



Date: November 14, 2003

TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation
FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Olympic Youth Legacy 2003 for Sport, Physical Activity and the Arts

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board endorse recommendation A in the attached City Council report on Olympic Youth Legacy 2003 for Sport, Physical Activity and the Arts.

POLICY

There is no applicable policy

BACKGROUND

Health reports indicated that 58% of the youth of British Columbia are not sufficiently active for optimal growth and development. In February 2003, a report from the Mayor's forums on the Olympics recommended creation of a Vancouver Olympic Youth Legacy for Sport and the Arts.

Park Board, at its meeting of March 24, 2003, passed recommendations to bring together staff from city departments, Vancouver School Board, and community organizations, together with youth involvement to plan the Youth Legacy Program. Following further direction from the city, a motion was approved by the Park Board at its October 20th meeting to rescind a funding request from the City until such time that the action plans are developed following a collaborative planning process with city staff. The Board also requested that staff report back in one month. This report addressed that request and provides relevant updates.

DISCUSSION

Staff from the Park Board, City's Office of Cultural Affairs and Social Planning have begun meeting to forge alliances and to bring together their programs, partners and community networks to collaborate on the Youth Legacy Program. Specific focus is required to maximize opportunities for co-ordination and integration of child and youth initiatives to maximize benefits and achieve efficiencies. Three meetings were held in November, and subsequent meetings are planned.

It is anticipated that task groups will be formed and terms of reference frameworks developed relative quickly. When agreements in principle are reached and work plans refined, staff will report to the Park Board on terms of reference, community involvement, partnership opportunities and public consultation needs at that time. It is anticipated that this could be accomplished early in 2004.

Meanwhile, a pilot project to launch the Olympic Youth Legacy Program has been proposed to City Council for funding. Proposed events will commence on Sunday, December 21st with a kick off event at a central location and free public skates at the Kerrisdale and West End Arenas, followed by a series of free skating sessions at the city's other public ice rink venues during the holiday season.

CONCLUSION

After consultation and joint planning with city staff, Park Board staff have prepared a report to City Council seeking funding of \$20,000 to implement the first pilot of the Youth Legacy Program. This pilot proposes to get Vancouver's children, youth and families active by enjoying the benefits of ice skating and art activities in a festive atmosphere over the December holiday period. These demonstration programs are the first of many more "legacy" activities during 2004 and 2005 which are being designed by a joint task group of City and Park Board staff, prior to extensive consultation with children, youth, families and community partners. The Park Board will be informed of those plans as they develop into 2004.

Prepared by:

Vancouver East District