

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Wednesday, April 24, 2019, 6:00 p.m.
Queensborough Community Centre – Poplar Room

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Chinu Das	- Co-Chair, City Council Member
Councillor Jaimie McEvoy	- Co-Chair, City Council Member
John Davies	- Alternate Chair/Community Member
Shawna Barkley	- Community Member
Gary Holisko	- Community Member
Andrew Hull	- Community Member
Sydney Sullivan	- Community Member
Deanna Tan	- Community Member

MEMBER REGRETS:

Tonianne Mynen	- Community Member
Maryam Naser	- SD40 Representative

STAFF PRESENT:

Dean Gibson	- Director of Parks and Recreation
Renee Chadwick	- Manager, Recreation Services
Erika Mashig	- Manager, Arboriculture, Horticulture Parks & Open Space Planning
Dustin Ray-Wilk	- Manager, Aquatics
Jay Young	- Manager, Recreation Facilities
Carilyn Cook	- Committee Clerk

At 5:45 p.m. an optional tour of the Queensborough Community Centre commenced.

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

1.0 ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

1.1 Additions/Deletions to Agenda

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Agenda for the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting scheduled April 24, 2019 be adopted as circulated noting that item 3.2 – Queen’s Park Wayfinding/Signage Program would be addressed prior to item 3.1 – Queensborough Community Centre Programs & Services Overview.

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 February 27, 2019

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Minutes of the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting held February 27, 2019 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED.

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

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Queensborough Community Centre Programs & Services Overview – Renee Chadwick, Manager, Recreation Services (oral report)

Ms. Chadwick provided the following overview of the Queensborough Community Centre (QCC) programs and services:

- The Active Pass enables people to access City facilities including the fitness centre located upstairs at the QCC or the amenities at the Canada Games Pool;
- Collaboration with the Special Programs Committee includes over 60 events per year such as the Queensborough Children’s Festival for which the Committee applies for a grant and looks for sponsorship opportunities;
- Once the Ryall Park tennis courts are complete, they will include 8 pickleball courts which will be used for the pickleball tournament in August;
- The facility will be getting an electric car docking station in the near future and, along with the Q to Q Ferry, staff will soon have access to a new electric bike to use to get to meetings;
- The first ever sponsorship night was held for the New West Grand prix bicycle race series, which will take place on July 9th, with \$34,750 of the \$40,000 sponsorship funding target being raised;

- The City is always seeking sponsor families for the cyclists; and
- Through the Special Events office, the QCC supports or produces 60 events throughout the year which is equivalent to 135 event days.

Ms. Chadwick handed cow bells and volunteer opportunity forms out to members.

In response to questions, staff advised:

- Since a fair number of Richmond residents use the Queensborough Community Centre, New Westminster staff meet twice yearly with Richmond staff to determine ways to fill gaps in the local community programs;
- There are no plans to transition library books to audio or other formats as many hardcopy books are still being checked out of the library.

A Committee member shared that her family hosted a cyclist during BC Superweek last year and stated that the cyclist was rarely at home, so it was not an onerous task to be a host family.

3.2 Queen's Park Wayfinding/Signage Program – Erika Mashig, Manager Arboriculture, Horticulture, Parks & Open Space Planning

Ms. Mashig provided her presentation which included the following points regarding the Queen's Park Wayfinding/Signage Program:

- Queen's Park has a significant number of amenities which are not always noticed when you enter the Park;
- Currently, a lot of construction is taking place in the Park, including the creation of the new skate park. Soon, building of the Sportsplex will commence, along with the construction of the storm water management/rain garden system;
- The new signs will be made of reflective material and will be following the installation of the storm water system;
- Due to budget constraints, the City will focus on phase one of the sign program this year;
- Trail markers will show the distance to the venue you are going to;
- The Mayor's Task Force on the Riverfront and Public Realm suggested showing gravel trails vs. paved trails as well as the distance to the nearest transit stop; and,
- Maps will show what activities are available in each spot.

In response to questions, staff advised:

- The signage will give everything in the Park equal weight and its own icon, including the art gallery;
- The City has received tender pricing for phase 1 for work to be done this year and next year; and,
- The signs will be fabricated in the next month and installed in the summer.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- The maps should be orientated according to where you are on the sign, i.e. north, etc.;
- Powder-coated aluminum should be considered for the signs as wood will not last as long; and,
- The use of swales in the storm water management plan may provide opportunities for small parklets.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Parks and Recreation Committee endorse in principle the proposed Queen's Park Wayfinding and Signage Program as presented.

CARRIED.

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

3.3 Queen's Park Sportsplex Update – Jay Young, Recreation Services Manager

Mr. Young provided a presentation update on the Queen's Park Sportsplex, the replacement for the Queen's Park Arenex, advising that the new 12,000 square foot facility will be able to accommodate all of the programs that were previously held in the Arenex, including gymnastics, trampoline, ball hockey and various pre-school programs. Mr. Young reviewed the new facility's floor plan sharing that it will have plexiglass rink boards, a wooden sport floor, basketball and volleyball courts, a gender neutral washroom, etc. The exterior layout of the Sportsplex will include a plaza area, allowing people to congregate outside.

In response to questions, staff advised:

- Concession services will be located in the Queen's Park Arena and the Sportsplex will offer vending machines;
- Four stalls will be large enough for use as changing facilities. Currently, the budget does not allow more space for change rooms, however, other options are being considered and, should the gymnastics and trampoline groups move elsewhere in the future, that would free up space for change rooms. It has been challenging to fit everything in and stay on budget;

- Many teams come dressed ready for their games and do not require change rooms; however, if needed, shower stalls could double as change rooms;
- With respect to viewing games, there will be benches for hockey with regular hockey boards and rows of chairs for spectators;
- There will be a one-way drop-off area in front of the facility as well as charging stations for electric vehicles;
- The old Arenex site will transition to a passive green space with wildflowers to create a meadow effect and pathways to tidy up routing alignments leading to points beyond the site. A tender is out to complete the finished landscape work;
- The metal cladding on the building is guaranteed for 35 – 40 years but it will likely last longer;
- Currently, there is no intention for the aquatic centre to house the gymnastics programs as all of the space is allocated for other activities;
- For energy efficiency, there will not be skylights. It is also noted that sunlight may be distracting to some athletes; and,
- The City is taking cues from other communities as to how to address various gender-identity and accessibility issues, and it was determined that the universal washroom would be the most appropriate way to go as they are less expensive to construct and do not take up as much space. Over a year ago, the Committee supported the first universal washroom in Queen's Park with Council's support to accommodate our diverse community. This is in line with where public facilities are moving to in the future.

3.4 June is Parks & Recreation Month – Dustin Ray-Wilks, Aquatics Manager (oral report)

Mr. Ray-Wilks announced that June will be Parks and Recreation month and in order to promote awareness of it, staff propose a proclamation by Council followed up by utilizing various media to share the news.

In response to a question from a Committee member, staff advised that since people do not always connect the benefits of using passive greenspace with Parks and Recreation, it will be promoted in the media ads.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Parks and Recreation Committee recommend that Council proclaim June as Parks and Recreation month.

CARRIED.

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

3.5 New Westminster Aquatic and Community Centre Update – Dustin Ray-Wilks, Manager, Aquatics

Mr. Ray-Wilks commenced with his presentation.

In response to questions, staff advised:

- The City's grant application was submitted to the Province in January and is currently under review. It is anticipated that the government will be announcing grants in the fall;
- The new facility will see an increase of just over 45,000 square feet to the combined facility and include two hot tubs, one for families and one for adults;
- Kitchen needs are currently being considered including a catering kitchen space. This space has been requested by the community, and must be constructed to commercial grade in order to comply with health regulations. Some spaces may only have a sink in an area not intended for food preparation;
- The westerly exit onto Sixth Avenue would not be a public exit from the site; however, it would support emergency vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians;
- Final crosswalk and bus stop locations are being planned in consultation with the City's Transportation Department. A traffic consultant is reviewing the entire precinct;
- Based on the number of square feet for dry and wet spaces, income and associated programming should not significantly change. The City is, however, trying to gain extra space in the lobby area for use;
- The space is being designed for both eight and ten swim lanes to keep options open. Ultimately, it will depend on the availability and degree of grant funding secured for the project;
- When the two-metre bulkheads are pulled back, additional space will open up for lifeguard training, competition space, etc.; and,
- A call for proposals for construction management services to coordinate the project's construction phase, and help to better inform the detailed project design, is underway.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- The design of the facility should accommodate the future growth of the City;
- A more modest architectural design may be cost-effective, and still meet the programming needs of the community;
- Concern was expressed about passersby being able to see into the swim area, spin classes, etc., through the large exterior windows, making patrons uncomfortable. People may not want to attend classes if they feel that they will be in full view of others; and,

- The bus stop locations need to be addressed as people will cross the street regardless of whether or not there is a crosswalk.

Committee members suggested nature play areas, as well as fenced play areas, for children from two to eight years of age. For youth, members suggested table tennis and an outdoor movie space, and for lawn play activities, Bocce ball and chess were suggested.

Further discussion ensued, with Committee members providing the following comments:

- Incorporating natural outdoor elements in the play areas would be nice (i.e. a small hill could be used as a climbing structure);
- If an outdoor movie area were to be incorporated, consideration would have to be given as to how the lights and sounds may affect the neighbours;
- A retractable roof for the two plazas would be nice if the budget allows; and,
- If garage door style doors are used to open up the space to the outdoors, they should be facing southwest as that would be the warmest direction.

Staff provided the following comments upon receiving additional questions from Committee members:

- Staff are exploring the possibility of being able to open up the main lobby, with moveable walls, during nice weather; and,
- The design is not at the point yet to determine if the lobby area could have a separate space for use during private functions.

A brochure, which included a survey link, was handed out for those Committee members who wished to provide further comments on the development. Members were encouraged to share the brochures with their friends and neighbours.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 Election of Alternate Chairperson – Committee Members

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT John Davies be elected as the Alternate Chair for the 2019 Parks and Recreation Committee term.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

5.0 REPORTS

There were no items.

6.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items.

7.0 NEW BUSINESS

There were no items.

8.0 NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, June 19, 2019, 6:00 pm. Location: Queen’s Park Arena – Power Play Room

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

CARRIED.

Certified correct,

Original Signed

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy
Chair

Original Signed

Carilyn Cook
Committee Clerk