

ITEM 7
MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 47
COUNCIL MEETING 89/07/10

RE: OVERVIEW OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF BURNABY YOUTH SERVICES REVIEW
MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the recommendation of the Director Recreation & Cultural Services be adopted.

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1989 JULY 04

TO : MUNICIPAL MANAGER
FROM : DIRECTOR RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES
RE : **OVERVIEW OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF BURNABY YOUTH SERVICES REVIEW**

PURPOSE: To provide comments from the Parks & Recreation Commission regarding the Burnaby Youth Service Review report.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT this report be received for information purposes.

REPORT

In response to Council's request the attached report received by the Parks & Recreation Commission at its meeting of 1989 July 05 provides comment on the findings and recommendations of the Burnaby Youth Services Review.

The Commission adopted the recommendation contained therein. As directed a copy of the report is attached for information purposes.



DENNIS GAUNT
DIRECTOR RECREATION &
CULTURAL SERVICES

PAL:jei
Attach.

cc: Director Planning & Building Inspection

RE: OVERVIEW OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF BURNABY YOUTH SERVICES REVIEW

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RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT a copy of this report be sent to Council in response to Council's request of 1989 May 15 for preliminary comment on the Burnaby Youth Services Review.

REPORT

At its meeting of 1989 June 07, the Commission received from Municipal Council, a copy of a report from the Director Planning & Building Inspection outlining an overview of the findings and recommendations of the Burnaby Youth Services Review.

The report was given to the Commission by Council for its information and also for preliminary comment.

Staff have reviewed the findings of the study and generally conclude that the concept proposal has merit.

The proposal is costly to set up and operate and the outcome is uncertain. Given the margin of risk it is agreed that a fully coordinated approach is required if any measurable benefits will be realized.

The detail of establishing a Youth Centre and establishment of Youth Workers requires further study.

Some general perspectives are offered with respect to the approaches to be taken.

1. Senior Administrative Committee and Multi Service Teams

The proposal calls for a strong coordination of the services for youth. It is proposed that the Coordinator and the communication and development of the youth service be administered by a Senior Administrative Committee. The members of the Committee would include those key agencies involved in delivering services to youth now. The Committee in turn would be supported by Service Teams.

It is proposed that the Parks & Recreation Department be represented on the Committee and the teams. Since the Commission is a primary service agent for all youth, it is staff's opinion that representation is appropriate. It would be beneficial to the Department for the development of future programming and services for youth.

Staff support the suggestion of a senior staff member being on the Administrative Committee and where appropriate on the Service Teams.

The education of staff working with the youth, and clear lines of communication and referral are a necessity if positive affects on the at-risk youth are to be realized.

Staff encourage the further consideration of a coordinated youth service.

In addition to the Committee/Team concept the report further recommends Drop-in Centres and Outreach Workers both of which could impact on Parks & Recreation. A comment on both these additional topics is provided below.

2. Youth Drop-in Centres

The concept of developing Drop-in Centres to help meet the needs of at-risk youth is supported.

The Centre could act as the delivery coordination centre for all agencies serving the at-risk youth. The Drop-in Centre would require extensive resources to be effective, e.g. equipment, space, transportation, funds. The users would not likely pay for the program operation in any way, therefore, it would be fully subsidized.

Given the necessary flexibility and responsiveness to meet crisis situations such a centre may best be operated by a Society. A society would have the opportunity to acquire Federal and Provincial Government funds to help offset the operating costs to the Municipality.

3. Youth Outreach Workers

The Parks & Recreation Department could employ the Youth Outreach Workers, however, this would require a specialized support system, requiring a Coordinator trained in Youth, Crisis Counselling plus recreation.

The needed Street and Outreach workers would be most effective if they operated from a Youth Centre; and may be more effective and free to respond to youth problems if they were employees of a Society.

The effectiveness of such a program will be dependant on the coordination of the resources provided through the team of agents. The workers alone would have limited influence on effecting change in behaviour of the at-risk youth unless the initiatives are coordinated.

If the appropriate resources are provided a beneficial service could be created, however because of the weak commitment on the part of many at-risk youth the ultimate effectiveness of the opportunity is uncertain.

ND:jeI

cc: Director Planning & Building Inspection

