

Relationship Framework for City Board-Operated Arenas

Date:	August 8, 2007
To:	Executive Committee
From:	Shirley Hoy, City Manager
Wards:	Wards – 11, 16, 18, 20, 26, 27, 32
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

This report recommends adoption of the Relationship Framework for City board-operated arenas including:

- 1) George Bell Arena (215 Ryding Ave., established 1961);
- 2) Larry Grossman Forest Hill Memorial Arena (340 Chaplin Cres., established 1970);
- 3) Leaside Memorial Community Gardens Arena (1073 Millwood Ave., established 1963); and
- 4) McCormick Playground Arena (179 Brock Ave., established 1971);
- 5) Moss Park Arena (140 Sherbourne St., established 1974);
- 6) North Toronto Memorial Arena (174 Orchard View Blvd., established 1965);
- 7) Ted Reeve Community Arena (175 Main St., established 1954); and
- 8) William H. Bolton Arena (40 Rossmore Rd., established 1971).

The relationship framework attached as Appendix A defines the roles and responsibilities of the Board and the City, clarifying accountabilities, expectations and requirements.

Through discussions with the members of these eight City Boards, the Managers of the arenas and with appropriate City staff from Parks, Forestry and Recreation, Financial Planning, and Legal Services a relationship framework was developed and it is attached as Appendix A.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Manager recommends that:

1. City Council adopt the Relationship Framework, attached as Appendix A, for the eight City Arenas Boards, developed in compliance with the City of Toronto Act, 2006;
2. the General Manager of Parks, Recreation and Forestry be designated the City's operational liaison for arena boards and provide support to the Boards to ensure they bring their operations into compliance with the Relationship Framework; and
3. the City Solicitor bring forward to the Executive Committee a by-law to add a new chapter to the Municipal Code replacing Chapter 25 of the former City of Toronto Municipal Code to implement the Relationship Framework

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact.

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

Equity Impact

Relationship Frameworks are based on the principle that all City bodies, with their unique mandates, structures, and relationships to the City, should operate under the same principles of social and economic inclusion as the City.

DECISION HISTORY

In July 2003, City Council adopted a template for Relationship Frameworks to be developed for all City boards. To date, Council has approved Relationship Frameworks for 10 AOCCs, the Licensing Tribunal, and Toronto Atmospheric Fund. Frameworks for Heritage Toronto, Toronto Parking Authority and Exhibition Place are also in progress.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

There are eight indoor ice arenas in the City of Toronto operated by City boards. These boards were established by the former City of Toronto and the former Borough of East York under the authority of the former *Municipal Act*, the *Community Recreation Centres Act* and their predecessors. The seven arenas located in the former City of Toronto are:

1. George Bell Arena;

2. Larry Grossman Forest Hill Memorial Arena;
3. McCormick Playground Arena;
4. Moss Park Arena;
5. North Toronto Memorial Arena;
6. Ted Reeve Community Arena; and
7. William H. Bolton Arena; and

the arena located in the former Borough of East York is:

8. Leaside Memorial Community Gardens Arena.

The by-law which established and governs the seven arenas located in the former City of Toronto is found in *Chapter 25 of the former City of Toronto Municipal Code* while the Leaside Arena was established and is governed according to *By-law 1374 of the former Town of Leaside* which was amalgamated in 1967 with the former Borough of East York.

COMMENTS

1. Overview of the Arena Board Operational Model

The City of Toronto currently provides indoor ice recreational activities to City residents through almost 50 city-owned facilities. There are a variety of operational models for managing these facilities and creating the opportunity for local community engagement in the decision-making that affects these facilities. The former City of Toronto and Borough of East York made a decision to utilize a Board of Management model, whereby it delegated the responsibilities for the day-to-day operation of eight indoor arenas to an appointed volunteer Board consisting of representatives of the local community and arena user groups. The City retained responsibility for major maintenance and capital work.

The Board of Management operational model is one of many vehicles for engaging citizens in decision-making about the recreational programs and activities available in their neighbourhoods. The mandate of these Boards is to operate the arena in a manner that meets local community needs for indoor ice recreational activities while having regard for the objective of producing enough revenue from these uses to operate at the lowest reasonable cost to the City and its residents. Prior to and since amalgamation, the Board-operated arenas have consistently delivered on this mandate. Each arena has dedicated staff to ensure a high service level to the community.

This Relationship Framework describes the Board of Management model as one of the operational models the City uses for engaging the community in the management and delivery of indoor ice recreational programs. The accountability for the successful operation of the facility and its programs is not the sole responsibility of any one party, but is shared between City Council, the appointed Board of Management, the Arena Staff and City Staff. The Relationship Framework documents the roles and responsibilities of each party and thereby their respective accountabilities.

2. The Purpose of the Relationship Framework

The purpose of this Relationship Framework is to:

- A. recognize the Arena Board's authority to manage the business affairs of the facility in accordance with this relationship framework and applicable City bylaws;
- B. set out the conditions that promote an effective and collaborative relationship between the City and the Arena Boards;
- C. identify the types and levels of support provided by the City to Arena Boards and responsibilities and obligations of the Arena Boards;
- D. inform the Arena Board, City staff and the residents of Toronto regarding Council's direction on matters such as governance, applicable City rules and policies, reporting requirements and accountability;
- E. articulate City Council's delegation of authority, expectations and requirements for Arena Boards; and
- F. combine and update information from a variety of sources into one document including City policy, the Toronto Municipal Code and applicable provincial legislation.

3. Development of the Relationship Framework

Work on developing the Relationship Framework was initiated in the Fall of 2005 by the Strategic and Corporate Policy Division of the City Manager's Office. During the first half of 2006, City staff met with the Managers and Board Chairs of the eight arenas and attended Board meetings to discuss and develop a preliminary draft of the Relationship Framework.

In October and November 2006, four separate meetings were held between City staff from all relevant City divisions, the Arena Managers and Board members to discuss and develop a mutually acceptable relationship framework that is consistent with the City of Toronto Act, 2006 and City policies. The issues and concerns raised by the Arena Boards have been addressed in the Relationship Framework where possible while still ensuring compliance with the City of Toronto Act, 2006 and relevant Council policy and by-laws.

The Relationship Framework presented in Appendix A of this report has been reviewed by all eight Arena Boards and by all relevant City Divisions including Parks, Forestry and Recreation, Financial Planning and Legal Services.

CONTACT

Lance Alexander, Senior Corporate Management and Policy Consultant
Strategic and Corporate Policy, City Manager's Office
Tel: 416-397-4625 Fax: 416-696-3645 email: lalexand@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Shirley Hoy
City Manager

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A – Relationship Framework for Boards of Management of Arenas