EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 371
In reference to the extension of time provided to Kelvin Community Centre to remain open until the end of April 2007 while alternate space was found, Councillor Thomas asked His Worship Mayor Katz if he was aware that a health inspection was done and the G.C.W.C.C. was ordered to make repairs on the field house, but that those repairs have not yet been completed and that the field house was not ready for occupancy.

His Worship Mayor Katz replied that the fieldhouse was professionally cleaned and inspected on February 24, 2007 and was completely usable.

Councillor Thomas inquired if His Worship was aware that the G.C.W.C.C. was to assist the groups occupying Kelvin Community Centre to find another place to do their programming and that to date they have not approached the Kelvin Community Centre people to assist them in moving their programming to other locations in the community or to other clubs.

His Worship advised that the G.C.W.C.C. was working and communicating with all of the groups to ensure a smooth transition, had moved some of the groups, and continued to work with all those who wished to participate.

Councillor Thomas questioned if His Worship was aware that a person hired by the G.C.W.C.C. to look at area programming was approached by The River East Neighbourhood Network (RENN) and other local community centres, as to what the programming needs were in the Elmwood area and that this person was directed to talk to the persons operating the programs and the Ward Councillor, but that neither of those two actions had occurred to date.

His Worship stated that he would like to clarify that in regards to programming, specifically outdoor programming, all facilities remain in use and are accessible by the public. He added that part of the existing problem was that programs were not operating under the auspices of the G.C.W.C.C., which meant that for certain programs, such as soccer or baseball, there were children who would only be able to participate because they were not part of a community club. He emphasized that it was important that everybody realizes that Kelvin was a satellite of the Bronx Community Club and if everyone cooperated there would be a resolution which would be in the best interests of the children.

In noting that Dr. David Suzuki recently released the findings of his "If You Were Prime Minister Tour" report and that one of the top five themes in the need to address global warming was to build a sustainable, affordable, public transportation system, meaning rapid transit, Councillor Gerbasi asked the Mayor to clarify for Council whether building bus rapid transit was a high priority or a low priority for him.

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His Worship stated that the answer was a definitive yes; rapid transit was something that The City of Winnipeg hoped to accomplish as soon as possible. He added that the big city Mayors were lobbying to make sure the City had a national transit program in effect and a meeting would be held imminently to address the issue. He advised that some funding had already been provided and that he would continue to seek funding from the Federal and Provincial Governments.

Councillor Gerbasi asked if funding remained in this year's capital budget for the detailed design studies for the busways; to which His Worship advised that he would speak to the department and obtain a timetable.

In noting that the Glenlee and Norberry community centres in the St. Vital area were amalgamating and that both centres were remaining open until the improvements in Norberry were complete, Councillor Vandal questioned why the Kelvin Community Centre cannot also remain open until Bronx Park was complete.

His Worship Mayor Katz replied that the two situations were totally different inasmuch as the St. Vital Community Centres were working in cooperation to go under one roof by choice. He noted that this was the fourth time Council had dealt with this matter, noting today's vote to approve the usage of the revenues from the sale of the Kelvin Community Centre land to help construct the Bronx Park Club and the fieldhouses.

Councillor Vandal asked if His Worship was aware that approximately 150 youth use the Kelvin Community Centre per week to which His Worship confirmed that he was aware that the youth were using the facilities and stated that they would be able to continue to use the entire grounds, including the fieldhouse, on a regular basis.

Councillor Vandal questioned if His Worship was aware that there was not enough room for a ping pong table in the field house.

His Worship replied that if everyone really tried to do what they stated they were going to do, there would be no problem in having room for a ping pong table and many other amenities. He reiterated that the recreational outdoor facilities were still being, and would continue to be, maintained and used, and suggested that if people would work cooperatively things would continue to get done, but that if people continued to make an issue of certain things and played hard ball, the only people who would suffer were the children.