

CITY OF BURNABY

THE PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE COMMISSION

MINUTES

2011 MAY 18

An 'Open' meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission was held in the Fireside Room, Burnaby Art Gallery, 6344 Deer Lake Avenue, Burnaby, B.C., on Wednesday, 2011 May 18 at 18:40 hr., followed immediately by a 'Closed' meeting from which the public was excluded. At the conclusion of the 'Closed' meeting, the 'Open' meeting was reconvened at 19:00 hr. in the Main Gallery.

PRESENT: Commissioner Dhaliwal in the Chair
 Commissioners Alkins-Jang
 Calendino
 Di Spirito
 Foley
 Nasu
 Peppard
 Purdy
 School Trustee Wang

ABSENT: Commissioner O'Neill

STAFF PRESENT: D. Ellenwood, Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
 W. Scott, Assistant Director-Recreation
 D. Hunter, Assistant Director-Parks
 D. O'Connor, Assistant Director-Golf Operations
 D. Nokony, Assistant Director-Cultural Services
 H. Edwards, Manager-Parks Planning, Design and Development
 D. Pelletier, Manager-Business Operations
 K. Armstrong, Manager Recreation Services
 D. Martens, Curator - Burnaby Art Gallery
 G. Parent, Arts Services Manager
 M. Cirotto, Commission Secretary
 T. Cheng, Recording Secretary

The Chair welcomed the audience to the meeting and introduced the Commissioners and the School Board Liaison in attendance. Commissioner O'Neill left earlier this evening as she did not feel well and sent her regrets. The Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services introduced staff members in attendance.

The Chair advised that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission meet once a month at the City Hall. In addition, they have three community meetings a year. An explanation of the sequence of the agenda was provided, including an invitation for members of the audience to speak with Commission on matters of interest during the question and answer period.

The Chair called the meeting to order.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER ALKINS-JANG, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PEPPARD:
“THAT the ‘Open’ Commission meeting do now reconvene.”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The ‘Open’ Commission meeting reconvened in the Main Gallery at 19:00 hr.

MINUTES

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER ALKINS-JANG, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PEPPARD:
“THAT the Minutes of the ‘Open’ Meeting of 2011 April 20 be approved.”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATION

The following request to appear as a delegation was received:

- (a) Spokesperson: Ms. Carole Katzmann
Cameron Seniors Society
Subject: Cameron Recreation Centre and Library

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER NASU, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CALENDINO:
“THAT the delegation be heard.”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Ms. Carole Katzmann, representative of Cameron Seniors Society, commented that there is an urgent need for expansion of the Cameron Recreation Centre and Library for seniors programs and activities. When Cameron Recreation Centre was opened in 1980, the seniors section was not expected to be a major player in the building. According to B.C. Statistics, between 1981 and 1996 the senior population has increased 63%. Between 1981 and 2005 the senior population jumped from 2.4 million to 4.2 million. Their membership at the centre is 1,000 – an increase of 40% over the past 10 years. With more and more highrise buildings around the Cameron Recreation Centre, there seems to be a concentration of seniors population in the area. There has been minor modification to the building over the past few years. Many requested activities and some social events have been restricted or delayed because of the lack of rooms or available time. A list of needed activity space was provided with their delegation request. It includes an office for the board of directors, a banquet hall to seat 300 for bingo and other events, a room for massage and foot-care, a double gym for tennis, volleyball, badminton, basketball, a dance studio, arts and crafts studio, a larger snooker room with four tables, a larger seniors lounge, a proper kitchen, an exercise and weightroom for seniors, a workshop for woodworking, more parking space, etc.

The Commission noted that the seniors centres vary in space, membership size, activity area and recreation facilities. The expansion of seniors centres is a long-term project. The Commission inquired regarding the percentage of Cameron Seniors Society members living in Burnaby.

Mr. Lennox Akow advised that their badminton club attracts seniors of other centres. Ms. Katzmann advised that the number of Burnaby members will be provided to the Commission.

The Chair advised that staff will review what can be done in the short term to accommodate Cameron seniors' activities.

PRESENTATION

The Curator of Burnaby Art Gallery provided a history of the gallery which began in 1967 as a place of discovery and has been dedicated to Canadian print culture ever since. The gallery sees itself as a community touchstone of art. In the past few years, it has expanded its mandates to include cooperation as an art institution to serve a diverse array of constituencies. One of the core functions of the gallery is exhibition. Over the past few years, it has expanded its partnerships to include art galleries in New York City, McMaster Museum of Art, the Medicine Hat Art Gallery and the Moose Jaw Art Gallery. The gallery has also undertaken to develop two new types of exhibitions – individual artist's collection focus and community focus series of exhibitions – with the hope to build capacity. Also the library series continue to be a part of art exhibition program. Of pertinent importance to the gallery are its collections. Collections are part of our history, culture, ideas from generation to generation, people as well as places where we live and how we thrive. Accessibility to the collections has been improved. More shows are held with focus on the collection. The gallery continues to collect artwork and artworks relevant to this community. With a collection of nearly 5,000 works of art, Burnaby Art Gallery is the third largest art museum within B.C. Its public programs are key component as means for the gallery to have a community dialogue and engagement. The school programs are key initiatives to involve youth and develop art in our community. Through a vast matrix of in-house and outreach programs, the gallery engages people of all ages. Its volunteer program continues to be a place of discovery and adventure. Ms. Torrie Groening, a member of the Burnaby Art Gallery Advisory Committee, was in the audience.

CORRESPONDENCE

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER FOLEY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PURDY:
"THAT the following items of correspondence be received."

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- (a) Ms. Tammy Ozero inquired regarding the absence of teen swimming programs at Robert Burnaby Pool in spring and summer this year.

A report on this subject will be submitted at a future meeting.

- (b) Ms. Shirley Sinclair, 5430 Portland Street, Burnaby, B.C., suggested that concrete picnic tables, benches and garbage bins be installed in the designated Rumble Park area in the 5200 block on Rumble Street for area residents and the school community to gather and enjoy the area.

A notation appended to this item of correspondence advised that staff has contacted Shirley Sinclair and are working with her to look at possible solutions.

- (c) Ms. Shirley Sinclair suggested that a grant of \$500 from the Vancouver Foundation be applied towards a bench for a picnic area west of the South Burnaby Secondary School on Rumble Street in the designated Rumble Park area.

A notation appended to this item of correspondence advised that staff has contacted Shirley Sinclair and are working with her to look at possible solutions.

- (d) Mr. Justin Hoffmann, #10 – 7488 Southwynde Avenue, Burnaby, B.C., requested Council to reconsider the decision to remove some of the trees in Byrne Creek Ravine Park.

- (e) The City Clerk advised that Council received a report re: Confederation Park Rubberized Track and forwarded a copy of the report to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission for information.

REPORT

- (a) The Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services submitted his Report No. 5 dated 2011 May 18, covering the following items listed as 1 - 3.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER CALENDINO, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER NASU:
“THAT the Director’s Report be received.”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Item 1 – 2011/2012 Facility Use, Program and Services Fee Schedule

The report outlined the recommended fee structure to be effective 2011 September 01 for Recreation and Cultural Services. A market survey is completed comparing Burnaby’s admission rates, allotment rates and program fees to those of other local municipalities to ensure that Burnaby’s rates are reasonable and competitive. Based on this research and analysis, inflationary projections as well as increased costs, it is recommended that there be a 3% overall increase.

It was recommended:

1. THAT the 2011/2012 Facility Use Fee Schedule (Attachment “A”) and the 2011/2012 Program and Service Fees (Attachment “B”) be approved as outlined in this report and circulated under separate cover.
2. THAT Council be requested to approve the 2011/2012 Facility Use Fee Schedule (Attachment “A”) as outlined in this report and circulated under separate cover.
3. THAT Council be requested to bring forward the :
 - Burnaby Recreation Fees and Admissions Bylaw 2011
 - Burnaby Shadbolt Centre and Burnaby Art Gallery Rental Fee Bylaw 2011
 - Burnaby Village Museum Fees Bylaw 2011.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER ALKINS-JANG, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CALENDINO:
“THAT the three recommendations be approved.”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Item 2 - Western Canadian Junior Fastpitch Championship request for support

At its meeting of 2011 April 20, Commission received a delegation from Ms. Josie Bradley, President of Burnaby Senior Fastpitch Association and Chair of the Western Canadian Junior Fastpitch Championship Host Committee. The Championship will be hosted by the Burnaby Hurricanes Junior Women’s team and will be held at Squint Lake Park, 2011 August 04-07. Ms. Bradley requested \$9,441 in the form of in-kind support from Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Department.

Staff are able to support the event with tables and chairs located at a recreation facility which is closed for maintenance at that time. Five pop up tents are also available from various City facilities. The host committee would be required to cover the cost of transporting equipment to Squint Lake Park and back, estimated to be approximately \$800. While the City is unable to fulfill all the requests for in-kind items required by this group, Squint Lake Park was made a priority to receive park maintenance improvement this year.

It was recommended:

1. THAT a copy of this report be forwarded to Ms. Bradley, Chair of the Western Canadian Junior Fastpitch Championship Host Committee.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER CALENDINO, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER NASU:
“THAT the recommendation be approved.”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Item 3 - Bylaw to fund Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services 2011 Capital Projects

The 2011 Annual Capital Budget for Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services contains nine projects to be funded from Capital Reserves. To enable work to go ahead on these projects, approval was requested to bring down a bylaw for funding.

It was recommended:

1. THAT the expenditure of \$1,069,000 from the Annual Capital Budget for the projects outlined in this report be approved.
2. THAT Council be requested to bring down a bylaw to appropriate \$1,197,280 (inclusive of 12% HST) from Capital Reserves to finance the projects.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER CALENDINO, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PURDY:
"THAT the two recommendations be approved."

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Commissioner Calendino suggested that staff arrange a workshop on playgrounds for the Commission.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Alkins-Jang advised that she and Commissioner O'Neill attended Burnaby Art Gallery's fund raiser at the Hart House recently. The Riverway Clubhouse is a nice new facility and well received by the public. Several Commissioners attended the recent opening of the South Central Youth Centre. Many local youth came out to help celebrate its opening. Also the lawn bowling season has begun.

Commissioner Purdy also attended the opening ceremonies of the South Central Youth Centre and the Riverway Clubhouse.

INQUIRIES

Commissioner Alkins-Jang advised that she was approached by a member of the public regarding the absence of recycling containers at Riverway Golf Course.

Staff advised that the garbage is sorted upon collection.

PUBLIC COMMENT/QUESTION PERIOD

The Chair announced the beginning of the public comment/question period. The audience was encouraged to speak to the Commission on matters of interest or concern.

Mr. Brian Daniel, President of Burnaby Arts Council, advised that Ms. McCutcheon is a director of Burnaby Arts Council. Mr. Daniel advised that Burnaby Arts Council was involved with the Cultural Blast and collaborated with Burnaby Art Gallery, Burnaby Village Museum and Shadbolt Centre for the Arts. They like the building that houses the gallery but there are some issues.

Ms. Irene McCutcheon, 5762 Eglinton Street, Burnaby, B.C., passed a list of art galleries to the Commission. Ms. McCutcheon spoke to the Commission on May 19th last year, on February 16th this year, and here again to advocate for a new contemporary art gallery. Burnaby is rich with many community and recreational facilities. However, we need a new contemporary art gallery. Burnaby has the third largest art collection in the province with over 4,600 works. Burnaby Art Gallery has a very valuable print collection – over 3,100 prints that are not being seen. The mostly 20th century art collection with its prints, photographs, paintings and collages is yearly increasing in value in an administrative storage area and the basement. While the Burnaby Art Gallery has worked hard to provide leading edge exhibits and programs, it has been hampered by the inadequacy and size of the hundred year old Ceperley House - the main floor exhibition area is 1,150 sq.ft. and the second floor is 650 sq.ft. In 1987, when the new Bob Prittie Library was designed, the plan included a possible new art gallery. In 1998, when the Shadbolt Centre for the Arts was designed, the plan also included a new bigger art gallery in Deer Lake Park. According to the Burnaby Art Gallery Planning Study final report, there were a number of requirements that were not met. These include insufficient space to exhibit the collection, lack of higher ceilings for exhibiting contemporary works, inadequate space for receiving and orienting visitors, inadequate office space, insufficient collection storage, inadequate shipping, receiving area, inadequate environmental control for exhibition storage for the collection plus a lack of seminar and meeting rooms and event space. Both plans for a new art gallery did not materialize. They feel the time is right for a contemporary art gallery for Burnaby. A theatre space for videos or talks should also be considered. These are quite usual spaces in most city art galleries. The directors of Burnaby Arts Council unanimously voted just this month to support a proposal for a new contemporary art gallery in Burnaby.

Mr. Daniel advised that culture is a proven tourist attraction and it has an economic benefit. Burnaby Arts Council supports a new Burnaby Art Gallery. In the rationale of Burnaby's Arts Policy adopted in 1990, it states "for community to embrace the arts as a vital part of everyday life, it requires a special kind of vision". It is important for Burnaby and its citizens to get on a dream and a vision. The economic multiplier is 2.5 for arts for arts investment. The new art gallery can be located near the Shadbolt Centre or in the Metrotown area. Burnaby Arts Council wants to be a partner to find possibilities and avenues to achieve a new art facility that would further develop an environment in which people may explore, discover, create, celebrate through art. Art will provide for those additional human needs and encourage a higher quality of life for citizens. They think a new civic theatre is needed as spaces are hard to book. For start, a report may be provided by staff regarding the feasibility of a new art gallery.

The Chair thanked Ms. McCutcheon and Mr. Daniel for their interest and comments. The concern of the Commission based on the current information is whether, as a city, we are able to sustain the envisioned new art gallery and civic theatre. We have seen some ups and downs in terms of attendance of art programs, attendance, acceptance by the public, etc. We have also looked at Surrey's and Vancouver's programs and whether we can do something that would meet the kind of thinking brought up at the time to add the facilities to the city. These are the reasons that the proposed projects have not moved forward in the 1980s. When we have a clearly demonstrated need of many things we hear from all sectors in terms of other things that the Commission needs to do, a new art gallery continues to be further away because there are a whole lot of things that the community urgently needs. All identified needs are assessed and forwarded to Council for approval.

Mr. Daniel advised that a number of needs have been presented for a new art gallery. There are other angles and ways which can be studied in a feasibility report to serve the community's cultural needs.

Ms. McCutcheon advised that the need is there. The Ceperley House is not a suitable art gallery. Other cities such as Richmond and Surrey have art galleries. Finland's small communities have beautiful seniors' centres, libraries, art buildings and theatres. Burnaby attracts a lot of people to attend the summer music programs such as the Blues concerts. That can happen with the art too. Art is a quiet past time but it is something a picture says to you. It is always a wonderful thing to visit an art gallery and see what your eyes tell you. Fort Worth in Dallas has three galleries close to each other. Ms. McCutcheon invited the Commission to tour the basement of the Ceperley House to see the collection.

Ms. Torrie Groening, a member of the Burnaby Art Gallery Advisory Committee, advised that she has a history with the Burnaby Art Gallery as an artist. She studies and is involved in print making. She and her family donated serious artworks across the country and the United States and chose the museums very carefully. Some of the prints that they donated to the Burnaby Art Gallery include very important prints by Jack Shadbolt. The basement is not suitable to store the artworks, some of which are very big. Ceperley House does not offer enough room for an art gallery. The Commission has been fortunate over the last decades for what people have been able to do. The art collection is outstanding. People involved with arts are attracted to it from all over the world. The gallery is not elevated to the importance of the collection and the work that has been done. Ms. Groening invited the Commission to be more involved and view the existing treasures.

The Chair thanked Ms. Groening for her support of the Burnaby Art Gallery and the city. The Commission will take a look at the issue.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER CALENDINO, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PURDY:
"THAT the 'Open' meeting do now adjourn."

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The 'Open' Meeting adjourned at 20:30 hr.

Confirmed:

Certified Correct:

CHAIR

SECRETARY

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