

Corporate Report

NO: R168

COUNCIL DATE: June 27, 2005



REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **June 24, 2005**

FROM: **General Manager, Planning and Development General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture** FILE: **6130 - 01 6140-20 (South Surrey)**

SUBJECT: Track Surface for the South Surrey Track Facility

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council:

1. Receive this report as information;
2. Approve an additional budget allocation of \$98,000 for the South Surrey Track project from the Legacy Fund, for the purpose of upgrading the track surface from a spray-on polyurethane surface to a multi-layer (sandwich) system surface, conditional upon the Peninsula Athletic Society:
 - (a) providing to the City, immediately, a cash contribution for the subject project of \$62,000; and
 - (b) entering into a legally binding agreement with the City to pay to the City a total of \$98,000, paid in equal annual instalments over a five-year period, ending December 31, 2010.

INTENT

At its Regular Meeting on June 20 2005, Council requested that staff review and provide a report back to Council, by June 27, 2005, on the merits, costs and potential cost recovery opportunities related to installing a multi-layer (sandwich) surface on the new track in the South Surrey Athletic Park, instead of a spray-on polyurethane track surface as is currently proposed.

BACKGROUND

The South Surrey Track was designed on the understanding that the facility would primarily be used for community-scale track and field meets. The focus for the facility was not regional, provincial, national or international-level events, since it will not have high capacity seating, a large field-house complex or public parking areas large enough to support large track and field events. In the City, high-level track meets can be held at Bear Creek Park, which features a track constructed using the "sandwich-system" surface, has spectator seating for approximately 1,500, a large public parking

area, and other facilities suitable for large track events.

In discussions with British Columbia Amateur Athletics, staff has been advised that a sandwich system is the standard necessary to host a regional, provincial or national-level competition.

Based on its primary focus as a community-scale facility, the South Surrey Track has been designed with a red-coloured spray-on polyurethane track surface. This surface will provide a satisfactory level of service for community-scale use and events.

The local track community has requested that the City upgrade the track surface to the multi-layer (sandwich) system. It is estimated that this change to the track surface will cost an additional \$160,000, in comparison to the spray-on surface. At present, this amount is not available within the project budget for the South Surrey Track.

DISCUSSION

The local track community has requested (see Appendix I - memorandum dated May 2, 2005, attached for reference) that the City install the "sandwich-system" track surface for several reasons, as follows:

- to retain the ability to host designated track events at the South Surrey Track;
- because it is a superior surface for competitive training for track events; and
- it has a longer life span in comparison to the spray-on track surface.

Based on Council's recent direction in this matter, staff contacted a representative of the Peninsula Athletic Society. The Society, representing the track and field community, has advised that if the City is prepared to install the sandwich-system track, the Society would be prepared to sign a legal agreement to repay to the City, the \$160,000, over a five year period, ending December 31, 2010. The representative of the track and field community further advised that \$62,000 has already been raised towards the South Surrey Track and Field project, as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| • Peninsula Runners | \$25,000 |
| • Peace Arch Rotary | \$17,000 |
| • Peninsula Athletics Society | \$20,000 |

The Society had previously advised the City that it intended to purchase equipment for the track (hurdles, vaulting mats, etc.) with these funds. It was estimated that the equipment would cost in the order of \$50,000. The representatives have now advised that they can probably borrow the equipment needed to conduct track meets at the track from the School District and from other local track and field clubs. This would free up the currently available funds to partially offset the additional costs associated with constructing the track with the more expensive sandwich system surface. They have advised that this funding could be made available to the City immediately.

Should the Society contribute \$62,000 immediately toward the upgraded track surface, the City could enter into an agreement with the Society to repay the balance of the costs (i.e., \$98,000) to the City over a five-year period, ending December 31 2010. The City could borrow \$98,000 from the City's Legacy Fund, subject to that amount being repaid to the Fund over time, in accordance with Council policy.

Merits of Upgrading the Track Surface

The following is a summary of the advantages of installing an upgraded track surface:

1. The design life of the spray-on surface is 8 to 9 years, in comparison to the sandwich-system surface that has a design life of 12 to 15 years;
2. The sandwich-system track surface will allow the track to host higher level events than would be the case with the spray-on surface; and
3. The aspirations of the local athletics community will be more fully met.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council approve providing an additional budget allocation of \$98,000, from the City's Legacy Fund, for the South Surrey Track project for the purpose of upgrading the track surface from a spray-on polyurethane surface to a multi-layer (sandwich) system surface, conditional upon the Peninsula Athletic

Society:

1. Providing to the City, immediately, a cash contribution for the subject project of \$62,000; and
2. Entering into a legally binding agreement with the City to pay to the City a total of \$98,000, paid in equal annual instalments over a five-year period, ending December 31, 2010.

The annual payments received from the Society will be used to repay the Legacy Fund, in accordance with Council policy.



Murray Dinwoodie
General Manager,
Planning and Development

Laurie Cavan
General Manager,
Parks, Recreation and Culture

LC:saw

Attachment:

Appendix I – Memorandum dated May 2, 2005

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Appendix I



INTER-OFFICE MEMO

TO: **Mayor & Council**

FROM: **General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture**
General Manager Planning and Development

DATE: **May 2, 2005**

FILE: **6140-20 (South Surrey)**

RE: **Surface Colour and Funding Opportunities for South Surrey Track**

This memorandum is being forwarded as information.

Request for Information Regarding Track Colour:

At its Regular meeting on April 4, 2005, Council considered Corporate Report No. R066 and approved the report's recommendations, authorizing the award of a contract to construct the track to Matcon Civil Constructors Inc. After considering the report and authorizing the award of the contract, Council requested additional information from staff as to whether a blue coloured track surface is better than a red coloured track surface, relative to the performance of the athletes' using the track.

A representative of the BC Athletics Association, a provincial non-profit amateur sport organization for athletics, was consulted with respect to Council's question regarding the potential effects on performance of different track colours. The Association has advised that they have no knowledge of track colour having any effect on an athlete's performance.

Staff has also determined that, over time, a blue-coloured track will fade faster than a red coloured track and, as such, may result in more maintenance expense. This higher fade rate is due to the blue pigment, which is more susceptible to UV damage than the red pigment. Blue tracks tend to transform to a greenish colour over time.

Request for Sandwich Layer Track System:

Council received an e-mail message, dated April 13, 2005, from an executive member of the Peninsula Athletics Society that advised Council of that organization's fundraising efforts in association with the Peace Arch Rotary, toward the South Surrey running track and field project and requested that Council consider installing a sandwich layer track system as part of the South

Surrey track and field project. A copy of that e-mail is attached. In response to the e mail, Council requested that staff investigate the potential for obtaining *2010 Legacies Now* funding to allow a sandwich layer track to be installed as part of the South Surrey running track.

The *2010 Legacies Now* program is an initiative of the BC Government and the Vancouver 2010 Bid Corporation. Staff has determined that the program does not fund capital projects, but rather, in the Arts, Volunteer, Sports, Literacy and Recreation areas, funds are directed toward programs and/or activities. Therefore, no capital funding is available to assist in funding an upgraded track surface at the South Surrey project from *2010 Legacies Now*.

The Peninsula Athletic Society had indicated in the recent past, that their fundraising efforts of approximately \$52,000 was going to support the acquisition of specialized equipment required to practice their sports at the South Surrey track venue. If these funds are redirected toward an upgraded track surface, there will be a funding shortfall in the City's capital project budget in relation to properly equipping the track. Staff had assumed, in budgeting for the track, that others and not the City would fund the equipment for the track.

The sandwich layer track system will cost \$360,000 to install while the spray-on red-coloured track system, upon which the project budget is based, is \$200,000 to install. The life span of sandwich system before surface refurbishing is required is approximately 10 to 15 years which is four to five years longer than the spray on system. The quality of the track surface can be a determining factor with respect to the quality of events that are attracted to a track venue. However, equally as important, is ability of the venue to handle larger crowds of people for events. The South Surrey track and field project is currently focussed on community-scale activities and events and does not, at this time, include grandstand seating or the larger parking areas required for regional or provincial events. As such, although a sandwich layer track system would make the South Surrey track venue more attractive to regional events, other aspects of the venue would not support such events. The Bear Creek Park track facility has a sandwich layer track system and is better equipped to handle larger regional-scale or provincial events.

Conclusion:

Based on the above, staff will be proceeding with construction of a red-coloured spray on track surface at the South Surrey running track and field project, since it will provide a satisfactory level of service for track users and fits within the project budget.

If you require any other information, please advise.

Original signed by

Original signed by

Murray Dinwoodie

Laurie Cavan

General Manager

General Manager

Planning and Development

Parks, Recreation & Culture

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attachment

cc City Manager
City Clerk



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