From: BOB KURY
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2008 1:21 PM
To: Park, Jo-Ann
Subject: EPC Meeting March 17

Attachments: Youth Recreation a Priority FP March 6 2008.PDF

Hi Jo-Ann,

As stated to you over the telephone, I will be appearing as a private citizen. I am also a community volunteer and a senior active in the community.

To help the meeting discussion, I submit the following for consideration by the Executive Policy Committee:

I seek clarification on what is being planned for this year and for future years based on the proposed operating budget and the attached March 6, 2008 Free Press article found on page B2.

Questions:
1. How did this "youth rec" decision come about? Was some sort of proposal submitted?
2. Whose needs are being met by the action being taken by the City of Winnipeg?
3. Groups are meeting and doing planning, but there does not appear to be any commitment of funds in the proposed operating or approved capital budgets, or an indication of how decisions will be made when staff return with their report?
4. Who has responsibility for the "report" to whom (the Mayor? Executive Policy Committee? City Council?), and is there a time line for submission of the report?

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Kury

WINNIPEG FREE PRESS THURSDAY MARCH 6, 2008 PAGE B2

Youth rec a priority, says Katz

By Joe Paraskevas

THE City of Winnipeg has launched an effort to increase recreational programs and facilities for inner-city kids, Mayor Sam Katz said Wednesday.

Staff have begun a series of meetings with community groups and "funding partners" to gauge the kinds of programs the city can deliver, as well as their cost, Katz said in an interview.

"We know what the goals are," he said. "The goals are to make sure that we have more programming available and that more of our children can access community-type centres. And there's all sorts of programs. Some of it would be physical activity, some of it could be learning. There's a combination."

The effort follows a $43-million commitment city council and the two other levels of government made to recreational facilities and community centres in 2004. Some money from that promise has yet to flow, Katz admitted. But he was quick to say the city has changed in three years: Crime and its influence on young people are a greater scourge in the inner-city now, he said, leading to the current round of talks to develop better and wider-ranging programs.

"Ultimately, what I think we want to see is a scenario where there is more accessibility for our children to programming that would basically act as an alternative to another lifestyle that would unfortunately be crime. That's the bottom line," Katz said.

He gave no details of the kinds of changes the current talks might yield for the network of community centres in Winnipeg's poorer neighbourhoods. He acknowledged one possibility might be the return of dedicated recreational directors, something not seen in the city for a couple of decades.

"Is it a possibility? It's something that's on the table to be discussed," Katz said.

"Are we there yet? No. It just started. That suggestion just came forward. The meetings are just starting."

Katz helped broker the meetings between city administrators and community groups, insiders said.

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