

City Council

Notice of Motion

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| MM51.27 | ACTION | | | Ward:All |
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Master Agreement for Recreation Space in Toronto District School Board (TDSB) Schools - by Councillor Janet Davis, seconded by Councillor Paula Fletcher

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Government Management Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Janet Davis, seconded by Councillor Paula Fletcher, recommends that:

1. City Council request the Deputy City Manager, Cluster A to report to the May 12, 2014 meeting of the Government Management Committee on the status of negotiations between the City and the Toronto District School Board on shared-use and exclusive-use agreements for recreation space in schools, including the proposed key terms and conditions, locations and estimated costs of the proposed "Master Agreement" under discussion.

Summary

The City of Toronto and the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) have supported recreation and other important community services through exclusive, shared-use and permitting arrangements in school facilities. All predecessor school boards and municipalities had formal agreements of some type that set out the terms and conditions for the use of this space.

Most of these agreements expired in 2002, and the City and TDSB have been attempting to negotiate a "Master Agreement" since that time. Many recreational facilities are operating under the terms of the expired, old agreements; others have been operating with ad-hoc arrangements.

Over the past few years, the TDSB has claimed or attempted to reclaim space being used by the Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division. Space used for recreation in Brown Public School was reclaimed by the TDSB many years ago. In 2012, The City was given notice to vacate our recreation facilities in several schools, including Terry Fox Recreation Centre in Gledhill Public School and Adam Beck Public School. The City and TDSB negotiated a one-year agreement to allow continued use for recreation; however that agreement expired April 30, 2013.

The City has been negotiating an agreement with the TDSB for twelve years without success. The funding paid to the TDSB for the use of recreational space is substantive.

A motion was approved by Council in October 2012, requesting the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to report in November 2012 on the status of those discussions. No report has been come to Council on the status of negotiations or with a proposed "Master Agreement."

There is significant pressure at the TDSB around the use of school space for all-day kindergarten, child care and other programs for the fall of 2014. Decisions are being made now on the use of space to accommodate these uses. It is urgent that the City bring the negotiations to conclusion in order to protect the valuable space for recreation programming and plan for future budgets. I believe Council must be provided with information on the status of negotiations and give direction to staff in order achieve a successful outcome before the end of this school year and Council term.

(Submitted to City Council on May 6 and 7, 2014 as MM51.27)

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM51.27