



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Potential Partnerships between the City of Toronto and the Toronto Catholic District School Board

Date:	November 14, 2007
To:	Community Development and Recreation Committee
From:	Deputy City Manager Sue Corke
Wards:	all
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

The Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) has identified a number of potential property related partnership opportunities with the City of Toronto. City staff see utility in pursuing these discussions within the parameters recommended in this report and are asking for Council direction regarding these discussions.

Negotiating property related agreements between the City and School Boards is often complicated and protracted due to the nature of the respective bureaucracies, legislative requirements and political considerations. There may be an opportunity to enter into an interest based conversation with TCDSB regarding specific properties of mutual interest to both the City and TCDSB. The anticipated outcome of such discussion would be more effective use of TCDSB and City property and new community and school infrastructure development.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Deputy City Manager Sue Corke recommends that:

1. Staff be authorised to enter into interest based discussions with Toronto Catholic District School Board staff to review and assess possible property partnerships and report back to the Executive Committee regarding any sites that merit further consideration.

Implementation Points

Subsequent to Council direction, staff will:

- meet with TCDSB staff to identify specific opportunities,
- review each potential site with the ward councillor,
- identify city interest (from all relevant operating and corporate divisions),
- determine the “best bet” opportunities,
- report to Council on an initial set of proposals,
- negotiate with TCDSB on final set of proposals, and
- report to Council recommending an agreement.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact arising from this report. Should specific property partnerships be identified, the financial impact will be analyzed and included in the report back to Council.

DECISION HISTORY

While there have been many reports regarding specific program and property issues between the City and TCDSB, this is the first time staff have recommended to Council that the City engage in an interest based discussion regarding a specific set of properties of mutual interest to both the City and TCDSB.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

In the context of limited resources, both the City and TCDSB are seeking opportunities to maximize their ability to meet organizational priorities with minimum resource requirements. TCDSB has identified a number of potential property based partnerships that may yield mutual benefits to both the City and TCDSB. The Executive Superintendent of Planning and Facilities and Deputy City Manager Sue Corke held an initial meeting on November 2, 2007 to review how the TCDSB and City might proceed on such a discussion.

COMMENTS

There may be significant mutual benefit to the City, TCDSB and local communities to review and prioritise a number of potential property related projects. An interest based approach may facilitate achieving significant infrastructure improvements in various neighbourhoods. The immediate opportunity is to review a range of possible projects and develop a schedule for Council consideration. Each individual project may provide greater benefit to one or other partner, with the over all group of projects providing equal benefit to both partners.

A mutual protocol including agreement to ensure staff with the appropriate level of authority are at the table, ability to negotiate respective organizational silos, align respective approval pathways, sharing credit, etc. will facilitate the discussion.

Ward councillors will be advised of any site being brought to the table by either the City or TCDSB prior to any staff discussion. Staff will report back to Council on a quarterly basis or more often as required.

CONTACT

Chris Brillinger
Director, Community Resources
P: 392-8608, F: 392-8492
cbrillin@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Deputy City Manager Sue Corke