

Date: June 12, 2008



TO: Board Members – Vancouver Park Board
FROM: General Manager – Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Youth Services Review

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board endorse the recommendation in the attached City Council report, entitled Youth Services Review, dated June 9, 2008.

POLICY

The Park Board's Blueprint for Youth Services (1992).

BACKGROUND

The attached City Council report recommends that Council endorse the concept of a coordinated, interdepartmental approach to the provision of services for youth. The report recommends conducting further consultation with stakeholders and staff, and reporting back on the operational framework and implementation plan in early 2009.

The Park Board provides a wide variety of facilities and programs for youth. Community centres, pools and rinks as well as playing fields, tennis and sport courts, skateboard parks and other outdoor facilities are used extensively by youth. In 1992, the Park Board approved the Developmental Blueprint for Youth Services. The Blueprint is designed to enhance community centre youth programs across the city, and to facilitate partnerships with local Community Centre Associations and other youth-serving agencies to develop further community recreation opportunities for youth.

DISCUSSION

As a major civic provider of sport and recreational programs and facilities, staff recommends that the Board endorse the concept of a coordinated, interdepartmental approach to the provision of youth services. While the analysis of civic youth services found that local service groups work well together in many community centres, the findings also indicated that local efforts could be enhanced through an improved strategic alignment with police, schools and other civic services.

SUMMARY

Involving key Park Board stakeholders such as youth, Park Board staff and Community Centre Associations in the consultation process will ensure that the operational framework that supports this proposed corporate approach will also support the principles and objectives in the Park Board's Blueprint for Youth Services.

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