

THE CITY OF TORONTO

City Clerk's Division

Minutes of the Budget Advisory Committee

Meeting No. 2

Monday, July 19, 1999.

The Budget Advisory Committee met on Monday, July 19, 1999, in Committee Room 2, 2nd Floor, City Hall, Toronto, commencing at 9:40 a.m.

Attendance

Members were present for some or all of the time period indicated.

	9:40 a.m. to 10:50 a.m.
Councillor Tom Jakobek, Chair	X
Councillor Bas Balkissoon	Regrets
Councillor Gordon Chong	X
Councillor Olivia Chow	X
Councillor Blake F. Kinahan	X
Councillor Jane Pitfield	X
Councillor David Shiner	Regrets

Also Present:

Councillor Chris Korwin-Kuczynski	Councillor Joe Mihevc
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Confirmation of Minutes

On a motion by Councillor Pitfield, the Minutes of the meeting of the Budget Advisory Committee held on May 11, 1999, and the Minutes of the Budget Committee held on June 1, 1999, were confirmed.

2.1 Interim “Welcome Policy” for Users of Recreation Programs - All Wards

The Budget Advisory Committee had before it a joint report (July 19, 1999) from the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer and the Commissioner of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism, recommending that:

- (1) the Commissioner of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism, in conjunction with the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer monitor the Parks and Recreation Division’s 1999 Operating Budget and report back to the Policy and Finance Committee together with the September 30, 1999 Operating Budget Variance Report on the Division’s ability to absorb the revenue loss of \$29,789.00 associated with the addition of seven community centres to the high-needs category;
- (2) commencing September 1, 1999, the Commissioner of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism begin to track the use and demand for fee exempted programs by participants;
- (3) the Commissioner of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism, the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services and the Commissioner of Urban Planning and Development Services develop a clear definition of the term High Needs, to aid in the identification and designation of communities which may be considered for subsidies or special treatment due to social or economic hardship in time for the finalization of the Fall/Winter Recreation Guide for 2000;
- (4) the Commissioner of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism report to the Economic Development and Parks Committee with a formal “Welcome Policy” to enable its implementation for the 2000 Fall/Winter season;
- (5) any further amendment to the Interim “Welcome Policy” respecting the addition of community centres to the high-needs category and the extension of the individual access policy to two programs per individual per season or a 20 percent reserve be considered concurrently with the formal “Welcome Policy” requested in Recommendation No. (4) above; and
- (6) expansion of the user fee welcome criteria beyond Council’s decisions to date and the funding implications be considered in the review of the 2000 and 2001 operating budget process.

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The Budget Advisory Committee also had before it the following:

- (i) report (July 9, 1999) from the City Clerk, advising of the action taken by City Council, at its meeting held on July 6, 7 and 8, 1999, with regard to Clause No. 6 contained in Report No. 1 of The Economic Development and Parks Committee, headed "Interim 'Welcome Policy' for Users of Recreation Program - All Wards";
- (ii) communication (July 8, 1999) from Mayor Mel Lastman, advising that City Council, at its meeting held on July 6, 7 and 8, 1999, requested that a report be provided on funding options concerning the City of Toronto's Parks and Recreation "Welcome Policy"; and also requested that all respective Council motions be referred to the July 20, 1999, Policy and Finance Committee; and further advising that he would appreciate the assistance of the Budget Advisory Committee in reviewing budget options for funding the "Welcome Policy" within the time frames established by Council; and
- (iii) communication (July 19, 1999) from Councillor Pam McConnell, Don River, regarding the foregoing matter.

The following persons appeared before the Budget Advisory Committee in connection with the foregoing matter:

- Ms. Cyndy Ireland, S.H. Armstrong Community Centre, and filed a copy of her submission;
- Councillor Chris Korwin-Kuczynski, High Park;
- Councillor Joe Mihevc, York Eglinton; and
- Ms. Karen Warsic, Community Planning, Social Planning Council.

- A. Councillor Chong moved that the Budget Advisory Committee recommend to the Policy and Finance Committee the adoption of the joint report (July 19, 1999) from the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer and the Commissioner of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism, subject to adding:

"that the Commissioner of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism be authorized to spend up to \$100,000.00 in 1999 from the Corporate Contingency Account in subsidy funding to ensure individual access to 'for-fee' programs on an as-needed basis in communities not currently deemed to be high-needs."

(Carried)

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- B. Councillor Pitfield moved that the Budget Advisory Committee recommend to the Policy and Finance Committee that:

- (1) the following motion be adopted:

“WHEREAS the Toronto Transit Commission, Police, Fire, Parks and Recreation programs have identified in-year changes since the approval of the 1999 Operating and Capital Budgets;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chief Administrative Officer advise all City departments, agencies, boards and commissions to ensure that 1999 spending is contained within the approved 1999 budgets and that corrective action be taken accordingly;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all policy changes with financial implications be only considered for the year 2000 budget cycle.”; and

- (2) a guideline be set that for every dollar of over expenditure in 1999, one dollar be deducted from the year 2000 Operating Budget, save and except snow removal.

(Carried)

Councillor Jakobek appointed Councillor Chong Acting Chair and vacated the Chair.

- C. Councillor Jakobek moved that the Budget Advisory Committee request the Policy and Finance Committee to confirm the July 19, 1999 meeting of the Budget Advisory Committee.

(Carried)

Councillor Jakobek resumed the Chair.

- D. Councillor Kinahan moved that the Commissioner of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism be requested to ensure that the City’s policy of providing free services to those in need is well advertised and well known throughout the City.

(Carried)

- E. Councillor Chow moved that the Budget Advisory Committee recommend to the Policy and Finance Committee that:

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- (1) the list of centres serving high-needs communities be extended to 10 additional centres, including S. H. Armstrong, at an additional cost of \$184,000.00 for 1999; and
- (2) the following motion moved by Councillor McConnell at City Council at its meeting of July 6, 7 and 8, 1999, be adopted:

“the interim individual access policy be extended to two programs per week, per individual, at an additional cost of \$400,000.00, and that adequate publicity and outreach programs be implemented as part of this funding.”

(Lost)

(Policy and Finance Committee; c. Mayor Mel Lastman; Councillor Chris Korwin-Kuczynski, High Park; Councillor Joe Mihevc, York Eglinton; Commissioner of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism; Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer; City Clerk; Ms. Cyndy Ireland, S.H. Armstrong Community Centre; Ms. Karen Warsic, Social Planning Council; Committee Administrator, Economic Development and Parks Committee - July 19, 1999)

The Budget Advisory Committee adjourned its meeting at 10:50 p.m.

Chair