



PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

March 15, 2017, 6:00 p.m.
Queensborough Community Centre, Poplar Room

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBER REGRETS:

Marjorie Staal	- Community Member
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STAFF PRESENT:

Dean Gibson	- Director of Parks and Recreation
Renee Chadwick	- Manager, Recreation Facilities
Jason Haight	- Manager, Business Operations
Dan Jokic	- Coordinator, Horticulture Operations
Steve Kellock	- Senior Manager, Recreation Services and Facilities
Matt Sung	- Recreation Leader Attendant
JoAnn Tosh	- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 5:55 p.m.

1.0 HOUSEKEEPING

1.1 Oath of Office

JoAnn Tosh, Committee Clerk, administered the Oath of Office to the Committee members.

1.2 Committee Orientation

JoAnn Tosh, Committee Clerk, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Committee Orientation. Ms. Tosh provided an overview of the Rules of Conduct, Respectful Workplace and Human Rights Policy, and the Social Media Policy.

1.3 Appointment of Vice-Chair

Jaime McEvoy, Chair, requested volunteers to serve as the Vice-Chair for the 2017 Committee term.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the Parks and Recreation Committee appoint John Davies to be Vice-Chair for the 2017 term.

CARRIED.

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

1.4 2017/18 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Schedule

Dean Gibson, Director of Park and Recreation, advised that the committee meeting agenda packages are made available to the members via e-mail and, upon request, hard copies can also be picked up at the Parks and Recreation office in advance of each meeting. Mr. Gibson also noted that a light meal will be provided at the meetings and if there are any dietary restrictions to inform Joan Leibel, Business Operations Assistant, at the Park and Recreation office.

2.0 ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions.

3.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1 Adoption of the Minutes of January 25, 2017

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the January 25, 2017 Parks and Recreation Committee meeting be amended so that the date of the Arenex collapse read December 19, 2016; and,

THAT the minutes be adopted as amended.

CARRIED.

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

4.0 PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Queensborough Community Centre Program and Service Overview

Renee Chadwick, Manager, Recreational Facilities, provided the following report regarding the direction of the Queensborough Community Centre:

- Staff are currently working on promoting health and wellness among the business community and have been working with the City's Economic Development department to promote health and wellness options for local businesses in the Queensborough area;
- The Centre is connecting with the community through Facebook to create dialogue regarding the refurbishing and resurfacing of the Ryall Park spray park;
- It is anticipated that a virtual meeting will be held on Facebook regarding the lantern festival;
- Staff are working on facilitating unplug and play opportunities for families such as the annual Children's Festival that is held at the Community Centre; and,
- The Center has fostered many intergenerational opportunities and experiences for the community including the Canada 150 tulip planting and the Queensborough Elementary School Kindness Program.

In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Chadwick advised that the outdoor piano in the park program is not expected to continue this year and that the lantern festival will be held on September 20, 2017.

4.2 Naturally Fun Initiative

Dan Jokic, Coordinator, Horticulture Operations, provided an On-Table PowerPoint presentation.

Discussion ensued and the committee noted some of their favourite nature sites throughout the city, which include the Glenbrook Ravine Park, the Brunette River at the bottom of Hume Park, the small beach at the north side of the Port Royal neighborhood, the stairwell into Glenbrook Ravine behind the Queen's Park Hospital, and the prison cemetery located on the upper banks of the Glenbrook Ravine Park.

It was also proposed that the Parks and Recreation Committee host a future meeting at the new Learning Circle in Queens Park.

5.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were no items.

6.0 REPORTS

6.1 Financial Assistance Policy and Procedure Proposed Principles and Changes

Dean Gibson, Director of Parks and Recreation, summarized the report dated March 15, 2017 regarding the Financial Assistance Policy and Procedure Proposed Principles and Changes.

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

- The City currently contracts the vetting process of applications to Fraserside Community Services Society;
- Throughout the vetting process Fraserside has the ability to use full discretion and evaluate the entire situation of an individual seeking assistance;
- Fraserside has the ability to recommend to the City that an individual may require a full subsidy;
- It is anticipated that an independent party will continue to vet the applications of individuals requesting financial assistance;
- It is anticipated that the policy will deal with financial assistance on a family unit basis, rather than on an individual basis;
- Although variables including the low/no cost programs have been in operation, the financial value of subsidies has remained steady over the past years; and,
- Several municipalities throughout the Lower Mainland have financial assistance program, however no two programs are alike.

Discussion ensued and the Committee noted the following:

- Concerns were expressed regarding the definition of the word ‘family’;
- The Policy could add a clause regarding protecting the privacy of the individuals accessing the funds to ensure comfort among those applying; and,

- It was suggested that the City could side with a more liberal approach when processing applications and re-evaluate the process at a later date if necessary.

Mr. Gibson advised that staff will continue to work on the policy to incorporate the Committee's comments and concerns and provide an updated report at a future meeting.

6.2 Temporary Relocation of Queen's Park Arenex Programs and Services Update

Steve Kellock, Senior Manager of Recreation Services and Facilities, summarized a report dated March 15, 2017 regarding the temporary relocation of the Queen's Park Arenex programs and services.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Kellock advised that the majority of programs and services of the Arenex have been relocated, however, accommodations for the partnered programs including the Sapperton Fish and Game Club and the Queensborough Boxing Club have not been made.

Dean Gibson, Director of Parks and Recreation, advised that even though the majority of the City's programs have been re-established to some degree in alternate locations, the number of individuals able to participate in programs has decreased due to the lack of dedicated gymnasium space.

6.3 Planning for Queen's Park Arenex and Canada Games Pool

Dean Gibson, Director of Parks and Recreation, summarized the report dated March 15, 2017 regarding the planning of the Queen's Park Arenex and Canada Games Pool. Mr. Gibson provided the Committee an opportunity to provide feedback regarding the concept for relocation of the Arenex programs into future new facilities at the Canada Games Pool location.

Discussion ensued and the Committee expressed support and concerns regarding the relocation of the Arenex programs into future new facilities at the Canada Games Pool location. Members were pleased that the City released a community survey to gain feedback and encourage community engagement with the decision. Although support was expressed, concerns were also noted regarding insufficient parking should the Arenex be rebuilt at the Canada Games Pool site and how the City could maintain their relationships with the partnered programs (i.e. Fish and Game Club, Boxing Club, etc.) if the new construction does accommodate their needs. Concerns were also expressed regarding potentially losing the small town feel should the Arenex become part of a large multipurpose facility.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 British Columbia Recreation and Parks Association Membership Opportunity

Dean Gibson, Director of Park and Recreation advised that staff and volunteers of the City of New Westminster, including Committee members, are eligible to become a member of the British Columbia Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) at no cost.

8.0 NEW BUSINESS

There were no items.

9.0 NEXT MEETING

April 26, 2017, 6:00 p.m. at Century House, Spruce Room

1.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Certified Correct,

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy
Chair

JoAnn Tosh
Committee Clerk