

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF NORTH VANCOUVER
Regular meeting of the Social Planning Advisory Committee
Held in City Hall, Conference Room 'A'
On Wednesday, April 25, 2018 at 6:00pm

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Steve Tornes, Chair
Cassandra Buckley
Arash Ehteshami
Jasreen Janjua
Tina Parbhakar
Heather Urquhart

ABSENT:

Naz Kohan, Vice Chair
Etienne Normandin
Holly Back, Councillor
Jolene Kennett

STAFF:

Heather Evans, Community Planner
Edytha Barker, Committee Clerk
Heather Reinhold, Deputy Director
Jennifer Wilson, NVRC, Manager of
Recreation & Culture
Paul Fast, Principal, HCMA Architecture &
Design

9 members – quorum = 5

1 Councillor (non-voting) 2 staff (non-voting)

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF UNCEDED TERRITORY

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of March 28, 2018 were adopted as circulated.

4. PRESENTATION

a. New Harry Jerome Community Recreation Centre

H. Reinhold introduced the presentation. She explained this presentation is on the Harry Jerome Community Recreation Centre only; the project on the Harry Jerome Neighbourhood Lands is in partnership with Darwin Properties and is happening in tandem with this one. P. Fast and J. Wilson also presented.

Key Points included:

- Staff have been authorized by Council to move forward with A schematic design of the recreation centre, which includes character, form and budget. This is high-level work and will be brought back to Council in July for endorsement.
- HCMA Architecture & Design is the firm that has been chosen. They have a lot of community based rec centres across the country. They take very seriously the fact that rec centres are vital to the social fabric of communities.
- They are looking at the design from a social perspective and have developed a vision statement.
- Will be doing a study to measure the existing centre and benchmark it towards the future; this helps to make informed decisions about how to move forward.
- An idea fair was held and qualitative data was gathered from the community; a variety of stakeholders have also been met with.
- The site itself will be north of the existing centre; the identity and character will be distinctly North Vancouver.
- One of the unique challenges is that this will be one of the biggest rec centres in the Lower Mainland.
- Heard from the community that: informal social spaces are important, need range of scale, bring in daylight and fresh air when possible, green spaces are important and natural spaces for kids to play is important.

J. Wilson then spoke on the mandate of the North Vancouver Recreation and Culture Commission and gave some highlights of the current and future expected use of HJRC.

Questions/Comments from SPAC included but where not limited to:

- Will the current parking be gone? Will there be an increase in parking?
 - Yes, the current parking is where the new development will be.
 - Yes, the parking will increase significantly. We are doing a transportation study and the new parking will be status quo or better.
- Will Silver Harbour Centre have their own building?
 - J. Wilson: A bit of both; kind of a hybrid to accommodate the uses they have now as well as an opportunity to use the rest of the rec centre.
- Are there other sites in the Lower Mainland where you have done a similar type of project?
 - P. Fast: Yes, each one is quite unique, Hillcrest Centre in Vancouver is about the same in terms of size. We learned a lot with Hillcrest; for budget reasons we had to make some hard choices. They had anticipated 1.5 million visits; they now get 2.5 million visits. West Van Community Centre is similar in terms of being a central gathering space.
- Is there any kind of aboriginal principles or values that are being incorporated or considered?
 - P. Fast: Not specifically, we are sensitive to land and context. Access to natural space is a fundamental principle.
- Very good presentation. The social heart really stood out, I like the intermingling of youth and seniors.
- You mentioned that you wanted to do a survey of current Harry Jerome users on how to make social principles better. Will you be collecting information through membership cards?

- Yes, we will analyze all data that exists and find out what more we need to gather. We gather a lot of data through all our facilities; we will be able to share that information.
- There seems to be a lot of parking; I have a concern there is not more focus on active transportation. There is a lot of congestion already; I am wondering whether we should be making it easier for people to park cars and use their cars.
 - P. Fast: There will be bike parking and end of trip facilities. In an ideal world, people would walk or bike to the rec centre. But in looking at the whole world, people come from far away to use rec centres, and they will drive. Most important is that all are treated equally, whether arriving on foot or by bike or car.
- You talked about equity in terms of making it accessible to all residents. I am wondering whether you will be proactively reaching out to low income and marginalized groups, to ensure their participation, or whether you will simply be reducing their barriers to entry. Is your conception of equity passive or proactive?
 - J. Wilson: Staff are connected and working one on one to remove barriers.
- Do you have subsidized memberships?
 - J. Wilson: Yes, we have a financial assistance policy and we make sure it is as easy as possible for those who need it to access and use.
- Regarding the skate and parkour community, what is the gender make up and age range for that?
 - H. Reinhold: It is interesting, at our first consultant event, the age range was amazing, but strong on male. Through programming we have a lot of different activities that happen in the skate park and different design options.
 - P. Fast: We are working with the designer who designed the original skate park. They would like to see more woman in the sport.

It was regularly moved and seconded:

THAT, the Social Planning Advisory Committee, having received the presentation entitled "Harry Jerome Community Recreation Centre, Emerging Concept Design", supports this project in principle and encourages Council to pay particular attention in the areas of:

- Indigeneity: Recognition of indigenous culture, history and land, ensuring that aboriginal values and perspectives are considered;
- Active transportation: Prioritization of low emission, active transportation modes to reach the Centre; and
- Equity: Reaching out to include under-represented populations in the design process and use.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. UPDATES

- a. Councillor - Unavailable
- b. Staff - Deferred to the next meeting.

