

Community Development and Recreation Committee

Meeting No.	13 (Special)	Contact	Candy Davidovits, Committee Administrator
Meeting Date	Wednesday, January 23, 2008	Phone	416-392-8032
Start Time	7:00 PM	E-mail	cdrc@toronto.ca
Location	Committee Room 1, City Hall		

Attendance

Members of the Community Development and Recreation Committee were present for some or all of the time periods indicated under the section headed "Meeting Sessions", which appears at the end of the Minutes.

Councillor Joe Mihevc, Chair	X
Councillor Maria Augimeri, Vice-Chair	X
Councillor Janet Davis, Vice-Chair	R
Councillor Brian Ashton	X
Councillor Frances Nunziata	X
Councillor David Shiner	X

CD13.1	ACTION	Referred		
--------	--------	----------	--	--

Improving Access to Recreation: "Everybody Gets to Play"

(December 28, 2007) Report from General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Recommendations

The General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation recommends that:

1. The City of Toronto increase participation in recreation programs by implementing the following policy and program directions in support of "Everybody Gets to Play":
 - a. Protect and expand free drop-in recreation and leisure activities.
 - b. Develop and implement city-wide universal free grade/age specific instructional programs in collaboration with the boards of education:

- i. Youth Cooperative Leadership program for Grade 8 and 9 students;
 - ii. Learn to Skate program for Grade 5 students; and
 - iii. Swim Skills program for Grade 4 Students.
 - c. Renew the recreation subsidy policy for individuals and families with income below the Low Income Cut Off based on the following credits per person per year:
 - i. \$360 for children and youth;
 - ii. \$150 for adults; and
 - iii. \$150 for seniors.
2. Initiate the phased conversion of Priority Centres over 3 years to align with other Parks, Forestry and Recreation centres, including provisions for the following:
 - a. development of a transition plan to guide conversion of Priority Centres to the new subsidy policy and the introduction of fee-based programs;
 - b. consultation with users and community groups on the transition plan and service priorities; and
 - c. supplemental funding for additional drop-in programs as determined through service planning.
 3. Adopt a new pricing policy for fee-based recreation programs that will achieve an average 50% recovery of direct costs within 7 years.
 4. Develop a program to monitor and review participation and access to recreation services by all Toronto residents, including:
 - a. demand for and use of recreation services;
 - b. impacts on participation from pricing and costing changes;
 - c. use of financial access policies and programs by residents;
 - d. communication and marketing of policy to target communities; and
 - e. “ease of use” for residents and City staff.
 5. Recommendations 1, 2, 3 and 4 above be deferred to the February 21, 2008 meeting of the Community Development and Recreation Committee, with a request that the Chair of the Community Development and Recreation Committee convene a special meeting of the Committee during the week of January 21, 2008 for the purpose of hearing from the public on the proposed policy and program directions set out in this report.

Financial Impact

The policy and program directions recommended in this report will increase program expenditures gradually over the next several years. The main areas of increased expenditure are:

- universal free instruction programs;
- addition and expansion of drop-in programs; and
- increases to the recreation subsidy (Welcome Policy).

These increases will be funded through increases in user fees over the next 7 years.

The following table provides an overview of the incremental expenditures for Access to Recreation and the revenue from increased cost recovery.

(\$ 000's)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Incremental Expenditure	1,490	3,447	3,627	1,997	631	694	439
Incremental Revenue	5,714	5,079	4,069	4,242	4,106	3,502	3,645
Incremental Net	(4,224)	(1,632)	(442)	(2,245)	(3,475)	(2,808)	(3,206)

The incremental net revenue from increased cost recovery will be allocated towards cost pressures in Parks, Forestry and Recreation.

The incremental net revenue of \$5.714 million is included in the 2008 Parks Forestry and Recreation Operating Budget recommended for Council consideration.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

Summary

The intent of this report is to propose program and policy directions that will increase participation in recreation activities by Toronto residents and to ensure equitable access to services provided by Parks, Forestry and Recreation.

The major outcomes expected from the recommended changes will enhance and improve recreation in Toronto for all residents by:

- Creating one window of access for individuals who require financial assistance by improving and realigning the recreation program fee subsidy program.<BR
- Protecting and enhancing existing free leisure and drop in programs that are offered across the City – leisure swim, skate, summer playground programs, and drop-in offerings.
- Positioning Toronto as a leader in Canada by focusing on free targeted skill-based instructional programs through a new bundle of age/grade specific instructional programs:
 - Swim Skills – Grade 4;
 - Skating Skills – Grade 5; and
 - Youth Cooperative Leadership – Grade 8/9.

- Establishing a pricing policy that will achieve an average recovery of 50% direct costs over a timeframe of 7 years that will be used to reinvest in subsidy and access programs and allocated to developing a solid financial footing for Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation.
- Ensuring programs and services are responsive to local needs through service planning and outreach to the community.

Communications

- (January 14, 2008) e-mail from Barbara Bailey (CD.New.CD13.1.1)
- (January 17, 2008) Submission from Michael Craig, Sunnyside Community Association (CD.New.CD13.1.2)
- (January 22, 2008) Submission from Larry Ketcheson, CEO, Parks and Recreation Ontario (CD.New.CD13.1.3)
- (January 23, 2008) Submission from Rose Anne Hart, President, Port Union Seniors, C. Neville Gordon, Community Liaison and Chartered Accountant and David H. Hart, Associate of the Society of Actuaries (CD.New.CD13.1.4)
- (January 22, 2008) e-mail from Heather O'Meara, Parent and Chair, Jimmie Simpson Community Advisory Council (CD.New.CD13.1.5)
- (January 23, 2008) Submission from Karen Pitre, Chair, Toronto Sports Council (CD.New.CD13.1.6)
- (January 23, 2008) Submission from Rob Howarth, Executive Director, Toronto Neighbourhood Centres (CD.New.CD13.1.7)
- (January 23, 2008) Submission from Karen Sun, Executive Director, Chinese Canadian National Council Toronto Chapter (CD.New.CD13.1.8)
- (January 23, 2008) Submission from Catherine Goulet, Executive Director, Regent Park Neighbourhood Initiative (CD.New.CD13.1.9)
- (January 23, 2008) Submission from Ann Fitzpatrick, Community Worker, North Branch, Children's Aid Society of Toronto (CD.New.CD13.1.10)
- (January 23, 2008) Submission from Beth Wilson, Researcher, Community Social Planning Council of Toronto (CD.New.CD13.1.11)
- (January 23, 2008) Submission from David Kidd, Vice-President - Chief Steward, CUPE, Local 79 (CD.New.CD13.1.12)
- (January 23, 2008) Submission from Barbara Byers, Director, Public Education, Lifesaving Society (CD.New.CD13.1.13)
- (January 23, 2008) Submission from Kripa Sekhar, Executive Director, South Asian Women's Centre (CD.New.CD13.1.14)
- (January 23, 2008) Submission from Natalie Hundt, ACORN (CD.New.CD13.1.15)
- (January 23, 2008) Submission from Russ Ford, Executive Director, LAMP Community Health Centre (CD.New.CD13.1.16)
- (January 23, 2008) Submission from Heather McGregor, CEO, YWCA (CD.New.CD13.1.17)
- (January 23, 2008) Submission from Keegan Henry-Mathieu, Director of Council Relations, Toronto Youth Cabinet (CD.New.CD13.1.18)
- (January 23, 2008) Submission from Jem Cain, Co-Chair, New Toronto Good Neighbours (CD.New.CD13.1.19)

Speakers

Karen Pitre, Chair, Toronto Sports Council (Submission Filed)
 Scott Haldane, President and CEO, YMCA
 Rob Howarth, Executive Director, Toronto Neighbourhood Centres (Submission Filed)
 Jutta Mason, Centre for Local Research into Public Spaces (CELOS)
 Karen Sun, Executive Director, Chinese Canadian National Council, Toronto Chapter (Submission Filed)
 Premika Ratnam
 Catherine Goulet, Executive Director, Regent Park Neighbourhood Initiative (Submission Filed)
 Lorna Weigand, Doorsteps Neighbourhood Services
 Ann Fitzpatrick, Community Worker, Children's Aid Society of Toronto (Submission Filed)
 Beth Wilson, Researcher, Community Social Planning Council of Toronto (Submission Filed)
 David Kidd, Vice President-Chief Steward, CUPE, Local 79 (Submission Filed)
 Barbara Byers, Director, Public Education, Lifesaving Society (Submission Filed)
 Alan Burke, President, East Beach Community Association
 Jackie Avdichuk
 Susan Gapka
 Kristy Davidson
 Kripa Sekhar, Executive Director, South Asian Women's Centre (Submission Filed)
 Michael Monastyrskyj (Submission Filed)
 Natalie Hundt, ACORN (Submission Filed)
 Russ Ford, Executive Director, LAMP Community Health Centre (Submission Filed)
 Heather McGregor, CEO, YWCA (Submission Filed)
 Bruce Kidd, O.C., Ph.D., Professor and Dean, Faculty of Physical Education and Health, University of Toronto
 Keegan Henry-Mathieu, Director of Council Relations, Nayani Thiyagahari and Scott Wang, Toronto Youth Cabinet (Submission Filed)
 Geoff Rayes
 Julius Deutsch, Executive Assistant, Toronto and York Region Labour Council
 Faduma Mohamed, Executive Director, Labour Community Services
 Jem Cain, Co-Chair, New Toronto Good Neighbours (Submission Filed)
 Josephine Grey, Executive Director, Low Income Families Together (Submission Filed)
 Eric Nelson
 Michael Rosenberg

Decision Advice and Other Information

On motion by Councillor Mihevc, the Community Development and Recreation Committee referred all of the verbal and written submissions made to the Special Meeting on January 23, 2008, to the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, for consideration and report to the February 21, 2008, meeting of the Community Development and Recreation Committee.

Motions

Refer Item motion moved by Councillor Joe Mihevc (Carried)

Links to Background Information

cd13.1-Staff Report

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/cd/bgrd/backgroundfile-10497.pdf>

1a Improving Access to Recreation: "Everybody Gets to Play"

(January 14, 2008) Letter from Community Development and Recreation Committee

Summary

Advising that the Community Development and Recreation Committee on January 14, 2008, amongst other things, deferred hearing speakers on this item to a special meeting of the Community Development and Recreation Committee to be held on Wednesday, January 23, 2008, at 7:00 p.m.

Links to Background Information

cd13.1a-Letter from Community Development and Recreation Committee
<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/cd/bgrd/backgroundfile-10159.pdf>

Meeting Sessions

Session Date	Session Type	Start Time	End Time	Public or Closed Session
2008-01-23	Evening	7:00 PM	9:40 PM	Public