

Dovercourt Recreation Association: Board Business for September 2017

Revised Service agreement: We have been working over the period of the last three years on a mutually agreeable revision to our service agreement with the City of Ottawa. A significant milestone has been achieved with approval of the main document including changes suggested by our now Past President James Wishart. City staff have now been given the greenlight to make changes to the schedule document that identifies the specific responsibilities of each party, as well as including a clause that identifies a process in the event of an event that caused a business interruption not covered by our business insurance. This is a critical risk management item and we are delighted to see progress.

Building Expansion Report: We have completed the necessary requirements for an additional \$350,000 of funding from the province. A staff report is going to City council this month recommending an increase in the city funds allocated to a full 50/50 partnership. We expect to hear if this passes in mid October. The building committee will be launching a gap funding campaign over the next month with a target of completing our corporate naming rights program, and engaging our community through personal donations. While the funding is in place for the project, currently it would use a significant amount of our operational reserves. Gap funding efforts will potentially reduce the amount of time that we will need and how deeply we will go into our reserves.

Report on Summer Operations: At our October meeting each year, staff present a report detailing our summer operation results. Over the years, growth in our summer camp program has made it a major engine in the success of our social enterprise. We were pleased to report another very successful summer with very positive feedback for our patrons on the quality and variety of our summer camp offerings. We also saw strong positive results from our summer aquatic and fitness operations.

New Funding Partner: Over the past three years, we have seen an increase in requests for our last minute club, a program that allocates any empty spots in our programs to referring social service agencies the week prior to program starts. Our success in promoting this opportunity resulted in demand outstripping our supply. This caused some concern, and staff were charged with the task of finding a way to increase organizational capacity for referrals from local agencies of clients who needed free access to our programs. We are delighted to announce that the Chance Foundation has agreed to fund a new program "Best Chance", that will allow us to actually purchase the programs on receipt of the request from the agency. This gives us the time to allocate resources to create new programs where demand exists, as well as provide these clients with the assurance that there is a space for them or their child in the program. For programs that serve a child care function, this is an important service to families. Their initial funding will allow us to pilot this approach with 3 specific health centers (Pinecrest-Queensway, Carlington, and Somerset West).

Report on Planning for Minimum Wage Increase: As a social service and community development organization, DRA strongly endorses an increase in minimum wage. However, as a major employer of youth and people who receive a disability pension, the increase does present financial challenges. Staff presented a report on the expected impact, how the not for profit sector might respond to the challenges, and how we expect it to affect DRA and its operational budget going forward. AS a social enterprise, we do expect that a major component of the plan will be fee increases, but we are also looking for internal economies and new grant programs in employment to keep the fee increases manageable for our patrons.

Subcommittee reports:

There are four standing subcommittees of the board, Finance and Accountability, Governance, Community Development, and Nominations, and one ad hoc subcommittee, Building Expansion and Fundraising. Each committee presents a brief report at the board meeting on their activities for the past month, and has the opportunity to place items for discussion, decision or information on the Board agenda.

Finance and Accountability: nothing to report

Board Governance: nothing to report.

Community Development: nothing to report

Nominations: will be completing exit interviews with departing board members.

Executive: reported on various HR actions underway

Building Expansion/Fundraising: continues work on a gap funding and awareness campaign

Executive Director Report: John alerted the board to some challenges we are experiencing with our registration software, and a strategy to advance solutions. He provided a report on the Building project status, we are delighted to have our Building permit in place, and a finalized project schedule with completion now set for March 2018.

