



RECREATION, CULTURE, AND PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

October 12, 2016, at 7:00pm
Salmon River Committee Room
4th Floor, 20338 – 65 Avenue, Langley, BC

MINUTES

Present:

K. Medos (Co-Chair)
Councillor B. Whitmarsh (Co-Chair)

Present:

R. Camparmo, E. Erickson, M. Gill, and K. Ludlam

Staff:

A. Neufeld, Manager - Parks Administration, Design & Development
P. Tulumello, Acting Director - Recreation, Culture, and Parks
K. Stepto, Recording Secretary

In Attendance:

Councillor P. Arnason
G. Doubleday

A. APPROVAL AND RECEIPT OF AGENDA ITEMS

1. Recreation, Culture, and Parks Advisory Committee - October 12, 2016

Moved by M. Gill,
Seconded by R. Camparmo,
That Recreation, Culture, and Parks Advisory Committee approve the agenda
and receive the agenda items of the October 12, 2016 meeting.

CARRIED

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Recreation, Culture, and Parks Advisory Committee - September 14, 2016

Moved by R. Camparmo,
Seconded by K. Ludlam,
That Recreation, Culture, and Parks Advisory Committee adopt the Minutes of
the September 14, 2016 meeting.

CARRIED

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Library Services

David Thiessen, Manager, FVRL, provided an update on library services in the Township, and current trends and highlights. He commented that the future is becoming increasingly digital and that public libraries are in the business of building communities. Information was provided on the following seven trends:

1. Expanding Municipal Responsibilities

- Local Governments are being tasked with greater responsibilities. Many of these responsibilities include addressing a wide variety of social issues – affordable housing, poverty, homelessness, youth issues etc.
- Regional District Growth Strategies increasingly call for local governments to plan for the development of “Complete Communities”. A Complete Community strives to meet all (most) of the needs of its diverse residents locally.

2. Population Growth

- The Urban Development Institute predicts about 70% of growth to 2030 will happen in the Fraser Valley.
- The Township of Langley was the 2nd fastest growing municipality in FVRL between 2006 and 2011.

3. Technological Change

- Major technological advances are now taking place: self-driving cars, drones, quantum robotics etc.

4. Aging Population

- The older population is the fastest growing age group in Canada, but “new” older adults pose a different challenge.
- The baby boomer generation will be active longer than their counterparts in the past. They will place a higher demand on services and their preference will shift to increasingly leisure and cultural activities. They will use mainstream facilities much later in life rather than simply senior’s centres.

5. Increasing Immigration

- In 2015, Canada received the most immigrants since the settlement of Western Canada.
- In the decade between 2001 and 2011, the Township immigrant population increased by 38.8%, significantly higher than the increase of 23.7% in Metro Vancouver.

6. Social Isolation

- The 2012 Vancouver Foundation Survey “Connections and Engagement” concluded that the issue people most care about is not poverty or homelessness, but a growing sense of social isolation. With seniors living much longer, the issue of social isolation becomes even more critical.

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

7. Impact of Literacy

- There is increasing amount of research available regarding the impact of literacy.
- Brain development in the first three years of life is more important than any other stage.
- Literacy is being statically shown to improve health, increase political participation, and reduce crime.
- Almost 80% of people entering Canadian correctional facilities do not have their high school diploma.
- 65% of people entering Canadian correctional facilities have less than a grade 8 education of level of literacy skills.

How are our libraries evolving and adapting to these trends?

1. Libraries as “Learning Commons”

- The only public learning place in town – literacy, jobs, immigration and current technology.
- Cultivating reading and literacy through many programs, workshops, clubs etc.

2. Library as “Social Commons”

- Public square or community hub. Addressing the disconnected side of modern society.
- Programs for immigrants, poverty reduction, public access to internet/computers, local festivals, groups and clubs etc.

FVRL circulation (print only) in 2015 was 928,204. This is the highest ever. Programming in 2015 was up significantly, and the number of people in the libraries was 546, 788 (highest ever). There are 300 new cardholders being registered each month.

D. REPORTS

1. Co-Chairperson’s Reports

Councillor Whitmarsh commented on the query raised at the last meeting about the future of the Recreation, Culture, and Parks Division, and noted that the division is in a time of transition and that senior staff are still assessing the needs and direction for the division.

E. CORRESPONDENCE

F. WORK PROGRAM

1. Community Gardens

A. Neufeld provided an update on Community Gardens in the Township. He noted that the first community garden was constructed in 1997 at the Walnut Grove Community Park in partnership with the Rotary Club. Presently, community gardens are included in design of new parks and the Township assists in constructing new gardens, establishing Community Garden Groups, and providing Community Gardening Guidelines. Currently, there are 7 community gardens with a total of 334 plots, 575 gardeners, and 5 gardening groups. 106 people are on waitlists.

The Recreation, Culture, and Parks Divisions supports the development of Community Gardens by:

- Providing access to information on the development and operation of community gardens
- Assisting with the horticulture information and gridlines;
- Monitoring the overall operation of the Community Garden;
- Maintaining all the permanent aspects of the garden (eg. tool shed, arbors, water supply system);
- Maintaining the grounds surrounding the garden plots; and
- Approving garden plot fees and all the proposed changes, improvements, or additions to the garden.

2. Trails Advisory Group

A. Neufeld reported that 40 people have expressed an interest in being on the Advisory Group, and that Metro Vancouver Parks and SD#35 have confirmed they will participate.

3. Langley Awards

K. Medos reported that the nomination committee will be having their first meeting before the end of October with the goal of getting the letters and information out to the public sooner than in past years.

The nominating committee consists of:

K. Medos
K. Ludlam
M. Jackstien

G. COUNCIL REFERRALS

H. OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. Committee Application Process 2017

Members of the Recreation, Culture, and Parks Advisory Committee whose terms are expiring in December 2016 are welcome to re-apply at www.tol.ca/committees. Application deadline is October 28, 2016.

2. RCPAC Christmas Gathering

Several suggestions were made for the December event:

- Attend a Giant's Game
- Have a baking class at "Well Seasoned"
- Tour of the Trading Post Brewery
- Attend a Rivermen Game

Staff will report look into these and report back at the November meeting.

3. Christmas in Williams Park

A. Neufeld distributed information regarding volunteering for Christmas in Williams Park. Volunteers are needed to assist with set-up, take down, and to greet visitors during the event.

I. NEXT MEETING

Date: November 9, 2016
Location: Salmon River Committee Room
4th Floor, 20338 – 65 Avenue
Time: 7:00pm

J. TERMINATE

Moved by E. Erickson,
Seconded by R. Camparmo,
That the meeting terminate at 9:00pm.
CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Community Representative Co-Chair

Council Representative Co-Chair