TO:            Mayor and Members of Council
FROM: Cynthia Beach, Commissioner, Sustainability & Growth Group
RESOURCE STAFF: Lanie Hurdle, Director, Recreation and Leisure Services
DATE OF MEETING: 2010-05-04
SUBJECT: Partnership Agreement for Walls, Waves & Wonders Summer Camp

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The City of Kingston through its Recreation and Leisure Services Department has worked in partnership with the Boiler Room Climbing Gym for the past nine years to provide a unique summer camp program experience for children 7 to 13 years of age. Participants learn various climbing and knotting skills in the morning at the Boiler Room Climbing Gym and participate in supervised swimming and/or activities at Artillery Park Aquatic Centre in the afternoon. Approximately 315 participants attend this popular camp program each summer. The City operates this camp in partnership with the Boiler Room Climbing Gym due to their ability to provide specialized equipment, facility, staff training and supervision. All direct program costs are covered through the registration fees and have been incorporated in the 2010 operational budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to enter into an agreement with The Boiler Room Climbing Gym, for the coordinated program delivery of the Walls, Waves & Wonders summer camp program, in a form satisfactory to the Director of Legal Services.
AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES:

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<th>ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER</th>
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<td>Gerard Hunt, Chief Administrative Officer</td>
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CONSULTATION WITH THE FOLLOWING COMMISSIONERS:

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<th>Commissioner</th>
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<tr>
<td>Terry Willing, Community Development Services</td>
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<td>Denis Leger, Corporate Services</td>
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<td>Jim Keech, President and CEO, Utilities Kingston</td>
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OPTIONS/DISCUSSION:

Safety is an important aspect of this program. Staff complete a Program and Facility Assessment prior to start of each camp season and both the Boiler Room Climbing Gym and City staff screen leaders for their knowledge and expertise in rock climbing safety and skills. Under the agreement with the City, the Boiler Room Gym is required to provide commercial general liability insurance.

Climbing is a sport that challenges a participant in many different ways; physical strength plays a part, but equally important are attitude, strategy, and flexibility. The sport is very popular with youth, young adults and fitness conscious parents. Indoor wall climbing is a sister sport to traditional outdoor rock climbing with some differences. The indoor climbing gym has sculpted hand and foot holds all over the walls, from floor to ceiling, with safety ropes permanently installed. The indoor environment allows for interesting climbing routes of any difficulty level from beginner to expert.

The Boiler Room is located in The Woolen Mill, a renovated, historic building on Kingston’s inner harbour. The Boiler Room provides 2 caves, 35 belay stations and more than 70 climbs. The walls are located in two rooms providing a number of routes covering a wide range of skill levels and containing a variety of features.

This partnership provides children the opportunity to try a new sport in a comfortable, safe camp setting combined with an afternoon of swimming and/or activities. As with other municipal recreation or sport programs, it is Recreation and Leisure Services’ intent to provide opportunities for children to be introduced to new activities that could potentially lead to further development of a skill or continued engagement in the physical activity.

EXISTING POLICY/BY LAW:

N/A

NOTICE PROVISIONS:

N/A

ACCESSIBILITY CONSIDERATIONS:

The Boiler Room Climbing Gym is a private company that offers a unique service in Kingston although it is not a fully accessible facility.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

All applicable fees for the use of the Boiler Gym are incorporated in the program registration fee. Artillery Park fees are also incorporated in the cost of running the program. All direct program costs are covered through the registration fees and have been incorporated in the 2010 operational budget. This program is not subsidized through the City operational budget.
CONTACTS:

Lanie Hurdle, Director, recreation and Leisure Services  613-546-4291 ext. 1231
Lynda Breen, Supervisor Recreation Programs  613-546-4291 ext. 1705

OTHER CITY OF KINGSTON STAFF CONSULTED:

Chris Paterson, Coordinator, Program and Youth Services

EXHIBITS ATTACHED:

N/A