



# Corporate Report

NO: R028

COUNCIL DATE: March 9, 2009

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## REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: Mayor & Council DATE: February 27, 2009  
FROM: General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture FILE: 6140/20-F  
SUBJECT: Concept Plan for Fleetwood Community Centre Open Spaces

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## RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report as information; and
2. Endorse the Phase 1 Concept Plan for the Fleetwood Community Centre Open Spaces.

## BACKGROUND

In 2008, the City of Surrey initiated a master planning process for three public open spaces that surround the Fleetwood Community Centre; these being, the northeast entrance plaza, the western courtyard, and the 1.6 ha (4 acre) park space, located south of the Centre. The project will serve the growing Fleetwood community and in particular the residences for older adults that were recently constructed in the vicinity of the Centre. The Fleetwood Community Centre is located at the corner of 84 Avenue and 160<sup>th</sup> Street in the heart of the Fleetwood Town Centre Area.

This report provides Council with an overview of the planning process, designs for each of the spaces and timeline for the development of the Fleetwood Community Centre open spaces discussed in this report. The design for the park adjacent to the Fleetwood Community Centre was presented to the Parks & Community Services Committee at their February 26, 2009 meeting. The Committee endorsed the design as presented.

## **DISCUSSION**

Funding for the park development project is from Town Centre NCP amenity funds and two Provincial Government grants. The ActNow BC Seniors Community Parks Grant is a \$100,000 Provincial grant in support infrastructure for physical exercise for older British Columbians. This funding is intended for the purchase and installation of equipment to promote physical activity. The Fleetwood Community Association sourced an additional \$65,000 Provincial contribution that will be applied to this project.

In 2008 the project team, including City staff and consultants, worked closely with local residents, the Community Centre Seniors Committee, and the Fleetwood Community Association, to generate ideas and prospective programs for the open space and courtyard. Two workshops in August and September 2008 and one Public Open House in November 2008 assisted in the development of a preferred concept plan for each open space. Concurrently, the design of and the first phase of construction of the plaza renovation were completed in time for the September 2008 Fleetwood Community Festival.

## **COMMUNITY INPUT**

As mentioned above, there were three opportunities for residents to provide input to the project. These are described in more detail in the following paragraphs.

### **Seniors' Ideas Workshop August 2008**

At this event, hosted for the Fleetwood Community Centre Seniors Committee, participants identified a variety of activities and events in which they currently engage at the Centre, and offered their views on what they would like the outdoor spaces to include in the future. Among the ideas and activities presented, patterns of active and passive socialization emerged as top choices. Group activities such as exercise, Tai Chi, and singing as well as seating, barbeque facilities, and spaces to have tea were priorities. Walking was the most commonly endorsed activity at this workshop.

### **Public Ideas Workshop September 2008**

This workshop benefitted from a high level of engagement from a diverse group of 43 Fleetwood residents. Workshop attendees participated in a brainstorming session. The input generated at the event was then filtered through a voting activity that enabled participants to identify their preferred ideas.

Participants at this workshop echoed many of the suggestions brought forth by the Seniors Committee, where walking was again the activity most commonly endorsed for the open space. A meandering path network with level surfaces for walking, biking and wheelchairs was advocated. Other popular activities were picnicking, Frisbee, and dog walking. It was recognized that there was a need to engage young children and teenagers who live in the area. This input, in addition to that received from the Seniors Committee, informed the design process and lead to the formation of concept plans displayed at the Public Open House in November.

## **Public Open House November 2008**

More than 700 residents were invited to attend the final Open House in November 2008. Based on attendance records, 49 residents participated in the event. Those in attendance were asked to fill out comment forms that allowed respondents to identify what benefits, concerns or improvements they would suggest for the various aspects of the project. Overall, the feedback generated through the Open House event was very positive and participants generally responded favourably to the proposed designs.

## **Description of the Component Open Spaces**

The following provides a brief description of the design concepts for each of the three open space components as presented at the Open House:

### **Plaza**

The northeast plaza entry to the Community Centre is a meeting place for residents. The renovation of this area includes removal of concrete and installation of landscaping, flagpoles, and benches. The highlight of the plaza renovation project is a sculpture of Lance Corporal Arthur Thomas Fleetwood. The first phase of the plaza renovation and the Thomas Fleetwood Sculpture were unveiled at a dedication ceremony in September 2008 as part of the Fleetwood Community Festival.

### **Amenity Court**

Renovation plans for this intimate outdoor space will make small gatherings and seasonal parties possible. The plans include removal of pavement to create planting beds and define the space, a shade tree, benches, tables, and a barbeque.

### **Park/Open Space**

The design concept plan for the park/open space reflects the input gathered from the preceding community workshops including:

- Spaces to socialize
- Exercise equipment for seniors
- Community gardens
- A 300m walking loop and a shorter loop with a hand rail for older adults
- Sunny and shady seating opportunities
- A new playground and improvements to the existing playground that is attached to the recreation centre
- An open lawn for pick-up sports, recreation and events
- Space for the future expansion of the recreation centre and related parking

The design plans were very well received by participants at the Open House. Residents indicated enthusiastic support for the walking paths, community garden, play areas, and senior's amenities in particular.

Concerns related to unsanctioned use of the existing parking lot at the community centre when the centre is closed, and to the widening of 83 Avenue that is currently built only as a half road. Residents requested that lighting should be provided for safety.

Staff and consultants revised the park program to respond to the noted concerns. The potential to provide a gate to the parking lot was explored, but determined to be not feasible given the extended operating hours of the Centre and the number of staff that operate the facility. Completion of 83rd Avenue will be funded, designed and constructed by the Engineering Department in concert with the development of the park open space and future lighting is to be included in the detailed design for the open space.

The final concept plan for the open spaces is attached as Appendix 1.

## **CONCLUSION**

The public consultation process and involvement of the Fleetwood Community Association has resulted in a broadly supported plan for the Open Spaces surrounding the Fleetwood Community Centre. Subject to Council approval of the recommendations of this report, detailed design will be initiated and implementation of Phase 1 of the various open space improvements, including installation of the exercise equipment (funded by the ACTNow BC Senior's Park Grant), pathways and landscaping will commence in the spring of 2009.

Laurie Cavan  
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Attachment: Open Space Final Concept Plan for Fleetwood Community Centre

# Appendix 1: Open Space Final Concept Plan

## phase one

