



RECREATION, CULTURE, AND PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

June 9, 2021 at 7:00pm
Via Zoom

A G E N D A

Page

A. APPROVAL AND RECEIPT OF AGENDA ITEMS

1. Recreation, Culture, and Parks Advisory Committee – June 9, 2021

Recommendation that Recreation, Culture, and Parks Advisory Committee approve the agenda and receive the agenda items of the June 9, 2021 meeting.

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1-4

1. Recreation, Culture, and Parks Advisory Committee – May 12, 2021

Recommendation that the Recreation, Culture, and Parks Advisory Committee adopt the Minutes of the May 12, 2021 meeting.

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

D. REPORTS

1. Council Co-Chairperson's Report

E. CORRESPONDENCE

5-6

1. Willoughby Community Park

Email from R. Coad

F. WORK PROGRAM

1. Virtual Parks Tour

G. COUNCIL REFERRALS

Page

H. OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. Museum Advisory Group Update

Update from D. Gendron

2. Community Arts Groups Update

Update from D. Gendron regarding Bard in the Valley

https://www.bardinthevalley.com/?fbclid=IwAR0hNQGdD-FFd-DNoQIs1_DRI7WlZXdUfFaTe4yis4WLXH-OYr6QROk1CUU

I. NEXT MEETING

Date: September 8, 2021

Location: TBD

Time: 7:00 pm

J. TERMINATE

Township of
Langley



Est. 1873

RECREATION, CULTURE, AND PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 12, 2021 at 7:12pm
Via Zoom

MINUTES

Present:

E. Erickson (Community Co-Chair)
Councillor K. Richter (Council Co-Chair)
Councillor E. Woodward (Council Co-Chair)

D. Gendron, M. Jackstien, D. Kang, K. Ludlam, M. Pratt, and J. Wilkins

School Board Representative:

D. Tod

Staff:

R. Stare, Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation
K. Stepto, Recording Secretary

A. APPROVAL AND RECEIPT OF AGENDA ITEMS

1. Recreation, Culture, and Parks Advisory Committee – May 12, 2021

Moved by M. Pratt,
Seconded by D. Kang,
That the Recreation, Culture, and Parks Advisory Committee approve the
agenda and receive the agenda items of the May 12, 2021 meeting, as
amended.

CARRIED

Clerk's Note: "Your Local Community" was added to the agenda.

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Recreation, Culture, and Parks Advisory Committee – April 14, 2021

Moved by J. Wilkins,
Seconded by M. Jackstien,
That the Recreation, Culture, and Parks Advisory Committee adopt the Minutes
of the April 14, 2021 meeting.

CARRIED

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

D. REPORTS

1. Council Co-Chairperson's Report

E. Erickson reported that the Volunteer Appreciation Task Force has completed its duties and thanked D. Kang, D. Todd, and J. Wilkins for their participation. The successful nominees will receive their awards at the end of June. He further reported that he attended the virtual BCRPA Annual Symposium where they discussed the impact of COVID-19 on recreation services and facilities. He will provide a full report at a future meeting. He thanked Council for planting a tree on Arbour Day in remembrance of R. and D. Wenman, his sister and brother-in-law.

Councillor Richter provided the following update:

- Council has referred an application from Metro Vancouver for a new washroom facility at Derby Reach Park to the ALC for their approval.
- Council has referred a subdivision application submitted by the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, on behalf of the owner of the property located at 8011 – 240 Street to the ALC. The Province wants to separate this forested area to protect rare birds.
- The Fees and Charges Bylaw has received final reading.
- Council passed a motion to confirm its commitment to restarting Active Beyond the Bell when it is safe to do so. They would like this program to have a full cost recovery within two years which will result in raising the fees. Council has also sent a letter to the local MLA's to inquire as to when \$10 per day Child Care will commence in the province.
- A virtual Open House took place for the Community Forest Management Strategy with over 120 participants. A public survey is available on the Township website.
- Council has approved the rezoning and disposal of the Alder Inn lands. The Public Plaza proposed at the site has been referred back to staff for more detail on how to reduce the cost of this temporary plaza.
- A new RCMP Superintendent has been hired – Inspector Adrian Marsden. Council has requested a report on the recent gang shootings in Langley.
- Metro Vancouver Parks Board received a presentation from Pacific Parkland Fundraising. As part of Earth Day, the BC Film Industry and Pacific Parkland have developed the "Reel Green" challenge to encourage filmmakers to reduce their environmental footprint. \$164,284 has been raised to date which will be put back into MV Parks.
- The MV Parks Report is now complete and will be presented at the end of the month to the Parks Board.
- In October 2019, Grouse Mountain was having trouble with a group of rock climbers cutting down trees and drilling holes into the rock to install climbing bolts. Two individuals have been charged and given a \$5,000 fine and are prohibited from park use for 12 months.

E. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Metro Vancouver Parks Committee – Derby Reach

The committee discussed the email received from S. Summers regarding Township of Langley park amenities, mainly the need for more dog parks. She noted that Walnut Grove has much need for more dog parks as there is currently only one. It was suggested that the committee discuss this further and send a motion to Council asking for dog parks to be fast tracked in the 2021 budget in areas that are lacking.

Action: Staff to provide the number of dog licenses issued in the Township over the past few years to the committee at the June meeting.

Action: The June Virtual Parks Tour to highlight the current and proposed dog parks in the Township.

F. WORK PROGRAM

1. Seniors Programs and Services

R. Stare reported that Seniors Week will take place from June 6-12, 2021 and that free swims will be offered at each of the pools. He further noted that seniors have been participating in the water walking programs at WC Blair and that plans are in place to offer more fitness classes and activities when the current COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

G. COUNCIL REFERRALS

H. OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. “Your Local Community”

In response to the delegation from B. Miller at the April meeting regarding solutions for combatting litter and graffiti, J. Wilkins reported that there has been increased vandalism in Fort Langley by the river. Boats are being tagged along with Township signs and other structures. He encouraged staff to follow up with B. Miller and his ideas to address this problem.

2. Museum Advisory Group Update

D. Gendron reported that the new museum will receive a First Nation blessing and that construction will start in June. Fundraising projects are now underway.

3. Community Arts Groups Update

D. Gendron reported that the Surrey Little Theatre has completed the necessary steps to sell their building, which the proceeds will go towards renovating the

H. OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Langley Playhouse. The two theatre companies have been working with an architect to create plans for transforming the stage and increasing backstage space. They hope to have a production in 2022 in the renovated theatre.

4. Langley Volunteer Awards

E. Erickson reported that the successful nominees have been chosen and will receive their awards at the end of June.

I. NEXT MEETING

Date: June 9, 2021
Location: via Zoom
Time: 7:00 pm

J. TERMINATE

Moved by J. Wilkins,
 Seconded by D. Gendron
 That the meeting terminate at 8:13pm.
CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

 Community Representative Co-Chair

 Council Representative Co-Chair

From: Ryan Coad <rcoad@shaw.ca>

Date: May 28, 2021 at 7:36:13 AM PDT

To: Eric Woodward <ewoodward@tol.ca>, Kim Richter <krichter@tol.ca>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Willoughby Community Park - RCPAC

Good Morning Councillor Richter and Woodward,

I am a resident of the Willoughby Neighbourhood of the Township of Langley for the past 8 years. I am married and have a daughter who is 10 years old that attends RC Garnett school and will later attend Peter Ewart and RE Mountain. As a family, we have used the Langley Events Centre and surrounding Willoughby Community Park on a weekly basis. We regularly take walks there, have used the spray park, play structures and sports fields. Outside of the pandemic, I play around 25 rec hockey games at the sheet of ice at the LEC. This park and facility are amazing and I am grateful for how well maintained they are and will continue to use the facilities as a family, thank you to mayor, council and the employees who care for this important community feature.

WHY AM I WRITING YOU?

I am writing to you as members of the Recreation, Culture and Parks Advisory committee to ask you to use your office and political influence to make minor adjustments to the way the sports fields are run by TOL Parks staff and to monitor the influence of user groups.

WHAT IS MY CONCERN?

The trend my family has noticed in the past few years is that the Willoughby Community Park is becoming less and less of a "Community" park and is turning into a pay for play facility that does not have space for pick-up, drop-in type of unstructured play. For instance, I was at the park 2 weeks ago after getting vaccinated at the LEC. I said to my daughter and wife, lets bring our baseball gloves and play catch after I get my shot. What I found was every field completely dominated by user groups in every corner of every field, Langley United etc. There was not one field I could use to just walk up to and play catch with my family, didn't really feel like a community park at all. This has been the trend over the past 3 years I would estimate, user groups get preference over residents. User groups are important, they provide structured play and help our young kids grow physically, mentally and emotionally, they also provide a revenue stream to assist in maintaining and improving our facilities. They should have an important seat at the table, but has it gone too far? At what point is a public space a space for all public? At what point is a "community park" no longer an asset to all in the community? The pandemic has exacerbated the issue because sports field bookings are not permitted, but "specific sports groups" may get special permissions known as "allocations" from TOL staff to use the field without a permit. The tol.ca website also states at <https://www.tol.ca/covid19/facility-status/>

"Park Facilities

- *All park facility bookings and park permits are cancelled until further notice.*
- *Where park facilities are open, visitors are reminded to follow all rules of use on posted signage, maintain physical distancing of at least 2 metres, and stay home if feeling unwell.*
- **Specific sports groups have been provided allocations for non-competitive training and in-association games in various Community Parks. “**

In other words, the public, nor anyone can book a sports field, however specific sports groups get special treatment if they are deemed to be important enough or are known to be heavy users who provide higher revenue than other groups. This is an assumption, and may be incorrect, but may need some investigating whether principles of fairness are being applied by those who have the authority to permit such "allocations". Prior to 2019, the field most drop-in, local, non-paying users would use was located at the North West corner adjacent to the detention pond along 200 Street, but in 2019-2020 a parking lot was paved over this grass field and a huge asphalt pad was installed for future grand stands. All that remain are artificial turf fields.

THE ASK

It's actually simple. Direct staff that one field at the Willoughby Community Park is not subject to booking and shall only be used for pick-up soccer games, playing some frisbee or football or catch with friends and family. This also benefits those who may not have the financial standing to put their children in sports programs. If this is too much to ask, restrict certain peak times for bookings on one field so that said field may be enjoyed by all (Eg. Mon-Fri 4:00-9:00pm).

Has the TOL gone too far with respect to building sports fields for user groups and forgetting about the everyday Joe Resident (Yorkson Community Park, Willoughby Community Park, Mcleod Athletic Park etc.)? I will leave that question for you.

If you would like to discuss my concern please feel free to contact me by phone or email, however, if you do not respond that is totally fine. Thank you for taking the time to hear me out.

With Respect,

Ryan Coad
51 – 7179 201 Street
Langley, BC
rcoad@shaw.ca
604.340.1537