Agenda – Executive Policy Committee – May 20, 2009

REPORTS

Item No. 3 General Council of Winnipeg Community Centres – Plan 2025
File PR-2

GENERAL COUNCIL OF WINNIPEG COMMUNITY CENTRES RECOMMENDATION:

The General Council of Winnipeg Community Centres has submitted its Plan 2025 for consideration by the Executive Policy Committee.

WINNIPEG PUBLIC SERVICE RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the GCWCC Plan 2025 be adopted in principle and that the following comments of the Public Service in relation to the proposals contained in the General Council of Winnipeg Community Centres (GCWCC) Plan 2025 be received as information.

2. That the Public Service be instructed to work with GCWCC to finalize budget implications and report back to Council.

RE: General Council of Winnipeg Community Centres Plan 2025

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
Clive Wightman	*original signed by:* Clive Wightman	*Original signed by:* Mike Ruta	*Original signed by:* Glen Laubenstein

FOR SUBMISSION TO: Executive Policy Committee

REPORT DATE: April 20, 2009

RECOMMENDATION(S):

1. That the GCWCC Plan 2025 be adopted in principle and that the following comments of the Public Service in relation to the proposals contained in the General Council of Winnipeg Community Centres (GCWCC) Plan 2025 be received as information.

2. That the Public Service be instructed to work with GCWCC to finalize budget implications and report back to Council.

Report Summary

Key Issues:

- GCWCC was tasked, primarily as a result of Council adopting the Recreation, Leisure and Libraries Facility Policy on May 25, 2005, to prepare a strategic plan for the future of Community Centres from an infrastructure, programming and volunteer perspective.

People

- Volunteers have done a formidable job over the years in managing Community Centres. However as the environment that they function in becomes more complex the required skills required to manage a community centre are not always available.
- Where a base of volunteers cannot be sustained or assistance is required in order to develop appropriate program offerings, the City of Winnipeg and GCWCC commit to working collaboratively in order to ensure that programs that

meet community need and are community supported are delivered. This may be in the form of the City providing direct service or GCWCC managing the programming.

Programming

- Coordination of program development between the City of Winnipeg, Community Centres and other service providers will require extensive planning in order to mitigate duplication and ensure citizens are receiving a high service level.
- Plan 2025 recommends that Community Centre programming be delivered by the appropriate niche programmer. The Community Services Department supports this recommendation.
- There are many recommendations that the City provide additional resources to enable Community Centres to meet programming requirements. The Community Services Department is currently undertaking an assessment of community need and required programming to meet such identified need. Upon completion of this community assessment a Community Recreation Program Strategy will be developed with Recreation Service providers that will include resource requirements and the identification of an appropriate service provider. This assessment of community need will also assist Community Centres in better community understanding program requirements.
- In order to stimulate the provision of programming in community centres the Uniform Funding Formula should be revisited to provide resources to assist in program delivery. A possible solution might be to realign some per capita funding to program funding. Discussions between GCWCC and the Public Service need to occur as related to this issue.

Facilities

- All infrastructure development/redevelopment discussion contained in Plan 2025 are only proposals. Additional due diligence may be required in order to assess specific recommendations.
- A staged approach, with timelines, will be required to deliver infrastructure project proposals due to the capacity of GCWCC and City of Winnipeg and industry related resources.
- Potential financial commitments from the Municipal, Provincial and Federal Governments along with stakeholders need to be identified.
- The Community Services Department agrees that a District Utilization Plan must be undertaken to ensure optimum use of existing community centre facilities before embarking upon a massive community centre capital program.
- Additionally efforts must be made between the City of Winnipeg, GCWCC and School Divisions to ensure that programming space in schools is more accessible to citizens. There are over 200 schools in Winnipeg and increased

hours of access may be able to alleviate programming pressures in some neighbourhoods.
    - As the population of Winnipeg continues to grow additional square footage for development will be available but consideration of under-serviced Districts cannot be ignored although static growth in under-serviced Districts would indicate that all investment should occur in the Districts of high growth.

- GCWCC and Community Centres whether it is related to facilities or programming. The Public Service is proposing that additional collaboration between GCWCC and the City occurs to ensure that maximum utilization of all City facility and program offerings are considered before additional resources are requested by GCWCC.

- Additional initiatives surrounding items such as the development of plans for new governance models such as community centre board amalgamations and program rationalization within community centres should be directly supported by GCWCC and individual community centres whenever possible.

Implications of the Recommendation(s):

General Implications

( ) None

(x) For the organization overall and/or for other departments

(x) For the community and/or organizations external to the City

( ) Involves a multi-year contract

Comment(s): The recommendations contained in Plan 2025 will impact City Departments as they engage in a potential planning process. The impact of Plan 2025 will also have a major impact on potential community centre infrastructure and future programming as well creating a more collaborative working relationship between GCWCC and the Public Service.

Policy Implications

(x) No

( ) Yes

Comment(s):

Regulatory Implications

(x) None

( ) Eliminates or reduces regulatory impact

( ) Proposes regulatory impact

Comment(s):

Environmental Implications

(x) No

( ) Yes

Comment(s):

Human Resources Implications

(x) No

( ) Yes

Comment(s): Until a more formal program evaluation occurs, it would not be appropriate to comment on any future HR requirements, if any.

Financial Implications

( ) Within approved current and/or capital budget

(x) Current and/or capital budget adjustment required

Comment(s): Until Council has approved Plan 2025, cost estimates are developed for prioritized projects with manageable timelines, and formalized funding partnerships approved, no budget adjustments are required.

Report

REASON FOR THE REPORT:

The Public Service provides comments to reports that are routed directly to Executive Policy Committee in order to identify issues, if any, and to provide concurrence with content.

HISTORY:

Plan 2025 has been submitted as a result of Council adoption of the Recreation, Leisure and Library Facilities Policy on May 25, 2005.

DISCUSSION:

Plan 2025 focuses on addressing three specific concerns:

1. People/Volunteerism
2. Programs
3. Facilities

People

- Volunteers have done a formidable job over the years in managing Community Centres. However as the environment that they function in becomes more complex the required skills required to manage a community centre are not always available. Where a base of volunteers cannot be sustained or assistance is required in order to develop appropriate program offerings, the City of Winnipeg and GCWCC commit to working collaboratively in order to ensure that programs that meet community need and are community supported are delivered. This may be in the form of the City providing direct service or GCWCC managing the programming.

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- There are many recommendations that the City provide additional resources to enable Community Centres to meet programming requirements. The Community Services Department is currently undertaking an assessment of community need and required programming to meet such identified need. Upon completion of this community assessment a determination of resource requirements will be made and the identification of an appropriate service provider identified. This assessment of community need will also assist Community Centres in better community understanding program requirements.
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- The Community Services Department agrees that a District Utilization Plan must be undertaken to ensure optimum use of existing community centre facilities before embarking upon a massive community centre capital program.
- Additionally efforts must be made between the City of Winnipeg, GCWCC and School Divisions to ensure that programming space in schools is more accessible to citizens. There are over 200 schools in Winnipeg and increased hours of access would be able to alleviate programming pressures.
- As the population of Winnipeg continues to grow additional square footage for development will be available but consideration of under-serviced Districts cannot be ignored although static growth in under-serviced Districts would indicate that all investment should occur in the Districts of high growth.

Additional initiatives surrounding items such as the development of plans for new governance models such as community centre board amalgamations and program rationalization within community centres should be directly supported by GCWCC and individual community centres whenever possible.

For planning purposes, Community Centre Districts have been divided into areas called neighbourhood clusters that have similar characteristics.

Plan 2025 contains many references to the City of Winnipeg providing more funding to GCWCC and Community Centres whether it is related to facilities or programming. The Public Service is proposing that additional collaboration between GCWCC and the City occurs to ensure that maximum utilization of all City facility and program offerings are considered before additional resources are requested by GCWCC.

Financial Impact Statement Date: April 20, 2009

Project Name: GCWCC Plan 2025

COMMENTS:
There are no financial impacts associated with this report at this time.

Original Signed by Clive Wightman

Director of Community Services

IN PREPARING THIS REPORT THERE WAS:

Internal Consultation With and Concurrence By:

External Consultation With:

THIS REPORT SUBMITTED BY:

Department: Community Services
Division:
Prepared by: Clive Wightman, Director
File No.