

23. Re: Letter from Mr. C.B. Pritchard, 8003 Hunter Street
Recreational Program for Youth

Appearing on the Agenda for the November 6, 1972 Council Meeting is a request from Mr. C. B. Pritchard dated October 25, 1972, for a comprehensive recreational program for the youth of the community. Following is a reply from the Parks and Recreation Administrator:

" A. Staff Comments

The Staff has considered the comments of Mr. Pritchard's letter dated October 25th, 1972, to the Manager and Council, and would offer the following comments:

All reservation facilities under the jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Department must of necessity be operated on a controlled and programmed basis, while at the same time attempting to offer as much opportunity as possible to exercise freedom of choice and action in the pursuit of public choice of leisure activity.

It is not reasonable or responsible to offer a "select" group of young people a particular degree of access and freedom to satisfy their expressed requirements when many other young people and adults have expressed, when viewed objectively, equally important needs which Parks & Recreation Staff are attempting to meet through optimum allotment of space and provision of appropriate supervised activities.

The young people in the Charles Rummel Centre area have informal, supervised programmes available to them on Wednesdays; 8:15p.m. to 10:00;.m.; Saturdays 2:30p.m. to 5:00p.m. and Sundays 7:00p.m. to 10:00p.m.

Staff remain confident that the above noted allotment of time is adequate, especially in light of the shortage of prime time in this centre, in relation to the expressed needs of this particular youth group.

Ownership of the pool table (mentioned in Mr. Pritchard's letter) is not held by any particular youth group. It was purchased by the Corporation, from Municipal funds, for public use.

The use of Seaforth School activity room has been suggested to this youth group, however, they have not responded to this suggestion.

Availability of the old school house will be examined as a potential youth club centre. This type of special facility can lend itself to the type of "freedom" the youth groups wish to exercise, unlike a multi-use and interest building like Charles Rummel Centre.

B. Conclusion

Your Administrator concurs with the staff comments noted above and the course of action suggested as a potential approach to alleviating the concern expressed in Mr. Pritchard's correspondence. Parks and Recreation staff will continue to exercise optimum judgement and professional expertise in ensuring that optimum use is made of all resources and facilities in objectively satisfying the recreational needs of the community. "

RECOMMENDATIONS:

THAT a copy of this report be sent to Mr. C.B. Pritchard; and

THAT a copy of this report be sent to the Parks and Recreation Commission for information only.