



PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

**Thursday, February 27, 2014, 5:30 p.m.
Century House**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Jonathan Coté	- Chair, City Council Member
Melissa Balfour	- Community Member
Shawna Barkley	- Community Member
John Davies	- Community Member
Ted Garbutt	- Community Member
Andrew Hull	- Community Member
Catherine Ouellet-Martin	- Community Member (departed at 6:45 p.m.)

REGRETS:

Jacqueline Buchanan	- Community Member
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GUESTS:

Jerome Oregas	- Parks, Culture and Recreation Intern
Kurtis Balogun	- Parks, Culture and Recreation Intern

STAFF PRESENT:

G. Dean Gibson	- Director of Parks, Culture and Recreation
Jennifer Wilson	- Assistant Director of Parks, Culture and Recreation
Mark Alison	- Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Sustainability
John Stark	- Senior Social Planner
Lauren Blake	- Committee Clerk

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

1.0 ANNUAL HOUSEKEEPING

1.1 Oaths

Lauren Blake, Committee Clerk, administered the oath of office to the Committee.

Committee members were requested to complete permission forms indicating the manner in which Committee members are to be contacted.

2.0 ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions.

3.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1 Adoption of the Minutes of January 30, 2014

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the January 30, 2014 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Committee be adopted.

CARRIED.

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

4.0 PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Proposed Waterfront Vision Concept Plan (660 Quayside Drive) – Mark Allison, CAO's Office

Mark Allison, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Sustainability, provided a presentation regarding the proposed waterfront vision concept plan, with respect to the Larco Developments project located at 660 Quayside Drive. Mr. Allison reviewed the City's goal with respect to the project and provided the following information:

- The City would like to provide a connection to Westminster Pier Park and to the amenities that are currently located at the Quay.
- The City would like to maintain views and visual access to the water for the community.
- There will be an approximately two-acre park and esplanade located next to the towers of the development.
- One-third of the park is proposed to be dedicated to the City via an air space parcel agreement, which provides the City with surface rights to the park, as underground parking for the project will be located underneath the park.
- The proposed park component will maintain the same design and quality standards as Westminster Pier Park.
- Community consultations will be held regarding the programming of the park, and any open space connected to the project.
- A hotel may be included in the proposal for the development in order to provide support for the Anvil Centre.

Mr. Allison advised that Committee members may contact him at mallison@newwestcity.ca with questions, concerns and feedback, and can visit www.newwestcity.ca/waterfrontvision for additional information.

In response to questions from the Committee, staff provided the following information:

- A full marina will not be provided at the site; however, day moorage services have been discussed.

- This was a City initiated rezoning, and the City has been working with the developer to accomplish a project that benefits both the developer and the community.
- A consensus regarding the design of the project has not yet been established.

4.2 Chinese Benevolent Association Park Site – John Stark, Development Services Department

John Stark, Senior Social Planner, provided a presentation regarding the Chinese Benevolent Association Park site. Mr. Stark reviewed the historical significance of 824 Agnes Street with respect to the Chinese community, and the consultation process for this project, including the various community groups and committees staff has met with so far, and will meet with in the future. Mr. Stark advised that he will provide a summary of the outcome of these consultations.

In response to questions from the Committee, staff provided the following information:

- The developer for Carnarvon Gardens, which is located beside the site, as well as New Westminster's sister city Lijang and various other community groups have expressed an interest in assisting with the funding for the development of the site.
- The connection between the top and bottom of the site will be maintained.
- The City is seeking an alternative location for the off-leash dog park that is currently located at the site.

Mr. Stark reported that the consultation process is scheduled to be completed in June.

Discussion ensued and the Committee provided the following comments:

- A listening post and photo wall were suggested as potential elements that could be utilized in the park.
- The Committee reiterated that they would like the park to be activated by the public and serve as more than just a place of interpretation/memorial.

Mr. Stark advised that Committee members may contact him at jestark@newwestcity.ca with comments and feedback regarding the project.

5.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No items.

6.0 REPORTS

6.1 Parks & Recreation Committee Terms of Reference (for information and receipt)

Dean Gibson, Director of Parks, Culture and Recreation, reviewed the Terms of Reference.

6.2 Canada Games Pool Loonie Swim Program Update – Hilary Knowles, Manager of Canada Games Pool (verbal report)

Jennifer Wilson, Assistant Director of Parks, Culture and Recreation, provided an updated regarding the Sunday Family Loonie Swim program at Canada Games Pool. Ms. Wilson noted that the program is intended to provide an affordable swimming session for families and to encourage families to be active together. As the program is currently only available to family units, staff are considering opening the program to all members of the public.

In response to questions from the Committee, staff provided the following information:

- Canada Games Pool staff has reported that they have had to decline individual customers the use of the pool during program hours, as they are not part of a family. It was noted that these actions are seen as incompatible with the City's inclusion policy.
- Additional customers will be able to utilize the program, noting that the added capacity will not be an issue.
- Access to Canada Games Pool amenities will be offered for a one dollar admission fee. This fee includes the use of the fitness centre.
- Families are provided full access to the pool during the Loonie Swim program.

The Committee expressed support for the expansion of the program, suggesting that it will provide recreational opportunities to all members of the public.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Committee support the expansion of the Canada Games Pool Loonie Swim program in principle.

CARRIED.

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

6.3 School District Facilities & Community Access/Fees – Jennifer Wilson, Assistant Director of Parks, Culture & Recreation (verbal report)

Jennifer Wilson, Assistant Director of Parks, Culture and Recreation, provided a summary regarding the implementation of the School District fee policy, and the potential impact the policy may have on Parks, Culture and Recreation services. Ms. Wilson reported the following information:

- Fees will be charged based on a group's ability to pay for services, and how the group's initiative aligns with the School Districts goals.
- There have been community consultations regarding the implementation of the fee policy.
- The fees are structured with respect to the following categories:
 - District and Community Partnership and Events: There will be no charge for the use of facilities, however, there a fee will be charged if custodial services are required. Ms. Wilson noted that Parks, Culture and Recreation services are part of this category.
 - Non-Profit Users: a charge of \$22 per hour for use of facilities, and \$38 per hour if custodial services are required. This category includes service providers, child care groups and adult recreation groups. A 25% discount will be applied if the program is for youth.
 - Community users: a charge of \$38 per hour for use, plus an additional fee if custodial services are required. Community users include adult, recreational and educational groups.
 - The commercial rate will be \$65 per hour, and will be applied to businesses and for-profit use of facilities.
- District equipment is not provided as part of the fee.

Ms. Wilson reported that bookings made beyond the fall of 2014 will be subject to the fee policy.

In response to questions from the Committee, staff provided the following information:

- The School District has purchased software to allow them to create bookings for the facilities. Parks, Culture and Recreation has provided support regarding the implementation and training for of the software.
- Fees collected from the policy will be reintroduced to the School District's budget.
- Staff will monitor local sports groups and organizations to assess any impact the policy has with respect to finances and membership.

6.4 Parks, Culture & Recreation Department 2014 Projects & Activities – Director of Parks, Culture & Recreation (to be circulated On-Table)

Dean Gibson, Director of Parks, Culture and Recreation, provided an overview of the projects that the Parks, Culture and Recreation department will be focusing on for 2014, and indicated projects that the Committee could be involved with.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

No items.

8.0 NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Parks & Recreation Committee 2014 Priorities – Committee Chairperson, Councillor Coté

Councillor Jonathan Coté requested that the Committee provide feedback regarding interest of specific items from the 2014 Projects and Activities list, and if there were additional items the Committee is interested in discussing.

Discussion ensued and the Committee expressed interest in the following items:

- The relocation of the Mercer Stadium Skateboard Park;
- Facility planning regarding Canada Games Pool;
- Tree preservation;
- The operation of the Queens Park Petting Zoo, including the use of the animals during the zoo's off-season;
- The progression of the Anvil Centre, including staffing and programming;
- Westminster Pier Park, including access to the site and from other locations;
- Potential park land and green spaces within new major development sites, with specific reference made to the Sapperton Green development; and,
- The collection of vintage and historic railcars located near the Sapperton Green development site.

Staff advised that additional comments and feedback may be forwarded to Mr. Gibson at dgibson@newwestcity.ca, or Councillor Coté at jcote@newwestcity.ca.

9.0 NEXT MEETING

Thursday, April 24, 2014, 5:30 p.m. Century House

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was concluded at 8:01 p.m.

Certified Correct,

Councillor Jonathan Côté
Chair

Lauren Blake
Committee Clerk