Agenda - Executive Policy Committee - April 9, 2008

REPORTS

Item No. 5 General Council of Winnipeg Community Centres – Separation of Westridge Community Centre
File PR-2

GENERAL COUNCIL OF WINNIPEG COMMUNITY CENTRES RECOMMENDATION:

The General Council of Winnipeg Community Centres submitted its report dated January 11, 2008 for consideration by the Executive Policy Committee, which recommends that Westridge Community Centre be allowed to separate into two distinct community centres, that being Westridge Community Centre located at (3 Marshall Bay) and Whyte Ridge Community Centre located at (170 Fleetwood Road).

GCWCC REPORT TO EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

Re: Separation of Westridge Community Centre

Report Date: January 11, 2008

Recommendation:

That the Executive Policy Committee concur with the General Council of Winnipeg Community Centres' recommendation that Westridge Community Centre be allowed to separate into two distinct community centres, that being Westridge Community Centre located at (3 Marshall Bay) and Whyte Ridge Community Centre located at (170 Fleetwood Road).

Reason for the Report:

- In March 2006, at the request of Westridge Community Centre, GCWCC met with representatives of the Centre to discuss the process for the separation of the two Westridge Community Centre sites.

- On April 26, 2006, at their Annual General Meeting the Westridge Community Centre Board informed the membership their intention to investigate separation of Westridge / Whyte Ridge Community Centre sites.

- In October 2006, the board formally voted to investigate the process the division of the centres.

- From June 2006 to December 2007, articles pertaining to the separation of the centre were printed in the community centre's newsletter. Four open houses (two at each site), were scheduled for the public's input. An online poll on the centres website saw people voting 96% in favour of separation.

- On February 13, 2007, the Westridge Board unanimously passed a motion in favour of formally notifying the GCWCC of the centre's intention to establish a working committee to work towards separation.

- On December 20th, 2007, the City Centre District Community Centre Board voted unanimously to support the separation of Westridge Community Centre.

- On January 7, 2008, the GCWCC Board motioned to support the recommendation that Westridge Community Centre be allowed to separate into two distinct community centres, and that GCWCC forward a report to Executive Policy Committee requesting their concurrence with the recommendation.

History:

In 1996, further to the development of the Whyte Ridge and Linden Woods communities, the initial plans were to build a new community centre which would service both areas. This facility was to be located in the vicinity of what is now known as Linden Ridge. When the two communities could not reach an amicable decision as to the location of the centre, the City of Winnipeg made the decision that the community of Whyte Ridge would join the Westridge Community Centre located at 3 Marshall Crescent and Linden Woods would join Victoria Community Centre located at 80 Derek Street.

In 1996 a facility and one rink were constructed at Whyte Ridge at 170 Fleetwood Avenue.

Since 2003, with the growth of Whyte Ridge the board has found it particularly challenging and cumbersome to operate two sites with one board. To try and deal with some of the challenges the board decided to create some parallel board positions that would ensure that there was a focus on each site. At the same time the Board also started to look at the possibility of separation. Over the past number of years the two sites have basically been operating independently and managing with some duplicate positions.

In 2006 Victoria-Linden Woods Community Centre who faced similar challenges was granted its request to separate into two distinct community centres.

Discussion:

The separation of the Westridge Community Centre into two distinct Centres is in keeping with the guidelines and criteria as set out in the Recreation, Leisure and Libraries Facility Policy. The separation of the two facilities will not increase square footage. There would be no financial impact associated with the separation as the Universal Funding Formula is based on heated square footage, population and outdoor rink surfaces. The current operating grant would be divided between the two sites as per the Universal Funding Formula.

As per RLLF, GCWCC is to operate Community Centre District Boundaries that match the City's Community Committee Boundaries. Currently there are three community centres that are divided between two Community Committees. Among these is Westridge Community Centres which is divided between the Assiniboia and City Centre Community Committees.

It is being proposed that the East/West boundary of the two sites be Waverley Street. This would follow the Community Committee Boundaries with the exception of the Linden Ridge Neighbourhood which falls within the City Centre Community Committee. The matter of the Neighbourhood of Linden Ridge boundary would require further discussion.

Should Executive Policy Committee concur with the separation of the Westridge Community Center into two distinct community centres, GCWCC will continue to provide assistance to the centres' volunteers, while overseeing the transition process and specific details required for the separation.

Report submitted by:

General Council of Winnipeg Community Centres

January 11, 2008