



REGULAR MEETING OF PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Wednesday, November 29, 2017, 6:00 p.m.
Queensborough Community Centre
920 Ewen Avenue

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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GUESTS:

Mark Smith	- New Westminster Minor Lacrosse Association
Bernie Lehmann	- Vice-President, New Westminster Minor Hockey Association
Daniel Fontaine	- Community Member Representative

STAFF PRESENT:

Dean Gibson	- Director of Parks and Recreation
Steve Kellock	- Senior Manager of Recreation Services and Facilities
Jay Young	- Manager of Recreation Services
Renee Chadwick	- Manager, Queensborough Community Centre
Debbie Johnstone	- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

1.0 ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

1.1 The following item was added to the agenda:

- Item 5.4 - Recap of gymnastic and trampoline programs at New Westminster elementary schools

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of October 5, 2017

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the October 5, 2017 Parks and Recreation Committee meeting minutes be adopted.

CARRIED.

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

Adoption of the Minutes of November 8, 2017

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the November 8, 2017 Parks and Recreation Committee meeting minutes be adopted.

CARRIED.

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

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Queensborough Community Centre Programs

Renee Chadwick, Manager, Queensborough Community Centre, provided the following update:

- Gurveen Dhaliwal has been named Chair from the Queensborough Special Programs Committee;
- Management staff from the Queensborough Community Centre recently attended a presentation at S.U.C.C.U.S.S. regarding immigration services. Applying for government documentation, intervention, and victim assistance are all offered through the social service agency two days per week;
- Queensborough Community Centre was awarded the 2017 Community Stakeholder of the Year Award from S.U.C.C.E.S.S.; and,

- The Queensborough Community Centre would be reaching out to other cultures in an effort to celebrate and recognize a broader spectrum of holidays and celebrations in the new year.

3.2 Building a Third Arena in New Westminster

Bernie Lehmann, New Westminster Minor Hockey Association, Mark Smith, New Westminster Minor Lacrosse Association, and Daniel Fontaine, Community Member, summarized a PowerPoint Presentation regarding the possibility of building a third arena in New Westminster.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Fontaine, Mr. Lehmann and Mr. Smith provided the following information:

- New Westminster could be considered a central location to accommodate sports tourism;
- Implementing a third arena could provide an opportunity for a combination of different sports not currently offered in New Westminster;
- Currently there has been a drop in hockey registration, which could be attributed to unfavourable ice times for players;
- Hosting larger tournaments could bring tourism and financial gain to the city;
- Implementing a third sheet of ice on the north side of Queens Park Arena could be cost efficient, and a practical design when hosting larger tournaments;
- An increase in the number of students in New Westminster requires additional facilities to accommodate that growth;
- Funding for the additional arena could be provided through the City, a private partnership, or a combination of the two;
- Ice rental rates at private rinks are often more expensive than City run facilities; and,
- The goal would be for competition of this project within the next five years.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- Ice space for curling, speed and figure skating could be considered in any potential plans for a future rink;
- The Arenex needs to be rebuilt, which should be considered when looking into the availability of capital funds;
- It was suggested that a partnership with Burnaby be considered in an effort to accommodate anticipated overflow at the current rinks;

- Equipment costs, hockey politics and potential injuries could also be factors in the decrease in enrollment for the New Westminster Minor Hockey Association;
- Timing for a new rink may not be suitable with the Canada Games Pool replacement project already underway; and,
- A partnership with Canlan Ice Sports could be considered to lessen the financial burden of the city.

Dean Gibson, Director of Parks and Recreation, provided the following additional information:

- Currently the Queen's Park Master Plan contemplates a third sheet of ice at the north end of Queen's Park Arena; however, no timeline for this project has been established;
- There would be adequate space to implement a third rink without encroaching onto the green space in Queens Park; and,
- An estimate for the cost of the rink would be between eight to fifteen million dollars.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the Parks and Recreation staff provide an analysis of implementing a third arena in New Westminster and provide a report back to the Committee.

CARRIED.

Brynn Bourke voted in opposition of this motion.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were no items.

5.0 REPORTS

5.1 Parks and Recreation Management System Update

Steve Kellock, Senior Manager of Recreation Services and Facilities , and Renee Chadwick, Queensborough Community Centre Manager, summarized the report regarding the implementation of new recreation software for the City.

Following questions from the Committee, Mr. Kellock and Ms. Chadwick provided the following information:

- Perfect Mind would allow for immediate access to account information and schedules;

- All information would remain in a Canadian-based cloud, meeting all the requirements suggested by the Freedom of Information Act;
- Users could be alerted via text message for program cancellations or changes to events;
- Data on the previous system could still be accessed through recreation staff;
- Community members who are unable to access this new system through a computer would still be welcome to enroll at Parks and Recreation facilities either in-person or over the phone;
- Library services could be utilized to help community members register;
- The City would be advertising through multiple avenues to ensure that the public is aware of this system change; and,
- The official launch for the system is targeted for February 20th, 2018.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- It was suggested that current advertising could benefit from race and age diversity;
- Providing a multi-language platform was suggested to promote social inclusion; and,
- System changes within a workplace can often be challenging, and it was suggested that staff be provided with adequate time for training.

Procedural Note: Renee Chadwick left the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

5.2 Small Dog Off-Leash Area Trial in Moody Park

Jay Young, Manager of Recreation Services, summarized the report dated November 29, 2017. Mr. Young informed the Committee that the proposed trial location was determined by the fact that it has not been over-used by large dogs. The proposed area could also allow for a private entrance.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee expressed concerns regarding the potential for an expansion of the current dog park. Extending the footprint of the dog park could affect others' enjoyment of Moody Park.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the Parks and Recreation Committee approve the installation of a temporary fence within the existing Moody Park Dog Enclosure to create a temporary small-dog-only-off-leash area for a four month trial starting in May, 2018.

CARRIED.

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

5.3 Parks and Recreation Refund Policy

Dean Gibson, Director of Parks and Recreation, summarized a report regarding the Refund Policy and Procedure for Parks and Recreation services.

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

- Adequate notice to the community would continue to be provided;
- The new refund policy would only apply to programs starting after the implementation of the policy;
- Judgement calls could be made at the facility manager level for policy exclusion due to extraordinary circumstances;
- If concerns were raised from the public regarding the seven day refund deadline another timeline could be considered; and,
- An online public survey selected \$10 as an acceptable cancellation fee.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- Providing an option to leave refunded program costs as a credit on a community members account without the cancellation fee is a fair alternative;
- It was suggested that the seven day timeline for the cancellation policy may not provide adequate time to fill program vacancies;
- Charging a pro-rated amount could be considered for those wanting to withdraw from programs mid-way through;
- Implementing a ‘tick-box’ in the new system to ensure community members have read and understood the refund policy before finalizing their registration was suggested; and,
- It was debated if Banquet and Social cancellations should be subject to a non-refundable fee if the space is able to be rebooked.

MOVED

THAT the Parks and Recreation Refund policy be amended to refund the cancellation fee for Banquet and Social rentals if rebooked.

WITHDRAWN

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the committee supports the Parks and Recreation Refund policy.

CARRIED.

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

Procedural Note: This item was addressed prior to item 5.3

5.4 Gymnastic and Trampoline in Elementary Schools

Jay Young, Manager of Recreation Services, reported the following information:

- Due to the collapse of the Arenex, gymnastic and trampoline programs have been implemented in a variety of facilities throughout the city;
- April through August programs were set up in the Massey Theatre gym at the New Westminster Secondary School;
- Programs in the fall were run through both Queen Elizabeth and FW Howay Elementary;
- Equipment would be set up two weeks before and two weeks after Spring break at Lord Tweedsmuir Elementary; and,
- Four months of full summer programs for gymnastic and trampoline would be offered at the Royal City Curling Club.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the Parks and Recreation Committee offer a motion of gratitude to staff for their continued efforts during the collapse of the Arenex.

CARRIED.

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

6.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items.

7.0 NEW BUSINESS

There were no items.

8.0 NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, January 31, 2017, 6:00 p.m. Queens Park Arena (North Lobby Meeting Room)

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Certified Correct,

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy
Chair

Debbie Johnstone
Committee Clerk