RECREATION, CULTURE, AND PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

February 12, 2025 at 7:00pm
Salmon River Committee Room
4th Floor, 20338-65 Avenue, Langley, BC

MINUTES

Present:
S. Cook. Community Co-Chair
Councillor T. Baillie, Council Co-Chair
Councill M. Pratt, Council Co-Chair

E. Barbour, A. Castro, J. Clegg, E. Hacker, G. Sarhan, and N. Tiessen

Staff:
K. Young, Deputy Director, Recreation, Arts, and Culture
K. Stepto, Recording Secretary

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES OF THE COAST SALISH PEOPLES

S. Cook acknowledged the Traditional Territories of the Coast Salish Peoples.

A. APPROVAL AND RECEIPT OF AGENDA ITEMS

1. Recreation, Culture, and Parks Advisory Committee – February 12, 2025

Moved by J. Clegg,
Seconded by A. Castro,
tat the Recreation, Culture, and Parks Advisory Committee approve the agenda and receive the agenda items of the February 12, 2025 meeting.
CARRIED

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Recreation, Culture, and Parks Advisory Committee – January 15, 2025

Moved by A. Castro,
Seconded by E. Hacker,
That the Recreation, Culture, and Parks Advisory Committee adopt the Minutes of the January 15, 2025 meeting.
CARRIED

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

D. REPORTS

1. Co-Chairperson's Report

S. Cook reported that she attended the opening of salishan Place which was very informative and encouraging.

Councillor Baillie reported that Toque Tuesday was a very successful event which raised money and awareness for homelessness. The Vancouver Giants collected 1,000 pairs of socks to donate to the cause.

2. Museum Advisory Group Report

E. Hacker reported that the Curator of Education Programs attended their meeting to present the different programs that will be provided to school-aged children at the museum. Elementary school field trips will begin soon.

E. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Aldergrove Community Centre Track

Email received from Y. Trost regarding changing the Aldergrove Community Centre walking track to a multi-use track, including staff's reply. K. Young commented that the indoor track was designed as a walking track due to safety concerns. The track is narrow and is used by a variety of users and is used as a walkway to the primary arena washrooms and upper lobby with access to the elevator. It is also used as an entrance to the accessible seating for those in wheelchairs.

There are only two other facilities in the Lower Mainland that have a similar multi-use arena concourse style track – both also only allow walking. All other tracks in the lower mainland are closed style tracks, which allow for running in the outer-most lane as that is the only activity happening in that space.

Staff are continuing to communicate with the resident to discuss alternate solutions.

F. WORK PROGRAM

1. Draft 2025 Work Program

The committee discussed the draft 2025 Work Plan. There was a consensus that the committee would like the opportunity to provide input into the design phase of parks and recreation facilities. As there are often open houses presented for the public to provide input, the committee would like the information brought to the RCPAC meetings as well, if possible.

Accessibility and adaptive signage in parks were raised. Committee member, A. Castor, provided information regarding "Forever Kind Communication Boards"

F. WORK PROGRAM

(FKCB) which she developed as an inclusive, communication tool. By integrating sign language, numbers, and universal symbols, the FKCB ensures children of all abilities can express themselves and engage with peers in meaningful ways. The goal of placing communication boards in park environments is to raise awareness about neurodiversity and empower children who rely on alternative communication methods to feel seen and included. Please see further information in Attachment A.

COUNCIL
Moved by A. Castro,
Seconded by N. Tiessen,
That the Recreation, Culture, and Parks Advisory Committee recommends that Council ask staff to explore the feasibility of including Inclusive Communication Boards in Township parks.
CARRIED

Further discussion ensued regarding receiving presentations from staff for the following:

- Township of Langley events
- Capital projects and parks/trails
- Transportation and Mobility Strategy
- Facilities

Action: Staff to reach out to the respective departments to inquire about the possibility of receiving a presentation and when.

MOTION
Moved by J. Clegg,
Seconded by E. Hacker,
That the Recreation, Culture, and Parks Advisory Committee endorse the draft 2025 Work Plan, as amended.
CARRIED

COUNCIL
Moved by G. Sarhan,
Seconded by E. Hacker,
That the Recreation, Culture, and Parks Advisory Committee recommends that Council approve the Recreation, Culture, and Parks Advisory Committee draft 2025 Work Plan, as amended, presented as Attachment B.
CARRIED

2. Community Liaisons

Staff provided an update regarding the status of the Langley Outdoor Sports Advisory Group and the Trail Advisory Group.

Trail Advisory Group:

- Stopped meeting during Covid and have not met since.
- If this group was to be re-instated, an update to the Terms of Reference with a defined purpose would need to occur.

F. WORK PROGRAM

Langley Outdoor Sports Association Group:

- Stopped meeting during Covid and have not met since.
- This group discussed allocation and parks maintenance issues.
- It was good to have a representative from each of the different groups at the table to discuss issues etc.
- The committee felt it would be good to survey the past participants to see if they feel it would be beneficial to start this group again.

COUNCIL
Moved by J. Clegg,
Seconded by G. Sarhan,
That the Recreation, Culture, and Parks Advisory Committee recommends that Council ask staff to survey the groups who participated on the Langley Outdoor Sports Advisory Group as to their interest and feasibility of re-starting this group.
CARRIED

G. COUNCIL REFERRALS

H. OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. RCPAC Terms of Reference

Action: to be included in next month's agenda package for information

I. NEXT MEETING

Date: March 12, 2025
Location: Salmon River Committee Room
4th Floor, 20338-65 Avenue, Langley, BC
Time: 7:00 pm

J. TERMINATE

Moved by E. Barbour,
Seconded by A. Castro,
That the meeting terminate at 8:42pm.
CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Community Representative Co-Chair

Council Representative Co-Chair

Forever Kind Communication Board Bio

The idea for the Forever Kind Communication Board grew from a mother's desire to create an inclusive tool that fosters connection, awareness, and kindness. This innovative adaptation of the Picture Exchange Communication (PEC) system is thoughtfully designed with diversity in mind. By integrating sign language, numbers, and universal symbols, the Forever Kind Communication Board ensures that children of all abilities can express themselves and engage with peers in meaningful ways.

Parks and schools are essential spaces for community, play, and belonging. By placing communication boards in these environments, the goal is to raise awareness about neurodiversity and empower children who rely on alternative communication methods to feel seen and included. These boards provide a gateway for connection, helping to create a shared language that bridges gaps in communication and fosters mutual understanding.

This project is more than just a tool—it's a mission to create a kinder, more inclusive world. A world where every child, regardless of their abilities, feels valued, heard, and understood.

Through a partnership with MJY Fabrications and Forever Kind Learning Inc., this initiative aspires to spark meaningful conversations about inclusion and to build bridges of understanding that will ripple throughout communities. Together, we can lay the foundation for a future where kindness and inclusivity flourish.

About the Communication Board:

- **Mission Statement:** To empower children of all abilities by providing tools for meaningful communication and connection.
- **Core Features:**
    - Picture Exchange Communication (PEC) System
    - Integrated sign language visuals/Braille
    - Numbers and universal symbols for diverse communication needs

Why It Matters:

- Fosters inclusivity in public spaces like parks and schools.
- Empowers children using alternative & inclusive communication methods.
- Encourages peer-to-peer interaction, kindness and mutual understanding.

Community Benefit

The Forever Kind Communication Board directly aligns with values of inclusivity and accessibility by addressing a vital need for effective communication tools in public spaces and schools. Here's how:

1. **Promotes Inclusive Environments**:
    - The board empowers individuals with communication challenges, such as nonverbal or neurodivergent children, to express themselves. This fosters a sense of belonging for families who often feel excluded due to communication barriers.
    - By integrating the board into parks and school planners, Langley City positions itself as a leader in promoting accessibility for all community members.
2. **Enhances Public Spaces**:
    - Parks equipped with the communication board become more welcoming for families with diverse needs, encouraging higher utilization and community engagement.
3. **Strengthens Educational Tools**:
    - Including the board in school planners supports educators and students by providing an accessible tool to promote understanding and interaction in classrooms.
4. **Improves Awareness and Education**:
    - Visible communication boards in public spaces raise awareness about inclusivity and encourage the community to embrace diversity and accessibility.

1. **Engage Parks and Recreation Departments**:
    - Work together to identify a few pilot park locations where the board can be installed. These could be parks with high foot traffic or near schools.**Attached.**

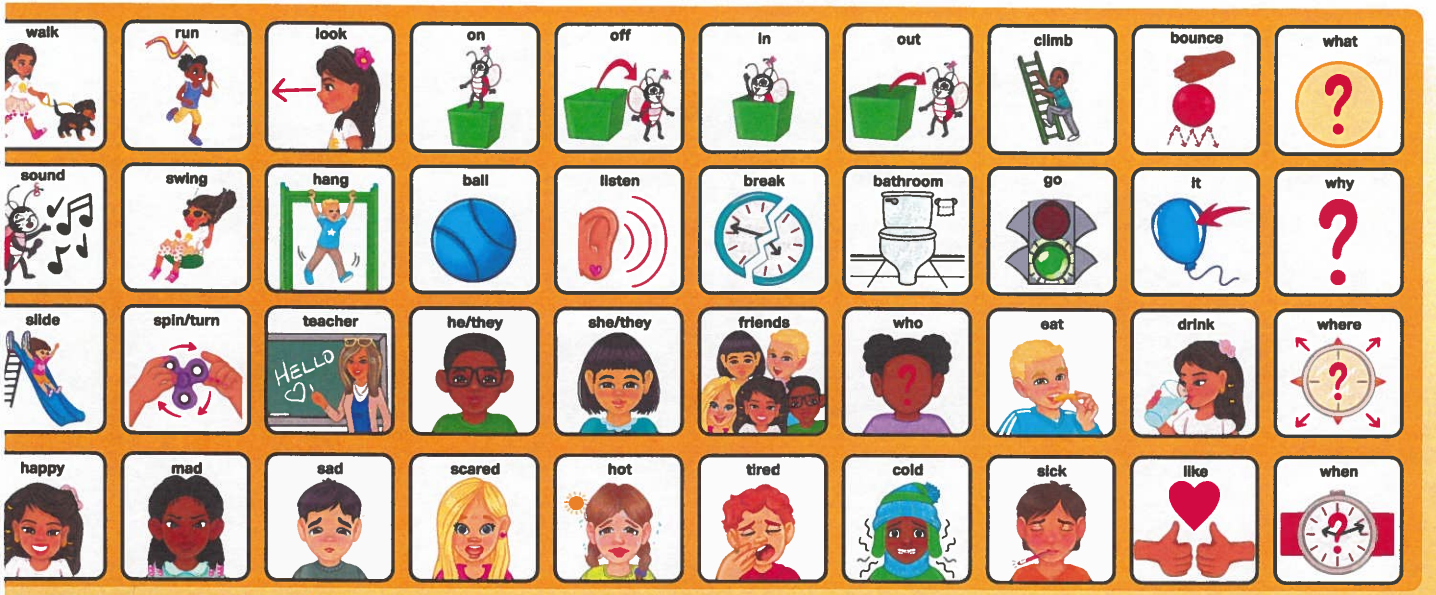
Lead by Example:

- By championing this initiative, we can set a precedent for other communities, showcasing its dedication to building an inclusive and accessible environment.

Introducing the Forever Kind Communication Board in select Langley parks can significantly enhance inclusivity and accessibility. Here are some parks that would be ideal for piloting this initiative:

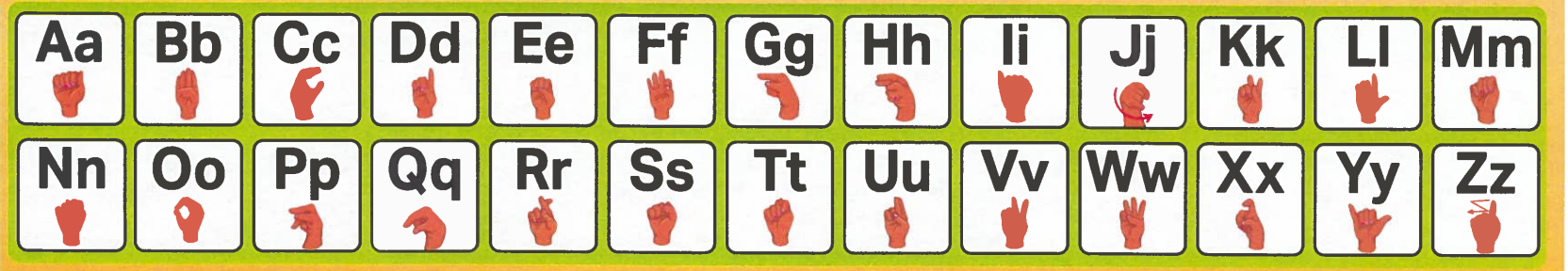
FOREVERKIND.CA
MAKING A DIFFERENCE

FOREVER KIND COMMUNICATION















Attachment B

A Action Required
D Delegation
P Presentation
R Report
R/F Review / Feedback
U Staff/Rep Update

Recreation, Culture, and Parks Advisory Committee 2025 Work Program

General Committee Work

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Sept	Oct	Nov
Orientation	P								
Election of Community Co-Chair	A								
2024 Final Report									A
Work Program *Approve and appoint liaison roles*	R/F A	R/F A							
Conference *BCRPA 2025 annual conference. Selection of 1 member to attend and to provide report to committee.*		R/F	A		U				
Fees and Charges *Staff update re: 2024/2025 fees and charges*				U					
Terms of Reference Review *Review is every 2 yrs (reviewed in 2024)*									

Projects, Programs and Events

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Sept	Oct	Nov
Township of Langley Christmas Events	U								
2025 Special Events Plan			P						
Parks Projects			P						
Youth Programs and Services *Youth week, first week in May*				P R/F					
Transportation & Mobility Plan					P R/F				
Seniors Programs and Services *Seniors week, second week in June*					P R/F				
Parks Tour						P			
Langley Walk *First Sunday in May*					U				
Adult Programs and Services							P R/F		
Facility Projects							P		
Cultural Programs									P
Library Services *FVRL annual update*								P	
Summer Events							U		

Township of Langley
Est. 1873

Recreation, Culture, and Parks Advisory Committee 2025 Work Program

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Annual Task Forces

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Sept	Oct	Nov
Langley Awards *Appointment of 3 representatives and subsequent updates* *Pete Swensson Outstanding Community Youth* *Eric Flowerdew Volunteer of the Year* *John & Muriel Arnason Volunteers of the Year* ***Selection Task Force*** *Staff: C. Naples* *Committee Representatives: S. Cook, E. Barbour, A Castro*	A		U	U					

Community Liaisons

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Sept	Oct	Nov
ADHOC Groups *Appointment of representatives and subsequent updates* ***Langley Outdoor Sports Advisory Group (LOSAG)*** *Staff: T. Bucker* *Committee Representative: TBD*	A	Not currently meeting – at the February 12, 2025 meeting, the committee put forward a recommendation to Council to aske Parks Staff to conduct survey of Users to determine if it should restart.							
Museum Advisory Group *Staff: R.Schmidt* *Committee Representative: E. Hacker*	A	Updates to be provided following meetings.							