A Regular Meeting of the Recreation, Sports and Culture Standing Committee convened on Monday, November 9, 2009 at 4:05 p.m. in the Council Committee Room, City Hall, 3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, B.C. with the following persons present:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Councillor Doug Macdonell, Chair
Councillor Barrie Lynch, Vice-Chair
Councillor Brent Asmundson

OTHERS PRESENT: Councillor Linda Reimer
Councillor Selina Robinson

STAFF: Peter Steblin, City Manager
John DuMont, Deputy City Manager
Lori MacKay, General Manager Leisure and Parks Services
Tony Delmonico, Fire Chief
Rob Innes, Manager Community Planning
Wendy Wiederick, Community Area Manager
Sonia Santarossa, Manager Corporate Planning
Dave Palidwor, Parks Plan, Design and Construction Manager
Ron Price, Manager Human Resources
Wayne Beggs, Manager Economic Development
Claudette Haire, Manager Business Services
Kerri Lore, Deputy City Clerk
Karen Wanders, Committee Clerk

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Recreation, Sports and Culture Standing Committee meeting held Monday, October 26, 2009

The Committee approved the Minutes of the Recreation, Sports and Culture Standing Committee meeting held Monday, October 26, 2009.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes.
DELEGATION

2. Dr. Elaine Golds – Burke Mountain Naturalists – Colony Farm Sustainability Plan

Dr. Elaine Golds, President, Burke Mountain Naturalists, appeared before the Committee to speak to Metro Vancouver’s Colony Farm Regional Park Sustainability Plan. She highlighted the following:

- The history of Colony Farm Regional Park
- The three main designated uses for Colony Farm
- Concerns with Metro Vancouver’s Colony Farm Regional Park Sustainability Plan, including:
  - The Plan was developed at invitation only workshops which had considerable representation from agricultural interests but limited representation from those with other fields of interest and expertise
  - The Plan pays insufficient attention to the existing Land Use Plan for Colony Farm
  - The Plan calls for the introduction of commercial agricultural interest into the Regional Park
  - The Plan calls for the Principal Farmer to be put in charge of wildlife integration
  - The Plan proposes the creation of fish habitat within areas presently designated for wildlife which would result in the loss of “old field” habitat
  - The Plan appears to propose intensive agricultural use in fields on the Port Coquitlam side of the river in areas designated for integrated management (i.e. for both wildlife and agriculture)
  - The Plan does not appear to make adequate reference to important strategic initiatives of Metro Vancouver with regard to such things as the conservation of biodiversity and ecological health
  - The Plan will be hugely expensive with little value for the public

Dr. Golds also noted that, in terms of funding, the Burke Mountain Naturalists would like to see Metro Vancouver pay some attention to the following:

- Re-establishment of the trail through the Sheep Paddocks so that this critical link in the “PoCo” trail can be restored
- Restoration of the only two remaining heritage buildings
- Restoration of the former farm manager’s residence as a caretaker’s cottage in order to provide security (as security has been a growing issue at Colony Farm for some time)

In conclusion, Dr. Golds stated that the Burke Mountain Naturalists would like to see more emphasis on activities that support public use at Colony Farm, not private agriculture, and a greater emphasis on protecting its wildlife values.
Copies of Ms. Golds' presentation were circulated to the Committee, a copy of which is on file and available from the City Clerk's Office.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:
- The fact that Council requested, and Metro Vancouver agreed, to defer finalizing their approach on the Colony Farm Regional Sustainability Plan to allow for greater public consultation to take place with respect to the Plan
- Ensuring that sufficient public input is received
- Consulting with the City of Port Coquitlam as Colony Farm is located within both municipalities

The Delegation left the meeting at this time (4:23 p.m.).

REPORTS OF STAFF


The General Manager Leisure and Parks Services provided introductory comments relating to the 2010 Leisure and Parks Fees and Charges. She highlighting the policies and practices in place for the establishment of fees and charges for leisure and parks services and suggested that Council may, in future years, wish to incorporate decisions related to Leisure and Parks Services fees and charges as part of their annual budget deliberations so as to see the impact of their decisions while engaged in deliberations around expenses.

The Manager Business Services provided an overview of the staff report. She first spoke regarding the methods used for establishing fees and charges related to admission based programs and sport facility rentals and highlighted the following:
- Fees are based on the calculation of averages and are set to be no higher than the average of neighbouring municipalities
- On an annual basis the average calculations are reviewed and recalculated and increased by the rate of inflation
- Where the inflationary increase would result in the fee exceeding the average, the increase is capped at the average rate
- This year, the average for budget purposes is 0%
- Other municipalities have increased their fees meaning that the City is, in most cases, below the average for most of the fees that relate to that calculation

She also spoke regarding the process for establishing program fees and meeting room rental rates and highlighted the following:
- Fees and rates are set based on a cost-recovery basis
- Guidelines are set within the policy but are more at the discretion of staff to look at where the market is and to introduce new program opportunities
The General Manager Leisure and Parks Services also spoke regarding the impact of the HST on fees and charges for leisure and parks services. She noted that in anticipation of the HST, the 2010 admission and membership rates will be listed at the pre-tax price so that when the HST is implemented, the Fees and Charges document will not have to be revised. She also noted that by displaying the pre-tax price it will show the customer that the rates have not changed and that the 7% increase to the cost of their visit is a result of the implementation of the HST.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:
- The meeting room rental rates for private and commercial users
- Researching and comparing rental rates in neighbouring municipalities
- The importance of considering market pricing and conditions
- The additional revenue the City would receive should the 2010 fees and charges be set to the “average”
- The fact that in order to maintain the “Loonie” and “Toonie” program the program will need to be subsidized by the City

The Committee Recommends:

COUNCIL ACTION
That:
1. The fees and charges for leisure and parks services, which are set based on the average calculations and which are currently below the average, be increased to the average;
2. The private and commercial rates for meeting room rentals be increased by 10%; and
3. That based on the above recommendations, Council approve the 2010 Leisure and Parks Services Fees and Charges, noting that in future years they will be referred to budget, and that they be included as a Schedule of Fees to the City of Coquitlam Fees & Charges Bylaw for consideration with the 2010 – 2014 Financial Plan.

4. Report of General Manager Leisure and Parks Services – Mundy Park Dog Off-Leash Facility Status Update

The Parks Plan, Design and Construction Manager provided on-screen presentation depicting before and after photos of the Mundy Park Dog Off-Leash Facility.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:
- The maintenance activities and associated costs (i.e. sustaining the grass feature)
- Managing the public’s expectations of the Dog Off-Leash Facility
- Exploring corporate sponsorship opportunities
- Exploring cost recovery measures (i.e. selling signage for placement on the surrounding fence, increasing the dog license fee)
That Committee received the report dated November 2, 2009 from the General Manager Leisure and Parks Services entitled “Mundy Park Dog Off-Leash Facility – Status Update” for information.

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEE**

5. **Minutes of Coquitlam Olympic Torch Relay Task Force meeting held Wednesday, October 21, 2009**

The Committee received the minutes of the Coquitlam Olympic Torch Relay Task Force meeting held Wednesday, October 21, 2009.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

I-1 Minutes of the Coquitlam Athletic Commission meeting held on Thursday, August 6, 2009

I-2 Minutes of the Coquitlam Public Library Board meeting held on Wednesday, September 23, 2009

**NEXT MEETING DATE – NOVEMBER 30, 2009**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT

Karen Wanders
Committee Clerk