

Date: October 6, 1999

SUBJECT: ROUNDHOUSE COMMUNITY ARTS & RECREATION SOCIETY AND THE BOARD OF PARKS & RECREATION JOINT OPERATING AGREEMENT

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board approve the attached Joint Operating Agreement between the Roundhouse Community Arts & Recreation Society and the Board of Parks & Recreation, as negotiated by the Society and Park Board staff.

POLICY

That the Park Board Partner Community Associations/Societies sign a Joint Operating Agreement to define the roles and responsibilities of each party for the purpose of operating the community centres.

BACKGROUND

The Roundhouse Community Arts & Recreation Centre opened in May 1997 with the Roundhouse Advisory Committee acting as our Partner Member, until the first Annual General Meeting of the Society which was held on October 28, 1998 when the first slate of Board of Directors were elected by the membership. Society representatives and Park Board staff have been working on forming the joint operating agreement over the past year and a half.

DISCUSSION

Twenty-one (21) Community Centre Associations/Societies have a signed Joint Operating Agreement with the Park Board that was revised in 1976.

The Joint Operating Agreement that has been negotiated for the Roundhouse Community Arts & Recreation Centre is slightly different in wording and format than the 1976 edition. This updated agreement reflects more modern and contemporary language, while making no substantive changes to the intent of the Joint Operating Agreement principles.

There is one major difference in the Roundhouse Community Arts & Recreation Centre Joint Operating Agreement, in Clause 1 (Page 2) which commits the Vancouver Park Board and the Society to maintaining the facility as a local and regional centre for community cultural development as well as a provider of traditional and local community recreation services, and includes preserving the character, purpose and vision of the facility as outlined in the Roundhouse Community Arts & Recreation Society 1997 constitution. It is important to note that the other Community Association agreements do not so clearly commit to a long-term direction of the facility.

During the negotiations there was disagreement between staff and the society on Clause 26 - *Disputes Arising out of this Agreement*. The Society desired to have an additional clause that would direct the Board and the Society “to go to mediation” if a resolution could not be made at the Park Board level. It is staff’s opinion that the Park Board should retain their rights to settle disputes as they are the policy board of the organization.

CONCLUSION

The Roundhouse Community Arts & Recreation Society Joint Operating Agreement is a much easier document to follow and read, than the 1976 edition, and will form an excellent template for any future agreements or for a future revision review.

The negotiated agreement reflects our partnership and cooperative arrangement with our Community Associations/Societies and meets the specific needs of the Roundhouse.

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