To: General Council Winnipeg Community Centres

Attention: Darren Lezubski – Facility Planner

From: Burrows Central Residents Council

Proposed use of Boyd Park Community Centre

We are writing on behalf of the Burrows Central Residents Council. BCRC was formed in 2001 after several community meetings, which determined the community would support a residents association in the Burrows area. We are a non-profit volunteer based organization which operates in the boundaries of Arlington, McPhillips, Mountain and Selkirk. BCRC has a Board comprising of ten neighbourhood residents. In this area we have over 2,500 homes and our primary aim is to maintain and create a healthy and safe community for all residents.

In the past we have held community events including barbeques and family picnics. We work to identity resources for the residents in our neighbourhood and strive to maintain the enhancement of our community spaces. For the past three years we have employed the Urban Green Team to assist senior and disabled persons with yard work, they also remove graffiti, and conduct general clean ups and safety audits. We also worked with the Building Communities Initiative which funded the new play structure and water feature at Boyd Park, and the Margaret Scott Skateboard Plaza. BCRC communicates with the area residents by newsletter 3-4 times a year, these newsletters are delivered by youth.

As you are aware there is little green space in our area, no spaces to hold meetings, no recreation, sports or arts programming in the Burrows boundaries. In the past two years we have conducted community meetings and surveys and asked residents what they would like to see developed in the area. Time and time again they talk about safety issues and the need for more recreation for youth, programs for seniors, mothers and children, and community space within our boundaries that could be used as a multi-purpose space for all.

Every year the Board of BCRC tries to move forward on these identified areas. It has been difficult to work on moving forward with these types of initiatives without funding or a space. Recently we applied for funding and were awarded $112,000 from the Federal Government Crime Prevention fund. This funding is to implement our two year community safety plan, "People Helping People-Safe & Healthy Community", with a primary focus on seniors and youth, safety, recreation and arts programming.

We are looking to house our project in a space in the Burrows area and would like to use Boyd Park starting in September of 2006. We need the space to house the office of the coordinator and to conduct community meetings and programs for seniors and families in the daytime and for youth in the evenings. ***Our project is supported by North End Community Renewal Corporation, Ndinawe, Ma Ma Wi, Point Douglas Seniors Coalition, CEDA's Youth Opportunity Program. All these organizations are ready and willing to work in partnership with BCRC and prepared to implement programs at Boyd Park.*** BCRC has a board of ten persons and for the past three years have been working with students from the Youth Opportunity Program. We are currently conducting surveys with residents to establish who will be willing to volunteer at Boyd Park and further identity the types of programs the community would support.

This year we contacted the City of Winnipeg and we were given permission to use the Boyd Park space under a shared agreement with Sinclair Park from July 4th to August 26th. We are currently housing our three Urban Green Team students and a coordinator in the space for the summer. As well as general duties in the community the UGT are also keeping the Boyd Park space clean for the summer.

It is our wish to continue to use the space for our program coordinator and related activities in the future. We have discussed this with Mike Paktaghan and city officials and it was suggested that we advise you of our needs. We understand that GCWCC makes decisions on the use of community spaces. We know that 10 perhaps more years ago Boyd was merged with Sinclair because of the lack of volunteers to run the space. The area's population and needs have changed since the merger. Burrows has a large population of seniors without transportation and children who's parents do not have cars and cannot afford transportation costs to other centres outside of our area. Youth, families and seniors face isolation because there is no meeting spot and no place to hold programs in the area. BCRC feels that our community is being deprived of vital programs which enables a community to stay healthy and vibrant.

BCRC is an established organization with a track record of implementing changes in our neighbourhood. We are committed to the following:

- We have partnering organizations
- We have committed volunteers
- We have the residents support
- We are prepared to work in cooperation with Sinclair Park for the transition period.
- We are prepared to purchase third party liability insurance for Boyd Park.
- We are prepared to approach various funder's to assist with the renovation of this space.

A little forward thinking could change this space into a place that residents could use, instead of looking at a closed building with no programming and watching it slowly sinking into the ground. We believe that our proposal will enhance the use of the space and the programs being offered would enrich our neighbourhood. We ask that you seriously consider our proposal.

We would be happy to meet with you to discuss our organization and to provide you with any further information you may need or letters of support for this project. **You can reach the co-chairs Roxane Kopitonchuk at 478-0544 or 589-4374, email rkopitonchuk@wsd1.org or Pauline Riley at 586-6976 or 945-0792, email skyhigher@shaw.ca . Pauline Riley will be on vacation until July 24th.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Pauline Riley Roxane Kopitanchuk
Co-chairs Burrows Central Residents Council

Cc Doug Martindale MLA Burrows
Judy Wasylesia-Leis MP
Mike Paktaghan, Point Douglas City Councillor
Karen Glugush, City of Winnipeg Community Services Department
Point Douglas Senior Coalition
North End Community Renewal Corporation
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