

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, January 31, 2013, 5:30 p.m.
Century House

Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Davies	- Community Member, Acting Chairperson
Ted Garbutt	- Community Member
Lindsay MacIntosh	- Community Member
Jacqueline Buchanan	- Community Member
Andrew Hull	- Community Member
Jonina Campbell	- School Board Representative (arrived at 5:50)

REGRETS:

Jon Evans	- Community Member
Norah Andrew	- Community Member
Councillor Jonathan Coté	- Chair, City Council Member

STAFF PRESENT:

G. Dean Gibson	- Director Parks, Culture and Recreation
Diane Perry	- Manager of Community Development
Jason Haight	- Manager of Business Operations
Kelly Sims	- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m.

1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

No Items.

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of November 29, 2012 –

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting held on January 31, 2013 be amended by replacing the Presenter of Section 6.4 - Park of the Month, from

- *“**Dean Gibson, Director of Parks, Culture and Recreation** gave an oral report on a Park of the Month proposal - to feature a city park monthly, or in some capacity, to encourage healthy communities and active living.”*

With: “ Councillor Jonathan Coté, Chair, City Council Member, gave an oral report on a Park of the Month proposal - to feature a city park monthly, or in some capacity, to encourage healthy communities and active living.”

AND THAT

“Westminster Savings Statement re: Friend of the Museum Update,” be replaced

With: “No items.”

AND THAT the minutes be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

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

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

No items.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No items.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

No items.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 Museums & Archives Update –

Dean Gibson, Director Parks, Culture and Recreation, informed the Committee that it had been suggested by Councillor Jonathan Coté, Chair, City Council Member, and John Davies, Community Member, that the Committee receive a presentation at a future meeting with an overview of the design for the new City Museum to be located in the Anvil Centre.

6.2 Healthy Food Service Policy - Director of Parks, Culture & Recreation

Jason Haight, Manager of Business Operations, gave an overview regarding an information report submitted to the Committee on the Healthy Food Service Policy. Mr. Haight, advised the Committee that in 2007 a healthy food vending program was initiated that recognized the value prioritizing healthy food options in vending machines over less nutritional options. In 2008 the Province established vending nutritional guidelines.

Currently, there is no food service policy in the City and so the Healthy Food Service Policy is being proposed.

Committee discussion ensued that included the following matters:

- Healthy foods are typically more expensive than less nutritional food items and the market profile for a healthy food menu is approximately one-third the revenue margin;
- That the Provincial vending nutritional guidelines encourage healthy foods to be placed directly in the middle of vending machines and in the line of sight of the consumer;
- Some foods with relatively low nutritional value still meet the Provincial healthy vending guidelines by virtue of the fact that they are sold in smaller portions;
- Healthy food items have a finite/shorter shelf life and typically will have a higher sale price;
- Staff are trying to balance nutritional value priorities, healthy options, and inventory storage requirements, consumer demand, and revenue margins;
- In contrast to prior years, there are increasingly more commercial suppliers providing healthy food options – the market is supporting greater investment into products that taste good and meet the guidelines;

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the proposed Healthy Food Service Policy be recommended to City Council for adoption.

CARRIED

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

6.3 Sale of Goods and Concession Services in Parks, Recreation Facilities, and Outdoor Spaces – Director of Parks, Culture & Recreation

Dean Gibson, Director Parks, Culture and Recreation, gave an oral report regarding the challenges community not for profit groups and minor sport organizations face when attempting to secure a permit to operate concession services for their events in City Parks. Currently, the Parks bylaw (Bylaw No. 3646) requires all groups seeking to operate concession services to seek permission from the Parks & Recreation Committee. The Director noted that the bylaw is very limiting and that even small sport organizations seeking to raise money or “to be good hosts” to visiting teams are not permitted to operate a barbeque or other food or beverage services without the formal and prior approval of the Department. Consequently, it creates many inconsistencies, limits the opportunity of non profit organizations to fundraise in exchange of concession services and is challenging for the Department’s Concessions operations to manage when limited notice is provided.

Diane Perry, Manager of Community Development, advised the Committee on the rationale and details behind proposed policy - Sale of Goods and Concession Services in Parks, Recreation Facilities, and Outdoor Spaces. Ms. Perry informed the Committee that part of the reason behind amending the bylaw is to include the sale of goods and

concession services is attributed to the variety of different fundraising and sporting events that take place in City Parks – for example, some multicultural groups have wanted to provide their own food concession services, and other organizations such as Minor Sport organizations have wanted to be able to sell t-shirts or other memorabilia at local tournaments as a way to fundraise for their teams. Therefore, the policy ties the application and permitting process for food sales and other vending services under one common policy. It was also noted that a pilot project was conducted prior to the finalization of the proposed policy.

Ms. Perry informed the Committee that managing concession services and the sale of goods at City parks will be made more straight forward with the implementation of the proposed policy. The implementation will not relieve the responsibility for host organizations to obtain other applicable permits such as health permits.

The Committee was further advised that the motivation behind the applicable sections Bylaw 3646 was likely intended to prevent individual and businesses from undertaking commercial/retail activities in City parks. It is not believed that bylaw was intended to prevent community organizations from undertaking food sales or the sales of event related merchandise where such services were not already provided by the City.

Discussion regarding the proposed policy ensued:

- Not for profit groups would not be charged for a permit but would still be required to go through the same process as a commercial entity, and would still need to obtain other permits to operate such as health permits which are managed by the Province. Commercial entities providing services at Not for profit groups' events would be exempted from the policy provided they are providing services "at cost" or donating their services;
- The policy is intended to apply to areas such as parks, plazas, open spaces, and locations in the City where existing City operated food services are not already provided;
- It was assessed that a \$50.00 fee for the permit, where applicable, was comparable for processing the permit and staff time - in the pilot study two different permitting charges - \$30.00 and a \$100.00 were tried - it was found that to make it worthwhile for the vendors \$50.00 was within reason;
- Operators of ice cream trucks would normally not be permitted to sell their products in City Parks unless the sale was directly associated with a Not for profit organization's event and an appropriate permit was first obtained.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the policy for the Sale of Goods and Concession Services in Parks, Recreation Facilities and Outdoor Spaces be recommend to City Council for adoption.

CARRIED.

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

6.4 Fitness Centre User Eligibility Policy – Director of Parks, Culture & Recreation

Dean Gibson, Director Parks, Culture and Recreation, advised the Committee on the background and purpose behind the Fitness Centre User Eligibility Policy. The Director informed the Committee that impetus behind the policy was a request from a local family who wished to use the fitness area of Canada Games Pool together but existing practise limits admission to the fitness area to persons 15 years of age or older. Further review of existing departmental practises also revealed the need for a comprehensive policy to address issues of consistency of practise across the department and as well as risk management.

Jason Haight, Manager of Business Operations, informed the Committee that the Department has been assessing the types of risks and responsibilities associated with allowing children in fitness training areas.

Mr. Haight outlined the analysis and objectives discussed in the staff report regarding the policy, the key items noted included:

- Proposing to admit youth 13 and 14 years of age with a chaperon into the Queensborough Community Centre and Canada Games Pool fitness areas;
- The recommendation that additional signage be put in the weight rooms to promote awareness of inherent risks and to encourage safe practices by customers; and,
- Children under that age of 15 will be encouraged to participate in an orientation session to promote safe and proper use of the equipment.

Discussion ensued and the Committee made note of the following:

- The use of waivers for younger children was queried. It was advised that in local government facilities, the use of waivers is not commonly employed, particularly for services involving children and youth where the duty of care placed upon the facility operator is very high. The more typical approach is that of “informed consent” where risks are identified and safe practises are encouraged.;
- Signage identifying potential risks and encouraging safe practises will be positioned in fitness centre in areas where those using the fitness rooms can read it;

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Parks and Recreation Committee recommend to City Council the adoption of the proposed Fitness Centre User Eligibility Policy.

CARRIED.

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

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

No items.

8.0 NEXT MEETING

Thursday, February 28, 2013, 5:30 p.m., Century House.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 6:58

Certified Correct,

John Davies
Acting Chairperson

Kelly Sims
Committee Clerk