



Date: December 9, 2010

TO: Board Members – Vancouver Park Board
FROM: General Manager – Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Child Care Operator Selection Recommendation

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT the Board approve a 5-year lease agreement with Developmental Disabilities Association (DDA) as per the terms described in this report, for operation of the childcare facility at Creekside Community Recreation Centre***
- B. THAT all legal documentation is to be in a form which is satisfactory to the Director of Legal Services for the City of Vancouver and the General Manager.***
- C. THAT the General Manager be authorized to execute and deliver such documentation on behalf of the Board.***
- D. THAT no legal rights shall arise and no consents, permissions or licences are granted hereby and none shall arise or be granted hereafter unless and until all contemplated legal documentation has been executed and delivered by all parties***

BACKGROUND

Investment in high quality early childhood programs has positive social and economic returns. Such programs can be beneficial for all children and provide a positive form of contemporary family support. Participation in quality childcare programs has proven to have a significant, positive influence on children facing social, economic, physical or intellectual disadvantages. The City of Vancouver is committed to the development and maintenance of a comprehensive childcare system based upon the principles of quality, affordability, and accessibility.

Council Policy

On October 23, 1990, Council approved the Civic Childcare Strategy, committing the City to being an active partner with senior governments, parents, the private sector and community in developing and maintaining a comprehensive childcare system in Vancouver. An action plan was adopted as part of this strategy directing staff to secure childcare facilities as a condition of rezoning land.

On April 23, 2002, Council approved "Moving Forward Childcare: A Cornerstone of Childhood Development", which set out a strategic plan for the integration of childcare and child development services within a hub framework for the City.

In June of 2003 a protocol for the maintenance and expansion of childcare services in the city of Vancouver was approved:

WHEREAS accessible, affordable, and quality childcare is essential to the health and well-being of the City of Vancouver's children and families;

AND WHEREAS child development and childcare play a crucial role in the economic stability of our City;

AND WHEREAS it is critical that all levels of government, including those at the local level, and the private sector, take an active partnership in ensuring successful child development opportunities;

AND WHEREAS the City of Vancouver has been a leader at the municipal level on the Issue of childcare;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Vancouver commit to working in collaboration with the Park Board and School Board to maintain and expand childcare services in the City;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that city staff organizes a policy forum for City, Park Board and School Board elected representatives and staff to develop a process to achieve these ends.

In response to this motion the Park Board also passed a similar motion to support these key principles.

A legacy of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, Creekside Community Recreation Centre opened to the public in July 2010. The facility provides a gathering place to enjoy a range of both indoor and outdoor recreation with its gymnasium, fitness centre, and multipurpose spaces, a boating centre, childcare and commercial restaurant space still under development. The centre and surrounding village has been designed to set new standards as a sustainable community and model of green building construction in the city.

The Creekside Childcare Centre is a 1,486 square meter indoor and outdoor facility, located on the third floor of the recreation centre. This facility was purpose built for childcare (infant, toddler, 3-5 years, preschool).

DISCUSSION

In November 2010, the City of Vancouver in cooperation with the Park Board issued a Request for Expressions of Interest for a childcare operator for the new Park Board facility in the Olympic Village. A number of local organizations submitted proposals for consideration. In December a review committee including members of City Social

Planning, Purchasing and Finance departments, Parks and Recreation, and BC Ministry of Children and Family Development evaluated responses. After a thorough review by the panel, Developmental Disabilities Association was determined to be the operator of choice for the Creekside facility.

Developmental Disabilities Association (DDA) has been in existence since 1952. Originally founded as a service to children with mental handicaps, the Association has evolved to provide integrated services for families and children from infants to school age. Its programming experience and policies provide for inclusive service to children with typical as well as special needs. It has established relationships with many community professionals and has a history of providing a multi-disciplinary, family centred approach to early learning and early intervention.

Currently DDA operates child and youth development centres in eight locations throughout Vancouver and one in Richmond. The programs include infant and toddler, 3-5 year old, preschool, and after school programs for school age children. Its first centre for Preschool opened in 1972 and its most recent centre for Infant, Toddlers, 3-5 year old, and Daycare opened in 2002.

DDA's philosophy regarding childcare is the belief that every person has the right to associate with his or her peers in integrated education and community settings where attitudes of understanding and acceptance are encouraged.

DDA's organizational structure supports its ability to deliver services having departments for Finance, Accounting, Payroll, Human Resources, Communications, and Business Centre. Overall the organization has approximately 600 full-time, part-time, and casual employees. The overall budget for this organization is approximately \$4,800,000 dollars for its child and family services.

DDA is well situated to deliver on the three guiding principals that the City has outlined for its involvement in child care;

1. Quality
2. Accessibility
3. Affordability

Terms of Lease

The lease term will be five (5) years with the opportunity to renew at the end of the term for two (2) further five (5) year terms. The lease will provide for a nominal rent of ten dollars (\$10.00) per lease term and utilities will be included (subject to Park Board approval) but the successful applicant will be required to pay communications (internet, cable, phone), security system, minor maintenance, janitorial, operating program, and service delivery costs.

The lease will require that the childcare facility program meet Provincial Community Care Facilities Licensing regulations.

SUMMARY

The Developmental Disabilities Association meets the requirements to undertake the operation of the new Creekside Childcare Centre. Staff recommends that the Board approve the terms noted above and permit the General Manager, in cooperation with the Director of Legal Services, to enter into a formal agreement with the Developmental Disabilities Association for the childcare centre at Creekside Community Recreation Centre.

Prepared by:
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