



REGULAR MEETING OF PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 31, 2018, 6:00 p.m.
Queen's Park Arena (North Lobby Meeting Room #1)
Queen's Park

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy	- Chair, City Council Member
Shawna Barkley	- Community Member
John Davies	- Community Member
Ted Garbutt	- Community Member
Andrew Hull	- Community Member

MEMBER REGRETS:

Brynn Bourke	- Community Member
Vince Kreiser	- Community Member
Marjorie Staal	- Community Member

GUESTS:

Paul Fast	- HCMA Architecture
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STAFF PRESENT:

Dean Gibson	- Director of Parks and Recreation
Steve Kellock	- Senior Manager of Recreation Services and Facilities
Dustin Ray-Wilks	- Manager, Aquatics
Debbie Johnstone	- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

1.0 ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no items.

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of November 29, 2017

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the November 29, 2017 Parks and Recreation Committee meeting minutes be amended to read “FW Howay Elementary” on page 7; and,

THAT the minutes be adopted as amended.

CARRIED.

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

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Aquatic & Community Centre Feasibility Study

Dean Gibson, Director of Parks and Recreation, briefly summarized the background for the Canada Games Pool and Centennial Community Centre replacement project, reporting the following information:

- A feasibility study has been developed, utilizing previous comments from the Committee and the community;
- The feasibility report was endorsed by Council in December, 2017, with the recommendation to re-engage and obtain further feedback from the community; and,
- Discussion with the Parks and Recreation Committee is the first step for the consultation process.

Paul Fast, HCMA Architecture and Design, provided a brief overview of the Aquatic & Community Centre Feasibility Study and summarized an On-Table handout. The following additional information was provided:

- Upgrading and renovating the current Canada Games Pool utilizing the existing shape and footing for the structure has been considered; however, due to the large amount of upgrading that would be required this option was not feasible;
- The goal for the project would be to build a facility that has the capacity to grow with the city;
- The current design and layout for the replacement project offers a 75% increase in overall area;
- Green pathways throughout the site would be established to enhance greenspace;

- Change rooms and washrooms for the facility would exceed the standard code requirements;
- Current plans for the facility include office space for a third party “health care” type provider such as a physiotherapist;
- Discussions regarding the childcare facility would take place with the City’s social planner, but it is anticipated that both short-term child minding and full-time childcare would be provided;
- Programs previously offered at the Arenex could be partially accommodated in the gymnasium of the new facility;
- A tie-in for heat exchange between the curling rink and the pool could be considered;
- A parking study has indicated that the facility would require 450 spaces for the entire site, inclusive of the Curling Club and the Fire Station;
- In order to accommodate for additional parking, the all-weather soccer field and City Recycling Depot may need to be relocated;
- A transportation study would be conducted to assess access points and additional traffic for the facility; and,
- Throughout the replacement project, both the Canada Games Pool (CGP) and the Centennial Community Centre (CCC) would remain fully operational.

With regards to the overall plans for the facility, Mr. Fast requested feedback on the following questions:

To what extent does the proposed solution accurately reflect the aquatic needs and priorities of New West?

Discussion ensued, and the Committee suggested that while the proposed aquatic facility meets a number of requirements outlined by the HCMA, the following items should be considered:

- The suggested depth of the pool would not be deep enough for high diving or water polo;
- The current ‘Tot’ pool is not reflected in the new design;
- The diving towers at the Canada Games Pool are popular, and could be missed by the community; and,
- The proposed pool would not accommodate long course competitive swimming, in particular regional, provincial and national competitions, as they require a ten lane pool, a warm-up/cool-down area and a large enough pool deck to accommodate judge’s chairs, risers and coach and athlete seating.

To what extent does the proposed solution accurately reflect the fitness needs and priorities of New West?

Mr. Fast reported that the new facility would have double the amount of fitness space than is currently offered, with two full gymnasiums.

To what extent does the proposed solution accurately reflect the community centre social needs and priorities of New West?

- Plans for the community centre seem to cover the current programming offered;
- Rooms with specialized equipment for classes, such as dance, were suggested; and,
- Offering infant childcare spaces through the full-time daycare facility could be valuable, as spaces are often difficult to acquire in the city.

Overall, to what extent does the proposed solution accurately reflect the overall needs and priorities of New West? What is missing or could be improved?

- A leisure-style pool could be well-suited for those individuals looking for a walk-in fitness pool;
- Given that the Canada Games Pool was originally built as a competitive regional facility, concerns were expressed that the new pool design does not carry-on the full legacy of the original facility, most notably as a competitive venue with a comprehensive range of features and amenities. It was suggested that this could be viewed as a lost opportunity for the City;
- A tot pool could be considered;
- Break out rooms and meeting rooms for swim clubs and groups using the pool was suggested;
- Additional deck space could be required if the facility plans to hold swim meets; and,
- Adequate equipment storage in all areas of the facility was suggested.

With regard to public engagement for the project, Mr. Fast requested feedback from the Committee on what additional information could be provided to the community. The Committee suggested the following:

- Providing the community with a clear explanation regarding the potential of losing the all-weather field and the City Recycling Depot for facility parking was encouraged;

- Civil components regarding traffic and access points for the facility could be provided in greater detail; and,
- Information regarding the estimated price of the new facility, and the implication that would have on taxes should be made clear to all residents.

Mr. Fast noted that the estimated cost for the project includes the building of the new facility and the removal and filling of the old site.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Gibson provided the following information:

- Engagement for the project would launch on February 12th;
- Ambassadors would be utilized to facilitate with public consultation throughout the community and at various city events;
- A name for the new facility has not yet been decided upon; and,
- Grant opportunities for the project related to infrastructure, energy conservation, sustainability and other Provincial and National social objectives are currently being explored.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee suggested that the New Westminster Youth Ambassador Society could be recruited to assist with public engagement throughout the community.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were no items.

5.0 REPORTS

5.1 Parks and Recreation Management System Update

Dean Gibson, Director of Parks and Recreation, reported the following information:

- In response to previous feedback from the Committee, promotional materials for the new Perfect Mind system have been amended to reflect the diversity of the community;
- The City is quickly approaching the ‘go live’ date for the new system, with a report going to Council on February 5th to re-confirm the implementation date; and,
- Staff is working hard to ensure that the roll out for the new system is as seamless as possible.

6.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items.

7.0 NEW BUSINESS

There were no items.

8.0 NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, February 28, 2018 6:00 p.m. Century House

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Certified Correct,

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy
Chair

Debbie Johnstone
Committee Clerk