



Date: September 6, 2011

TO: Board Members – Vancouver Park Board
FROM: General Manager – Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Champlain YMCA Licence Agreement

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT the Board enter into a licence agreement with the YMCA to operate family services programming in Park Board space in Champlain Community School during the school year from September 1, 2011 to June 30, 2014 plus an option, subject to approval by the General manager, for an additional three school years***
- B. THAT once the form of the licence agreement has been approved by the General Manager and the Director of Legal Services, that the General Manager is authorized to execute the document on behalf of the Board.***

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.

BACKGROUND

As per the policies, the City and the Park Board support a framework for a coordinated comprehensive range of child development services which includes early childhood education, childcare as well as parenting/care giving services and support. The City is also committed to the development and maintenance of a childcare system based upon the principles of quality, affordability, and accessibility. While neither the City nor the Park Board directly operates these services, both provide facility space to not-for-profit societies to deliver such services.

The Park Board has access to programming space in Champlain Community School which includes two multipurpose rooms and an office. Previously, the Champlain Community Centre Association operated a licensed 50 space out of school care program for elementary school age children in the multipurpose rooms. Due to a number of factors including changes in Park Board programming support at the School, the Association decided not to operate the program after the 2009/10 school year. An expression of interest for a new operator for this space/program was issued in the fall of 2010. No operator answered the expression of interest.

In 2011, staff from the Board approached YMCA as the possible operator for children and family programming in this facility. The YMCA has a history of providing quality childcare and parenting programs in the city.

DISCUSSION

The YMCA has agreed to provide child and parenting programs to Champlain Heights Community School families including a before and after school care program serving children 5 to 12 years old. To help parents manage their work-life balance and be the best parents that they can be, the YMCA will also offer parenting workshops, family wellness activities and opportunities to connect with other families and socialize. Additional programming will be developed in concert with the community.

The essential clauses in the license agreement are as follows:

- a) \$1.00 per year fee
- b) Use of the facility
- c) Insurance and indemnification requirements
- d) Society to maintain, repair and pay for operating costs of the facility
- e) Termination clause to cover various situations

SUMMARY

This licence agreement represents a new partnership between the Park Board and the YMCA that will deliver programming to meet the needs of children and families living in Vancouver's Champlain Heights neighbourhood. Designed with a community-centered approach to helping children and families, the YMCA will provide both much-needed quality community programs, as well as links to community services and resources. This programming meets the City of Vancouver's commitment to the development and maintenance of a comprehensive childcare system based upon the principles of quality, affordability, and accessibility.

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