept is to not treat customers differently for one service than the other;
- The idea is to apply the same principle that was introduced approximately one year ago for universal passes that provide access to a number of services;
- With respect to the City providing meeting space to community groups, if requested by Council, staff could report back to Council on the availability of meeting space and financial feasibility of providing free meeting space to community groups, which may need to be offset through property taxes;
- Staff provide information and advice to Council on items; however, the ultimate decision on these items is made by Council; and,
- The City uses the low income cut off to determine a household's capability to pay fees and once a household is eligible for fee discounts, credits are put on their accounts and they pay 50% for all eligible programs.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- A member was opposed to tying the loonie swim with the toonie skate stating that swimming is a low-barrier activity compared to skating;
- Another member supported tying the swim and skate sessions together as toonie activities, adding that it may even out the attendance at both events;
- Changing the loonie swim to a toonie swim may impact the less fortunate;
- A member advised that the City would be receiving a letter from the Walkers' Caucus requesting provision of complimentary rental space as securing community meeting space is very challenging and costly for many groups; and,

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Parks and Recreation Committee further discuss separating the proposal to update the Loonie Swim to a Toonie Swim, out of the group of fees and rates increases.

CARRIED.

All members of the Committee present voted in favour of the motion.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- A member commented that the amendment plan was very comprehensive and although she was stuck on the one issue, she was comfortable supporting the balance of the recommendation.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Parks and Recreation Committee remove the proposal to update the Loonie Swim to a Toonie Swim from the motion to amend the Parks and Recreation Fees and Charges Bylaw in order to allow continued conversation about the proposal and proceed with passing the balance of recommended amendments.

MOTION DEFEATED.

Shawna Barkley, Maryam Naser, Deanna Tan and Andrew Hull voted in opposition.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- A member suggested separating activity room user rates out of the amendments for further discussion of the possibility of the Parks and Recreation Department investigating providing free meeting space to non-profit community groups.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Parks and Recreation Committee further discuss separating activity room user rates from the motion to amend the Parks and Recreation Fees and Charges Bylaw increases to request that Council direct staff to investigate the possibility and implication of providing free meeting space to non-profit community groups.

CARRIED.

All members of the Committee present voted in favour of the motion.

In response to questions, staff advised:

- Providing free meeting space for some groups may set a precedent for the City to provide free rentals to everyone;
- Staff would need to determine how often a group could book a venue, for how long, etc., and if it will impact the cost of running the facility; and,
- The City would not know what the extent of the demand might be until free meeting space is in place.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- Venues are oversubscribed, including the library in which it is very difficult to get a booking; and,
- There is no community meeting space for groups to use.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Parks and Recreation Committee request that Council direct staff to look into providing free meeting space to non-profit community groups.

MOTION DEFEATED.

Maryam Naser, Ronnie Nicolosora, and Shawna Barkley voted in opposition.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Parks and Recreation Committee endorse the proposed changes to Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 6673, 2001, and recommend the changes to City Council for adoption.

CARRIED.

Brynn Bourke voted in opposition.

5.4 Aquatics & Community Centre Advisory Panel Proposal - Steve Kellock, Sr. Manager of Recreation Services and Facilities (oral report)

Mr. Kellock informed the group of the City's desire to create an Aquatics & Community Centre Advisory Panel to ensure that all Canada Games Pool and Centennial Community Centre user groups are represented in an equitable way during the design aspect of the new facilities. The creation of the Panel would ensure that user feedback is effectively captured, provide the opportunity to identify possible issues early on, and take any decisions through the appropriate channels (Council, Mayor's Task Force, Parks and Recreation Committee, etc.).

In response to questions, staff advised:

- The Panel will be an engagement tool and resource to staff used to represent the community as best possible; it will not be a decision making body.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- Staff are to be commended for putting the implementation of this advisory panel forward as it will facilitate the success of the project; and,
- If successful, the Panel may continue past project completion to provide feedback on other initiatives.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Parks & Recreation Committee support in principle the Advisory Panel Proposal, and Committee members who represent any of the identified user groups that are interested in participating follow up directly with the Sr. Manager of Recreation Services.

CARRIED.

All members of the Committee present voted in favour of the motion.

6.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items.

7.0 NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Call for Volunteers for City Advisory Committees

The Chairperson reminded Committee members that the City is currently accepting applications to serve on City Advisory Committees for the 2019 term.

8.0 NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, November 28, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. - Poplar Room, Queensborough Community Centre

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

CARRIED.

Certified correct,

Original Signed

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy
Chair

Original Signed

Carilyn Cook
Committee Clerk