

**Appendix D – Recreational Camp Programs
Post-Analysis Consultation Comments**

REVIEW OF SERVICES PUBLIC CONSULTATION SESSION
Wednesday, February 23rd, 2005
Portsmouth Olympic Harbour
'TRANSIT CHARTERS'
'CHILD/YOUTH RECREATION DAY CAMP PROGRAMS'
'BELLE PARK GOLF COURSE FACILITY''

Review of Services Task Force Members Present

Councillor Ed Smith, Chair
Councillor Beth Pater
Councillor Bittu George

Review of Services Project Team Members Present

Sheila Hickey, Director, Strategic Initiatives and Corporate Communications
Jeremy DaCosta, Project Manager
Sharon Fitch, Project Office Assistant
Laura Seiffert, Communications
Cheryl Mastantuono, Community Services
Bert Needham, Community Services
Kim Leonard, Planning & Development Services

Members of Council & Staff Present

Acting CAO Denis Leger
Malcolm Morris
Councillor Meers arrived for Belle Park

THIS IS NOT A VERBATIM REPORT

Child/Youth Recreation Day Camp Programs

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm
7 people present – 5 staff/2 members of the public

Delegations:

1. Paul Turner

As parents, the possibility of the day camps not staying with the City would have an effect on the choices for childcare. For the summer, its important to have choices for both camps and daycare. Taking that one option away, as parents, would limit the choices. My experience with other agencies, is that there is room in the City for several providers of daycare and camps. The City had 2000 kids last summer – to ask other agencies to create 2000 more spaces would be too much. Also on the other hand of the spectrum, we offer employment opportunities for young people. I want the panel to seriously consider that. We should be providing opportunity for employment for young people.

2. Nancy Foster

I generally am in agreement with the consultant in this study. Although I am concerned with duplication. The City needs to have pretty rigorous standards of other agencies. This is an extremely significant point for most people. Also the City provides transportation to some of its camps. Most people don't realize how difficult it is for parents to get children to these camps.

3. Bill Reason

I feel capacity is a huge issue. The Boys & Girls Club and the 'Y' are near capacity. Most other camps are non-profit so camps and daycare are money makers for them. They won't have the capacity to absorb 1800 kids. Also, other organizations don't have the infrastructure or standards that the City attains to.

4. Lynda Breen

Speaking to the uniqueness, the City vs others – many of the camps we offer are very different. Grass Creek Park has been in operation for 30 years and yes, bus service is offered. Grass Creek offers canoeing, archery, swimming – all of which are not offered at most other camps. RKY Camp is very expensive. We are offering unique programs and are more affordable. Theatre and Hockey camps may be available at other camps, but are much more expensive. Our Boiling Room program is more expensive but its the only place in the City to have it.

Councillor Beth Pater

I remember too about accessibility issues and access for kids with disabilities. The City is accessible where others may not.

5. Lynda Breen

Yes, we do have councillors that are specially trained to deal with these kids. They are trained to work with children with disabilities.

6. Jesse Lawler

As a kid, I went to these day camps. Now, as a councillor, its fun to see these kids come through. Having little brothers and sisters of friends come through is cool. I know they could go through other camps but its neat to have them at the City.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.

"We'd like to hear from you"



Please provide us with your comments.

Personal information, which includes opinions and views, collected during the Review of Services is collected under the authority of the Municipal Act 2001, and will be used to help Council make a decision on this matter. All names and comments will be included in material available to the public. If you prefer not to be identified, please do not provide your name when completing this form.

Please identify which service(s)/program(s) your comments are directed

- Belle Park Fairways Recreation Day Camps Lake Ontario Park Campground
 Transit Charter Bus Service City Property & Facility Leasing

Summer Day Camps are very important to many of our youth inside and outside of the city. Many children would otherwise be in a private home daycare or institution - school daycare much like the other 9-10 months of the year = school. My child ~~love~~ loved Grass Creek Park activities and thrived on the nature studies and outdoor ~~at~~ experiences. The councillors were great and learning and playing "outside" of "4 walls" gave him much pleasure & confidence & appreciation of our environment and others around him.

Name: (Optional) Jean Morey - Howe Island

DaCosta, Jeremy

From: Webtech
Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2005 1:33 PM
To: ReviewofServices
Subject: ROS WEB COMMENT - Youth Day Camps

The following comment was posted February 17, 2005, 1:32 pm

Service: Youth Day Camps

Name : Catherine Isaacs
Address :
: Kingston
E-mail :

Remote :

COMMENT:

I do agree that non-residents of the City should pay higher fees or attend camps with the help of a subsidy from their own municipalities.

I do not agree that the city should contract out summer camps. The city's camps are outstanding in every respect. My children have attended all sorts of camps over the past 10 years. With the exception of the Earth Camp skateboard camp, which is exceptionally good, there are no other summer camp providers who approach the level of quality offered by the city. That statement is based on my kids' opinions. The Theatre Camp and Hockey Camp are amazing! Except for Earth Camp, my kids simply will not attend camps run by other non-city organizations. Now that my eldest son is old enough to be a LIT, I would be dismayed if the city were to discontinue this very worthwhile program.

Linda Breen should be commended on the work she has done in organizing such excellent camps.

I do think that where the city is unwilling or unable to fill a particular camp niche (for instance an OUTDOOR skateboard camp, it should consider partnering with the best available camp provider (Earth Camp). Unfortunately Earth Camp may not operate this year as Bill Tilden can no longer afford to bus all the kids to Lansdowne from Kingston. There is no reason why a city of this size should not have a proper outdoor skate park like Trenton's or Lansdowne's. There is a real deficit of appropriate camps for older boys who are not into team sports.

DaCosta, Jeremy

From: Isaacs, Catherine
Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2005 2:31 PM
To: ReviewofServices
Subject: summer camps are a great deal

Hi,

As an addendum to my previous comment, it is my understanding that the net cost to the taxpayer of the city's camps is only 20Kpa. What a great deal! Why is this service even being reviewed? How can camps of the same quality possibly be offered through outside agencies at the same cost to residents? Contracting out is likely to result in lower quality or higher user fees.

Thanks,

Catherine

From: Allen, Carolyn **On Behalf Of** Contactus
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2005 11:13 AM
To: Fitch, Sharon
Subject: FW: Spam: Review of services - day camps

Good Morning Sharon,

Fyi.....comments on the review of services.

Thanks
Carolyn

From: Wendy Kelen
Sent: February 14, 2005 10:41 AM
To: Contactus
Subject: Spam: Review of services - day camps

Dear staff at the review of services -

I have read the summary of your recommendations about partnering with existing providers of day camps. I think a partnerships, such as with the Boiler Room, is a very good idea. That, combined with a trip to the Memorial Pool, works very well. The partial subsidy of the camp is very important to most working parents. My feeling is that it is important for the City of Kingston to continue to provide quality care camps, and partnering with existing programs is a good idea.

Wendy Kelen

**City of Kingston
Review of Services
Telephone Enquiry Form**

Internal - Ext. 4322

External - Ext. 4323

Date Telephone Message Received: February 14/05

Internal [Staff] Enquiry

External [Citizen] Enquiry

Message [Verbatim]

Name: [if provided] Mr/Mrs/Ms Elizabeth Dorrington

Hi, I'm Elizabeth Dorrington in Gananoque, phone number is and our postal code is K7G 1C6 and I'm phoning with regard to the recreational day camps. Specifically there is very little offered in the counties of Leeds and Grenville and specifically in the South Leeds area and we do take advantage of what the City of Kingston offers by way of recreational day camps/summer camps for our children. Especially Grass Creek park. It's a very valuable and educational program that our children have attended for the past few years and look forward to attending year after year and we have recommended it to other families as well. In addition, I work for the Ontario Early Years Centre for Leeds and Grenville and we, on a regular basis in spring and summer, refer people who live in the South Leeds to City of Kingston day camps and mostly it's the Grass Creek Park so it would be a real loss if we saw a reduction or loss of that program altogether. We hope that it continues and if you'd like more information feel free to call and please add my name to the database. Thank you.

If message contained a question, and the call was returned, response given:

Call returned by: _____ Date: _____/04

DaCosta, Jeremy

From: Turner, Paul

Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2005 4:31

To: ReviewofServices

Subject: Phase one results

After reading the recommendations regarding Children & Youth submitted by BMA I'm pleased that based on factual information we should continue to offer these programs as a service for our taxpayers(including me).

I am willing to take a look at partnerships I.e YMCA however, that should not include a study to determine if the YMCA can increase their services, therefore we can stop offering ours. That's simply put privatizing services. This is a good size city full of kids looking for things to do. One service provider should not be able to monopolize recreational services for children, if allowed, prices will surely increase. There is plenty of room for all existing organizations ,who provide recreational opportunities for kids, to co-exist.

There are a few comments made by pro-YMCA supporters regarding our extended hours program. To my knowledge, in any of my programs have we ever eliminated extended hours service. we have however, due to budget constraints, reduced the morning drop off by one half hour. When people make comments they should do their homework first.

Thank You!!

Paul Turner
Assistant Leader
Programs, Events & Aquatics
Cultural Services
Artillery Park Aquatic Centre
613 546-7998 ext.1707
pturner@city.kingston.on.ca

2/3/2005