

## **PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, June 20, 2018, 6:00 p.m.**  
**Queen's Park Arena – Breakaway Room**

### **MINUTES**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy	- Chair, City Council Member
Shawna Barkley (Arrived at 6:05 p.m.)	- Community Member
Brynn Bourke	- Community Member
John Davies	- Community Member
Ronnie Nicolasora	- Community Member
Deanna Tan	- Community Member

#### **MEMBER REGRETS:**

Aran Armutlu	- Community Member
Andrew Hull	- Community Member

#### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Dean Gibson	- Director of Parks and Recreation
Steve Kellock	- Senior Manager, Recreation Services & Facilities
Renee Chadwick (Left at 6:36 p.m.)	- Manager, Recreation Facilities
Jay Young (Left at 6:30 p.m.)	- Manager, Recreation Facilities
Carilyn Cook	- Committee Clerk

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 June 20, 2018 be amended to include New Business Item 7.1: Vancouver Park Board Outdoor Environmental Learning Survey from Deanna Tan, Community Member.*

**CARRIED.**

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

## **2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

### **2.1 MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the Minutes of the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting held April 18, 2018 be adopted as circulated.*

**CARRIED.**

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

A member suggested the following motion, which was passed by the Committee:

### **MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the Parks & Recreation Committee extend their sincerest thank you to Claude Ledoux for all of his hard work over the years in light of his upcoming retirement.*

**CARRIED.**

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

## **3.0 PRESENTATIONS**

### **3.1 Aquatic and Community Centre Redevelopment Update – Steve Kellock**

(See Item 5.5 – Aquatic and Community Centre Redevelopment Update)

## **4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There were no items.

## **5.0 REPORTS**

### **5.1 Queen’s Park Arenex Update**

Jay Young, Manager, Recreation Facilities, announced that Council has approved construction of a 14,000 square foot facility by the new skate park. The new facility is anticipated to take 18 months to build and accommodate all the programs that were offered at the former Arenex.

In response to questions, staff advised:

- The majority of the funds for the new facility will be from insurance as a result of the Arenex collapse;
- The new facility will include an HVAC ventilation system; and,
- In the meantime, programs will continue to run at the Circus School and the Royal City Curling Club, allowing a full complement of gymnastic and trampoline programs during the summer; however, limited programs will run in the fall and winter.

## 5.2 Naming of Interim Multi-Sport Facility

Dean Gibson, Director of Parks and Recreation, advised that several years ago the Committee developed the *Naming Community Facilities & Public Parks Policy*, with an aspect of the policy requiring feedback and support from the Parks & Recreation Committee. In anticipation of the new interim structure being built, staff propose that the name of the new interim facility be “*Queen’s Park Sportsplex*” as it reflects the location of the building, is consistent with other facilities located in the park, and does not create the confusion that was experienced with “*Queen’s Park Arenex*” which was too similar to “*Queen’s Park Arena*.” It was also noted that the name “*Sportsplex*” covers a variety of activities, and that the previous “*Arenex*” name, the result of a naming contest, had no particular legacy.

In response to questions, staff advised:

- A naming contest could open the door for miscommunication and may result in a moniker such as the recent Boaty McBoatface research ship naming contest; and,
- Efforts to engage with First Nations to provide input on the name were attempted in support of the City’s reconciliation efforts.

### **MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the Parks & Recreation Committee recommend to City Council that “Queen’s Park Sportsplex” be adopted as the name for the interim multi-sport facility planned for Queen’s Park.*

**CARRIED.**

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

## 5.3 Hats Off to Kids – Queensborough Children’s Festival

Renee Chadwick, Manager, Recreation Facilities, shared that the Queensborough Children’s Festival, held on June 16<sup>th</sup> at Ryall Park, was well-attended and provided a great opportunity to celebrate children. One of the highlights of the event, which was sponsored by the City and the Queensborough Special Programs Committee, was the performance of the all-girl band Sm:)e (Smile).

Ms. Chadwick provided the following update on the Ryall Spray Park:

- Staff engaged with community members in response to discussions taking place on social media and, through ongoing communication, have received many ideas for refreshing the Park;
- The ultimate design of the park, which had an original budget of \$100,000, included resurfacing with the addition of some musical play elements;
- The City partnered with the Queensborough Special Programs Committee and were able to secure an additional \$30,000 in funding through the Tire

Stewardship Grant program, which was the balance of funds needed to complete resurfacing and updates in the Park all at once; and,

- Mr. Gibson shared that since the rubber surfacing in the water park is made from recycled automobile tires, grants are offered to encourage use of the material. Applying this type of surface to undulating ground, such as what is found at the Ryall Spray Park, is very challenging; however, companies that provide this service are constantly developing their expertise which allows more creativity in park designs.

In response to questions, staff advised:

- The City is expanding the amenities in Ryall Park to include an off leash dog park and pickleball courts, as well as new amenities at Thompson's Landing Park being considered.

#### **5.4 New Westminster Grand Prix**

Ms. Chadwick announced that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual New West Grand Prix will take place on Tuesday, July 10<sup>th</sup>. She provided the following information:

- The race starts at 4:45 p.m. with the kids' component, followed by the youth race, the women's race and, lastly, the men's race;
- Piva Modern Italian Restaurant and Steel & Oak Brewing Co. are sponsoring the VIP tent and expect to see approximately 200 people in attendance;
- Staff handed event postcards out at a sports day to encourage families to register for the event through Perfect Mind. Next year staff plan to attend all school sports days to share event information and encourage participation;
- Businesses were encouraged to participate in the event by expanding their patios, handing out cowbells, etc. The City intends to build on the event each year with the addition of a "race party bag" package next year for those that live along the race route;
- New Westminster has the most difficult route in the BC Superweek series which includes races in White Rock, Burnaby, and Port Coquitlam;
- As there are only 18 rider hosts signed up, members were urged to sign up on the website if they, or anyone they know, is interested in hosting a rider; and,
- Q to Q Ferry hours will be extended until 10:00 p.m. on race day.

Mr. Gibson announced that this event is now being brought forward from the Parks and Recreation Department, as the Special Events Coordinator has moved from the Office of the CAO to Parks & Recreation, adding that they are excited to have such a resource and look forward to fully supporting these events in the future.

#### **5.5 Aquatic and Community Centre Redevelopment Update**

Steve Kellock, Senior Manager, Recreation Facilities and Services, announced that the community and stakeholder engagement aspect of the Aquatics and

Community Centre project was complete, adding that all feedback received was incorporated in the feasibility report. He provided the following information:

- Stakeholder meetings included 109 participants, 7 pop-up/open house events were hosted, and 968 survey responses were received;
- Established project objectives include:
  - Provide programming opportunities and capacity identified by residents as missing in the current facilities;
  - Broaden the focus of the facility to be more inclusive to a broader cross section of New Westminster residents;
  - Honour the legacy of the existing facility by including a 50m tank; and,
  - Balance programming desires with capital and operating cost implications.
- Next steps include:
  - Proceed with RFP and selection of project architectural and design services;
  - Undertake site studies recommended in feasibility and engagement reports;
  - Continue site planning and investigation due diligence;
  - Develop project specific delivery plan covering major aspects of the project; and,
  - Continue Infrastructure Canada grant application readiness and apply for grant when intake announced;
- Ground breaking is anticipated to take place in 2020 with the facility opening in 2023; and,
- The Public Engagement Report is available online at [www.youractivenewwest.ca](http://www.youractivenewwest.ca).

In response to questions, staff advised:

- Other cities with competition-sized pools may see the tourism monies increase directly in their city; however, due to limited hotel space available in New Westminster the financial impact may have less of a direct benefit to New Westminster businesses. The last major swim competition hosted in New Westminster resulted in a partnership with Tourism Burnaby;
- The current operating subsidy, which includes the community centre, is \$2.9M and with a new, competition-sized facility, it would be approximately \$3.3M. It was noted that a large portion of the additional costs incurred would be a result of maintenance and additional lifeguards and staff that would be required with the expanded water space and additional patrons;
- A larger facility would allow for growth in swim lesson, rehabilitation, and fitness programs, as well as enhanced hosting capabilities as the additional swim lanes would increase the versatility of the facility. The Hyack Swim Club (HSC) could continue with their current training hours;
- The originally proposed facility would allow for growth in the swim lesson program; however, it may require a reduction in the hours of use associated with non-instructional programming in order to accommodate the additional lessons;

- It is anticipated that the HSC would host two competitions annually and the proposed enhanced competition facility will allow for a higher caliber than they are currently able to bid on;
- The City's Intergovernmental & Community Partnerships Manager sources opportunities for grant funding for City projects. Currently, staff are putting together information to prepare for the infrastructure grant funding process that is anticipated to become available in the fall and will be working with stakeholder groups to support this effort.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- It is important to show that as a committee we have received a thoughtful report on the full scope of the project and that we are in support of the plan; and,
- A member suggested that the Committee show support of the motion that Council passed at the June 11, 2018 Council meeting.

**MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the Parks & Recreation Committee support Council's endorsement of the following items, which were passed at the June 11, 2018 Council meeting:*

- A. receive the Aquatic & Community Centre Feasibility Study, Public Engagement Results as attached to the June 11, 2018 staff report for information;*
- B. are confident and satisfied with the community engagement process and the results from this engagement;*
- C. direct staff to pursue two design options: the first option is a community recreation facility which is consistent with the results of the community engagement process; and the second is a design option that includes all of the community recreation components with an enhanced competition hosting capability;*
- D. direct staff to conduct a parking analysis for both the community recreation facility and the enhanced competition hosting facility options;*
- E. approve the building of an enhanced competition hosting facility option if the City is successful in obtaining a significant Federal Government grant; and,*
- F. direct staff to prepare a Federal grant submission for the enhanced competition hosting facility option and report back to Council.*

**CARRIED.**

Shawna Barkley voted in opposition of this motion.

**6.0 CORRESPONDENCE**

There were no items.

## **7.0 NEW BUSINESS**

### **7.1 Vancouver Park Board Outdoor Environmental Learning Survey – Deanna Tan**

Deanna Tan, Community Member, informed members of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation online survey in which they are requesting feedback from teachers regarding Outdoor Environmental Education. Ms. Tan queried if New Westminster would be interested in conducting a similar survey, which enquires how teachers use parks, nature, and being outside as educational tools, including other kinds of additional programming or infrastructure they believe would be beneficial to add and/or build.

Mr. Gibson thanked Ms. Tan for sharing this information with the Committee. He advised that the City is currently in the process of creating an environmental strategy and this could possibly provide an opportunity for additional feedback. He added that he would share this information with the Naturally New West staff committee. Ms. Cook will forward the information to Mr. Gibson.

In response to questions, staff advised:

- It is expected that construction will start on the new skate park within the next two weeks and should be complete in the fall; and,
- In anticipation of noise from the skate park possibly affecting productions at the Bernie Legg Theatre, the City opted to move the park to the former reservoir site in Queen's Park. In addition, a recommendation for sound proof theatre doors was sent to the facilities manager for follow-up.

## **8.0 NEXT MEETING**

**Thursday, September 27, 2018, 6:00 pm. Location: Century House (Douglas Room)**

## **9.0 ADJOURNMENT**

**ON MOTION**, the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

**CARRIED.**

Certified correct,

**Original Signed**

**Councillor Jaimie McEvoy  
Chair**

**Original Signed**

**Carilyn Cook  
Committee Clerk**