



## **PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, August 12, 2014, 5:30 p.m.**

**Queen's Park Boardroom**

### **MINUTES**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

|                          |                                      |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Councillor Jonathan Cote | - Chair, City Council Member         |
| Melissa Balfour          | - Community Member                   |
| Shawna Barkley           | - Community Member                   |
| Jacqueline Buchanan      | - Community Member                   |
| Casey Cook               | - School District #40 Representative |
| John Davies              | - Community Member                   |
| Ted Garbutt              | - Community Member                   |
| Andrew Hull              | - Community Member                   |
| Catherine Ouellet-Martin | - Community Member                   |

#### **STAFF PRESENT:**

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| G. Dean Gibson | - Director of Parks, Culture and Recreation |
| Hilary Knowles | - Manager of Canada Games Pool              |
| Lauren Blake   | - Committee Clerk                           |

The meeting was called to order at 5:36 p.m.

#### **1.0 ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA**

There were no additions.

#### **2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

##### **2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of May 8, 2014**

#### **MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the minutes of the May 8, 2014 Parks and Recreation Committee be adopted.*

**CARRIED.**

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

#### **3.0 PRESENTATIONS**

There were no items.

## **4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There were no items.

## **5.0 REPORTS**

### **5.1 Canada Games Pool Private Swim Coaching**

Hilary Knowles, Manager of Canada Games Pool, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding private coaching at Canada Games Pool Private Swim Coaching, and noted the following additional information:

- Staff would accommodate coaches during drop-in sessions for the time being;
- The pool is utilized for alternate functions during off-peak times, such as through leadership courses, rental requests and staff training;
- A one month notification to book pool space would allow staff to determine pool availability and staff levels; and,
- The proposed solution would allow coaches to bring in additional coaches in a single session.

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

- Coaches can currently only utilize 25 meter lanes during public swims;
- The majority of coached swimmers are not New Westminster residents; and,
- Private coaching sessions would be scheduled during off-peak hours.

Discussion ensued and the Committee noted the following comments:

- It was suggested that Canada Games Pool is a preferred location for coaches due to its central location;
- It was suggested that preferential choice be provided to New Westminster residents receiving coached lessons during private sessions;
- It was suggested that Hyack Swim Club be offered first right of refusal for private coached lane swim times; and,
- It was suggested that coaches utilizing the pool during coached swim sessions should have insurance.

**MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the Canada Games Pool continues to respond to requests for lane rental times and include requests for exclusive lane use for private coaching.*

*AND THAT other than in rented pool lanes, no “private swim coaching” shall occur during any other time.*

**CARRIED.**

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

**5.2 Amendment of the Parks and Recreation Fees and Charges Bylaw**

Dean Gibson, Director of Parks, Culture and Recreation, summarized the report dated August 12, 2014, regarding amendments of the Parks and Recreation Fees and Charges Bylaw.

**MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the Parks and Recreation Committee endorse the proposed Fees and Amendment Bylaw No. 7696, 2014, a bylaw to amend the Parks and Recreation Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 6673, 2001, and refer to City Council for adoption consideration.*

**CARRIED.**

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

**5.3 Anvil Centre Policies**

Dean Gibson, Director of Parks, Culture and Recreation, summarized the Anvil Centre policies as outlined in the report dated August 12, 2014, noting that the policies will continue to be updated and revised with Committee feedback, and that all rates will be reviewed after one year based on demand and usage.

In response to questions from the Committee, staff advised that while the Massey Theatre Society has been contracted to operate the Anvil Centre Theatre, the City will retain ultimate operating responsibility and ownership of the theatre.

Discussion ensued and the Committee noted that the capacity in the Anvil Centre Theatre is lower compared to most local theatres, and that should be considered when implementing the fees.

**5.4 Whitecaps – Queen’s Park Stadium Proposal (oral report)**

Dean Gibson, Director of Parks, Culture and Recreation, provided a report regarding the proposal to bring the Vancouver Whitecaps FC USL Pro team to New Westminster and noted the following information:

- Council approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to explore a partnership with the Whitecaps USL Pro team in July 2014 that will expire in September 2014;
- The MOU sets out the process that will determine the feasibility of the project for both parties involved;
- An agreement between the Whitecaps and the City would have to be reached by September 2014 in order for the USL Pro team to play in New Westminster for the 2015 season;
- The proposal requires creating a professional caliber soccer venue, and Queen's Park Stadium (the Stadium) has been identified as the preferred venue;
- The baseball fields at the Stadium would be converted into a natural grass soccer field;
- The current seating at the Stadium would be enhanced and additional seating, dressing rooms and storage facilities would be installed;
- The tennis courts located on the old reservoir to the east of Queen's Park Stadium are proposed to be converted to an artificial grass field;
- The area between the proposed natural grass and artificial turf field would be maintained as a drive way and could be converted to a plaza for additional game day events;
- Queen's Park Stadium would only be utilized by the Whitecaps for game day activities, and not for training or practice purposes;
- There would be approximately 14 home games per season;
- The Stadium would be available to the community when it is not in use by the USL Pro team;
- The south field at Queen's Park arena and the Upper Hume park field have been suggested as potential locations that could be redeveloped to accommodate a full sized baseball field;
- Some of the improvements for the Stadium have been identified in the City's five year capital plans;
- The proposal envisions increasing the seating capacity in the Stadium from 2000 to 3500 persons;
- Revenue could be earned through the rental of the facilities to the Whitecaps, ticket sales, concession sales, and sponsorship opportunities; and,
- Staff is investigating various components of the proposal, including maintenance, budget, parking, traffic, events scheduling, and possible impacts on the neighbourhood and community, as well as potential actions to mitigate any impacts on the neighbourhood.

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

- The outdoor summer movie series and other special events in the Stadium would not be impacted if the proposal moves forward;

- Staff are investigating permitting options to allow the sale of alcohol during games;
- While ticket prices are generally determined by the team operators, the City may be able to provide input if there is revenue sharing for ticket sales;
- An independent firm is in the process of developing an economic impact study for the proposal;
- Queen's Park currently has a parking capacity of 550 vehicles.

Discussion ensued and the Committee noted the following comments:

- It was suggested that local rugby teams could also utilize the soccer field;
- The proposal could support tourism and local hotels;
- Concerns were expressed regarding the ticket prices, and it was suggested that tickets could likely be reserved for community groups;
- It was suggested that a parking ticket could be purchased with an event ticket;
- Concerns were expressed for parking at Queen's Park Stadium, as well as for Queen's Park residents;
- It was suggested that a shuttle could be provided from SkyTrain stations and the Front Street parkade to mitigate traffic and parking impacts;
- It was suggested that Herbert Spencer Elementary School, Canada Games Pool and/or the Justice Institute parking lot be utilized for additional parking; and,
- It was suggested that the proposal could be tabled for one season to provide additional time to accommodate the requirements of the proposal.

## **6.0 CORRESPONDENCE**

There were no items.

## **7.0 NEW BUSINESS**

There were no items.

## **8.0 NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday, September 24, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.

**9.0 ADJOURNMENT**

**ON MOTION**, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Certified Correct,

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**Councillor Jonathan Cote**  
**Chair**

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**Lauren Blake**  
**Committee Clerk**