



**CITY OF KINGSTON
ARTS, RECREATION & COMMUNITY POLICIES
COMMITTEE
MEETING NO. 09-2011
Thursday, November 24th, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.
Council Chambers
MINUTES**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillor Glover; Chair
Councillor George
Councillor Hutchison
Councillor Neill
Councillor Osanic
Councillor Schell

STAFF PRESENT

Ms. Lanie Hurdle, Commissioner, Community Services
Ms. Adele Lafrance, Director, Community & Family Services
Mr. James Thompson, Committee Clerk
Mr. Damon Wells, Director, Public Works Services

OTHERS PRESENT

Councillor Downes

THIS IS NOT A VERBATIM REPORT

MEETING TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Neill
Seconded by Councillor Osanic

THAT the agenda be amended to include the addendum, and as amended, be approved.

CARRIED

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved by Councillor Schell
Seconded by Councillor Hutchison

THAT the Minutes of the Arts, Recreation and Community Policies Committee Meeting 08-2011 held on November 9th, 2011 be approved.

CARRIED

DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were none.

DELEGATIONS

There were none.

BRIEFINGS

There were none.

BUSINESS

a) 2011-14 Childcare Management Strategies

Ms. Lafrance provided the Committee with an overview of the information contained in the report.

Councillor Neill expressed concern that the impact of the full day early learning kindergarten program has not been analyzed. He mentioned that he is wary about maintaining a reserve fund as the Provincial Government may be hesitant to provide funding in the future. Ms. Hurdle replied that childcare funding is very stable from year to year. She commented that the intent is to utilize the funding in reserve on a sustainable program in the future.

Councillor Schell stated that the reserve funding should not be invested until the effects of the full day early learning kindergarten program are studied. She indicated that some daycares may be required to reduce staff. Ms. Hurdle reiterated that the decrease in the number of children using childcare services could lead to staffing reductions or to facility closures.

Councillor Downes sought clarification regarding the length of time that the aforementioned funding has been in reserve. Ms. Lafrance stated that the City of Kingston received 2.3 million dollars in funding for childcare in 2005. She stated that one million dollars has been spent and noted that the remaining funding was set aside for new projects and initiatives moving forward.

Councillor Downes questioned if Oakwood preschool is viewed as an unfair competitor. Ms. Lafrance responded that the competition believes that the City of Kingston has a conflict of interest. She stated that the City of Kingston does not produce childcare policies to benefit Oakwood preschool. She mentioned that being a service manager and director operator does pose some challenges.

Councillor Downes questioned if the report to Council would give consideration to possible subsidies for preschools located in geographic areas with a particular need. He stated that Oakwood preschool is a very important facility due to its geographic location. Ms. Hurdle indicated that due to changes at Oakwood preschool there will be

an opportunity to look at redistributing funding. She commented that the report to Council will provide a number of different options.

Councillor Hutchison questioned if the expected twenty percent decrease in demand for preschool space will lead to an increase in demand for care at the infant and toddler levels. Ms. Lafrance replied that the increased public awareness regarding the value of early learning could lead to an increase. She mentioned that toddler and infant care is more costly than preschool care.

Moved by Councillor Hutchison
Seconded by Councillor George

THAT Council approve the Childcare Management Strategies for 2011-2014 (Exhibit A); and

THAT Council confirm the allocation of up to \$93,600 of the Best Start Unconditional Grant, for use over the course of the Full Day Early Learning Kindergarten Program implementation, as one time stabilization and transitional funding for existing Kingston and Frontenac Childcare service providers with viable post Full Day Kindergarten business plans, the eligibility criteria to be developed in consultation with Childcare Service Providers and other stakeholder agencies; and

THAT Council approve that the remaining unallocated Best Start Unconditional Grant balance of approximately \$496,800 plus accumulated interest of approximately \$277,000, be retained in a municipal reserve fund, for future use to be determined.

CARRIED

b) Outdoor Rinks Policy

Ms. Hurdle informed the Committee that the report relates to a Council recommendation from 2008. She noted that the report provides background information, an overview of the costs associated with outdoor rinks and an outline of the levels of service.

Ms. Hurdle noted that there are twenty seven outdoor rinks in the City of Kingston.

Mr. Wells stated that Public Works is supportive of this policy.

Councillor Neill sought further explanation regarding the role of staff in the establishment of the rinks maintained by volunteers. Mr. Wells indicated that staff is tasked with setting up the rinks and turn the rinks over to the volunteers once the ice surface is developed. He commented that staff is responsible for the cleanup of the rinks in the spring.

Councillor Neill questioned if certain parts of the City of Kingston are underserved by the number of outdoor rinks. Ms. Hurdle replied that staff has yet to review this matter.

Moved by Councillor George
Seconded by Councillor Neill

THAT Council direct staff to not construct any new city operated outdoor rinks, except for the rink at Lake Ontario Park and unless included in a park master planning process, for the next five years, as per the Parks and Recreation Master Plan; and

THAT Council endorse the Outdoor Rinks Policy, attached as Appendix A to this report, which establishes guidelines for:

- a. locations, opening and closing dates, operating times and standards of service for municipally owned staffed, unstaffed and community outdoor rinks
- b. a process to allow volunteer lead community outdoor rinks, when certain criteria have been met; and

THAT existing community outdoor rinks be grandfathered and that volunteers be provided with a phase in period of three (3) years to comply with the Outdoor Rinks Policy.

CARRIED

c) Future of International Hockey Hall of Fame Building

Councillor Hutchison questioned if there is a report available regarding the condition of the International Hockey Hall of Fame Building. Ms. Hurdle replied that a report was brought before the Memorial Centre Advisory Committee. She commented that it would cost an estimated 1.4 million dollars to bring the building to an appropriate condition.

Ms. Hurdle stated that the Memorial Centre Advisory Committee has identified a need for open space at the Memorial Centre. She indicated that staff will work with the Memorial Centre Advisory Committee regarding the redevelopment of this space. Councillor Neill mentioned that there is desire to use this space for a community garden or for an additional play structure.

Moved by Councillor Neill
Seconded by Councillor Osanic

THAT Council direct staff to proceed with the demolition of 277 York Street on the Memorial Centre site once the International Hockey Hall of Fame vacates the building; and,

THAT the Kingston Memorial Centre Advisory Committee review potential long term use of the 277 York Street portion of the site with staff and stakeholders.

CARRIED

d) Working Group Appointments regarding a Future Creative City Committee or Resource Group

The Chair noted that this matter did not require action from the Committee.

MOTIONS

There were none.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

There were none.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Arts, Recreation & Community Policies Committee is scheduled to be held on Thursday December 15th, 2011.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor George
Seconded by Councillor Osanic

THAT the Arts, Recreation and Community Policies Committee do now adjourn.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

