

Consolidated Clause in Community Services Committee Report 2, which was considered by City Council on April 25, 26 and 27, 2006.

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**Approval of Thorncliffe Park Child Care Centre**

*City Council on April 25, 26 and 27, 2006, adopted this Clause without amendment.*

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The Community Services Committee recommends that City Council adopt the staff recommendations in the Recommendations Section of the report (February 22, 2006) from the General Manager, Children's Services, subject to adding the following new recommendations:

- “(4) prior to any capital funds flowing to the child care operators, Toronto Children's Services confirm that they meet the not-for-profit guidelines established for Best Start; and
- (5) a copy of this report be forwarded to the Toronto Public Library for its information;”;

and renumbering the remaining recommendation, so that the Recommendations now read as follows:

- “(1) Child Care Project A approved in Children's Services capital budget be designated to maintain child care services in Thorncliffe Park;
- (2) subject to suitable design that the child care centre be included in the Jenner-Jean Marie Community Centre/library expansion and funding of \$1.959 million from the Child Care Reserve be allocated for this purpose;
- (3) the General Manager report back on the option of relocating the existing child care in Thorncliffe Park elementary school in the event that a suitable design is not feasible at Jenner-Jean Marie;
- (4) prior to any capital funds flowing to the child care operators, Toronto Children's Services confirm that they meet the not-for-profit guidelines established for Best Start;

- (5) **a copy of this report be forwarded to the Toronto Public Library for its information; and**
- (6) **the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.”**

**The Community Services Committee submits the report (February 22, 2006) from the General Manager, Children’s Services.**

Purpose:

This report seeks approval to spend funds from the Child Care Capital Reserve in accordance with the City's Child Care Service Plan to support the inclusion of the Thorncliffe child care centre in the Jenner-Jean Marie Community Centre and Library.

Financial Implications and Impact Statement :

Children’s Services 2006-2015 Capital Budget includes a New Child Care Centre Project. This project includes the construction of four new child care centres over the period of the Council approved Child Care Service Plan. The project’s estimated cost of \$8.0 million over five years, 2006-2010 is funded from the Child Care Capital Reserve Fund. The 2006 approved capital budget includes \$1.959 million for a sub-project, Child Care Centre A. This report identifies Child Care Centre A as the child care centre in the Thorncliffe Park, and that the funds allocated for Child Care Centre A be used to support the relocation and expansion of the existing Thorncliffe child care centre.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and concurs with the information provided.

Recommendations :

It is recommended that:

- (1) Child Care Project A approved in Children’s Services capital budget be designated to maintain child care services in Thorncliffe Park;
- (2) subject to suitable design that the child care centre be included in the Jenner-Jean Marie Community Centre/library expansion and funding of \$1.959 million from the Child Care Reserve be allocated for this purpose;
- (3) the General Manager report back on the option of relocating the existing child care in Thorncliffe Park elementary school in the event that a suitable design is not feasible at Jenner-Jean Marie; and
- (4) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

Background:

In December 2005, Council approved the expansion and renovation of the Jenner-Jean Marie Community Centre as part of the Parks, Forestry and Recreation Capital Budget. The Toronto Public Library 2006 Capital Budget was approved with funding to support the architectural fees associated with the design of a library expansion. The planned changes to the facility have implications for the future of the child care centre operating in this facility.

As noted above the Children's Services Capital Budget includes the development of a new child care centre fully funded through the Child Care Capital Reserve Fund. Funds from the Reserve have been used to maintain existing child care centres facing loss of their location and to support the growth of child care in accordance with the Child Care Service Plan.

Thorncliffe Park elementary school has been identified as a Best Start Phase 2 Proposed Capital Project in the Best Start Service and Transition Infrastructure Plan.

Comments:

At present, Thorncliffe Park has only one child care program serving 89 children. The centre is located in leased space in the Jenner-Jean Marie Community Centre. Thorncliffe Park is a community where there are 2,625 children 0-9 and 1,320 of them or 50 percent live under the LICO compared to the Toronto average of 30 percent of children and as noted before, the area has poor access to child care services. Although the Best Start Infrastructure Plan designates the Thorncliffe Park elementary school as the location of a Phase 2 child care project, the uncertainty of future federal/provincial agreements puts this proposed centre at risk. It is critical then that the community is able to maintain the current level of child care services.

The planned expansion of the Jenner-Jean Marie library and the planned addition of a gymnasium to the facility will displace the existing child care centre space. In the event that a child care is not included in the redesign of Jenner-Jean Marie Community Centre, 89 children will lose their child care. In order to address this issue and to build on the opportunity to create an integrated facility to better serve the needs of children and families in Thorncliffe Park, it is recommended that this location be designated for Project A already approved in the Children's Services Capital Budget. An architectural feasibility study and cost analysis is currently underway to determine if a purpose-built child care centre can be accommodated in the plans for an expanded library and recreation facility. The planned changes to the facility provide an opportunity to develop a new child care program serving infants, toddlers and preschool children and provide an opportunity to integrate and combine services. Integration of City facilities such as child care, libraries and community centres is a key direction of Best Generation Yet, Toronto Vision for Children.

The current centre has capacity for 89 spaces including 15 toddlers, 44 pre-school and 30 school-aged spaces. If the planned project stays at the Jenner-Jean Marie complex, it will have a licensed capacity of 57 children made up of 10 infant spaces, 15 toddler spaces and 32 pre-school spaces. The City would work with the Toronto District School Board to accommodate the 30 school-age spaces in shared space at Thorncliffe Park elementary school. Although there would be a reduction of total capacity of 2 child care spaces it will be offset by

the addition of infant care, a priority identified in the Child Care Service Plan. Further expansion will occur if Phase 2 of Best Start goes ahead as Thorncliffe Park Elementary School is intended to be one of the capital projects for the extended JK/SK child care services. The commencement of operation of Thorncliffe Park child care centre at Jenner-Jean Marie is anticipated to be early in 2008.

Should the feasibility study and cost analysis determine that it is not possible to effectively include a child care centre with the library and community centre it is recommended that the General Manager report back on the option of relocating the child care centre to Thorncliffe Park elementary school.

Conclusions :

This report seeks to maintain existing child care services in Thorncliffe Park by naming Thorncliffe Park as Child Care Centre A approved in the Children's Services Capital Budget. The project is to be fully funded from the Child Care Capital Reserve and subject to the suitable design for the combined facility at Jenner-Jean Marie Community Centre. The report proposes that if a joint facility is not feasible that the General Manager report back with options to relocate the centre to Thorncliffe Park school.

Contact:

Gail O'Donnell  
Manager, Capital Project, Children's Services Division  
Tel: (416) 397-5086  
Email: [godonnel@csd.toronto.ca](mailto:godonnel@csd.toronto.ca)