



Date: October 9, 2003

TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation
FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Update on Youth Legacy for Sport, Physical Activity and the Arts

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the following motion on the Youth Legacy Action Plan approved by the Board on March 24, 2003 :

“The proposed \$149,300 be added to the Park Board’s share of the City’s 2003 operating budget”;

be rescinded as no funding is to be requested from the City until such time that action plans are developed following a collaborative planning process with City staff.

POLICY

Vancouver Children’s Policy

Council adopted the Children’s Policy in March 1992. A commitment statement to Vancouver’s children, it includes: Children’s Policy, Statement of Entitlements and an Action Plan.

Vancouver Civic Youth Strategy

The City’s Civic Youth Strategy (CYS) was first adopted in March of 1995, and updated in June 2003. CYS includes a policy statement that commits the City to involving youth and youth-driven organization as active partners in:

- the development, assessment and delivery of civic services which have direct impact on youth; and
- broad spectrum consultations and initiatives on civic issues.

The policy statement ensures that all City departments and Boards work towards four key objectives:

- ensuring that youth have “a place” in the city;
- ensuring a strong youth voice in decision-making;
- promoting youth as a resource to the City; and
- strengthening the support base for youth in the City.

BACKGROUND

A report to the Park Board at its meeting of March 24, 2003 discussed the need for action plans to address broad concerns about the trend to lower rates of physical activity by the city’s youth. The report outlined a lead role for the Board in response to the Mayor’s February 19, 2003 report “Ensuring Vancouver’s Olympic and Paralympic Legacy”, in partnership with a broad range of partners including civic bodies, community agencies, and citizen leaders.

The Youth Legacy Action Plan outlined key strategies in 3 areas, including leadership, programs and facility development. The leadership strategy focused on a youth-targeted public awareness campaign and the creation of a Task Force of youth, civic government representatives and community leaders. The program strategy included free skating for youth; “cold fun” winter sport programs in ice rinks for school groups, an “athlete in residence” program and new late night youth recreation activity, as examples of pilot programs. Finally, the facility strategy identified actions for age-appropriate youth friendly park and facility development. Partial costs estimated at \$149,300 for the balance of 2003 were noted for the Board’s consideration.

The Board approved the following motion:

- The Board endorse the strategy and have the General Manager present the staff report outlining the proposal to City Council and the Mayor for information and feedback at the earliest convenience;
- The proposed \$149,300 be added to the Park Board’s share of the City’s 2003 Operating Budget;
- Youth be involved in establishing the Youth Legacy Office and Task Force at the earliest convenience to continue to plan the Youth Legacy Program;
- A minimum of 2 youth be appointed to a Task Force;
- Public consultation is conducted in conjunction with the development of the program;
- Staff report back to the Board once a more detailed plan has been developed; and
- An evaluation process be developed to allow for future program refinements.

DISCUSSION

Subsequent to the March 2003 Park Board meeting, staff have been working with staff from other City departments to develop a strategic approach to bring the Youth Legacy Action Plan to Council. Key discussions have occurred with the City Manager and staff from Community Services, specifically the Office of Cultural Affairs and the Social Planning Department and the Park Board report and decisions have been shared. Through these discussions, it has been determined that a collaborative approach involving several city departments/boards was required prior any specific actions being approved for implementation relating to the Mayors recommendations regarding youth sport and the arts.

At the same time, Council has recently dealt with two related initiatives which are designed to enhance civic services for children and youth in Vancouver. It is anticipated that the updated Civic Youth Strategy's Youth Outreach Team, and the appointment of a new Child and Youth Advocate will provide some framework and resources which will be useful for the implementation of the Youth Legacy Action Plan.

A report on the Mayor's Olympic Legacy recommendations has been prepared for discussion by Council at its October 21st meeting. Section IV states that staff from the Office for Cultural Affairs, Civic Youth Strategy, School Board and Park Board are meeting to develop joint plans and a framework for action on the Mayor's recommendations. The mission is to develop shared approaches and a collective strategy for creating and delivering action plans for increased active youth participation in sport, in physical activity and in the arts. The Youth Outreach Team will work with the planning team to meaningfully engage youth in design and implementation strategies. The report references the Board's direction to work on the key areas of Leadership, Program and present and future Facility Development. Finally, the report advises Council that a report to the Park Board is going forward, and ensures Council that any relevant decisions of the Board will be forwarded to Council at its earliest convenience.

It is anticipated that as action plans develop in partnership with the collaborative planning team referenced above, funding will be requested from Council for implementation of actions. This will likely occur in 2004.

CONCLUSION

At its meeting of March 24th, the Board endorsed the Youth Legacy Action Plan for Sport, Physical Activity and the Arts. The Board directed staff to seek funding from Council for 2003, to engage youth and consult the public on relevant strategies, to include youth in a Task Force and to report back on progress and evaluation methods frequently. The City has since focused attention on the Civic Youth Strategy and the appointment of a Child and Youth Advocate and is currently reviewing the full range of plans, for all departments and boards, as they relate to the Mayor's recommendations as outlined in the document "Ensuring Vancouver's Olympic and Paralympic Legacy". Park Board staff have been engaged in all of these initiatives. These initiatives will ultimately enhance the Youth Legacy process and action plans. The additional time required for the collaborative planning process for youth sports, physical activity and the arts determines that an implementation of the Board's Youth Legacy Action Plan is not feasible in 2003. At this time, we anticipate implementation to begin in 2004 and therefore, the Board is required to amend the direction to seek funding in 2003.

Staff will report back on the progress of the collaborative planning process once action plans are formalized, and prior to any funding requests to Council.

Prepared by:

Vancouver East District