

**Minutes of the First Meeting of the**  
**Community Involvement, Culture and Recreation Committee**  
**under Eastern District Council**

Date: 30 January 2024 (Tuesday)

Time: 2:30 pm

Venue: Eastern District Council Conference Room

**Present**

Mr TING Kong-ho, Eddie, MH	Mr LAM Wing-shing	Mr KWOK Wing-kin
Mr TING Wong, Kacee	Mr LAM Wing-cheung	Mr CHAN Hoi-wing, Joseph
Mr WONG Chi-chung	Mr CHAU Chi-yan, Benny	Ms TSANG Cheuk-yi
Ms HO Sau-yin, Zareenah	Ms LIN Cai-ying	Ms CHIK Kit-ling, Elaine
Mr YUEN Kin-chung, Kenny	Mr HUNG Chi-kit	Mr CHENG Chi-sing, MH
Ms LI Lee	Mr HUNG Lin-cham, MH, JP	Ms LAU Suk-yin
Ms NG Ching-ching	Mr HUNG Chiu-kwan	Ms LAU Dana Sing-she
Ms LEE Ching-har	Mr LIANG Li (Chairman)	Mr LAU Hing-yeung, MH
Mr HO Ngai-kam, Stanley	Ms CHAN Hang, MH, JP	Mr LAI Nuen-san
Mr LAM Sum-lim, MH	Mr KWOK Ho-king, Calvin	

**In Regular Attendance (Government Representatives)**

Miss CHIU Man-nga, Jasmine	Assistant District Officer (Eastern)1, Eastern District Office
Ms NG Yan-mei, Monie	Senior Executive Officer (District Council), Eastern District Office
Ms LUONG An-an, Jacqueline	Senior Liaison Officer (2), Eastern District Office
Ms CHENG Lai-yin, Daisy	Senior Liaison Officer (3), Eastern District Office
Ms LAM Sin-yee, Iris	Senior Manager (Hong Kong East), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms SUNG Lai-ping, Maggie	Senior Librarian (Eastern), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms LEE Wai-ming, Karvie	District Leisure Manager (Eastern), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms WONG Sosanna	Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Eastern, Leisure and Cultural Services Department

**In Attendance by Invitation (Representatives from the Government)**

Ms SO Man-yin, Vicki	Assistant District Leisure Manager (District Support) Eastern, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
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**Secretary**

Ms WONG Siu-na, Siena

Executive Officer I (District Council)1, Eastern District  
Office

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**Opening Remarks**

The Chairman welcomed all Members and government representatives to the Meeting.

**Agenda Item 1. List of Government Representatives in Attendance at Community Involvement, Culture and Recreation Committee (CICRC) under Eastern District Council**  
**(CICRC Paper No. 1/2024)**

2. The CICRC noted the captioned Paper.

**Agenda Item 2. Report on Arts and Cultural Activities in Eastern District by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department in 2023-24**  
**(CICRC Paper No. 2/2024)**

3. The representative from the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) briefed Members on Paper No. 2/2024.

4. Members enquired about the reason for the relatively low participation in certain arts and cultural activities. The representative from the LCSD said that the number of participants varied according to the nature of the activities and that the LCSD had approached the performing arts groups concerned for an understanding of the situation. The LCSD would further step up publicity to increase the number of participants in the activities.

5. The CICRC noted the captioned paper.

**Agenda Item 3. Report by LCSD on Extension Activities and Usage of Public Libraries**  
**(CICRC Paper No. 3/2024)**

6. The representative from the LCSD briefed Members on Paper No. 3/2024.

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7. Members enquired about the low participation in the Extension Activities “Reading Programme” held at the North Point Public Library as compared with that held at other libraries in the district. Other Members pointed out that the LCSD had provided a self-service library station (SLS) in Sai Wan Ho on a trial basis for many years, hence enquired whether there were plans to extend the service to other locations in the district. Members also pointed out that the current mobile library at Shau Kei Wan Main Street East affected nearby traffic, and suggested that the LCSD set up an SLS at Factory Street Playground in Shau Kei Wan instead.

8. The representative from the LCSD responded to Members’ views and enquiries as follows:

- (a) Due to limitations in space and facilities, the North Point Public Library could accommodate relatively fewer people. The LCSD was carrying out enhancement works for the library and replacing more furniture and equipment. In the future, the LCSD would further enhance the promotion of the library’s extension activities to increase the number of participants.
- (b) The LCSD noted the location for providing an SLS suggested by Members. The LCSD would review the feasibility of allocating an SLS if situation warranted after collecting users’ views on the enhanced SLS and pending the commissioning of the district library in the Joint User Complex at Lei King Road.

9. The CICRC noted the captioned paper.

### **Agenda Item 4. Report on Leisure and Cultural Services Department’s Recreation and Sports Activities in the Eastern District** **(CICRC Paper No. 4/2024)**

10. The representative from the LCSD briefed Members on Paper No. 4/2024.

11. Members’ views and enquiries about the agenda item were summarised as follows:

- (a) Members pointed out that the number of participants in some recreation

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and sports (R&S) programmes was relatively low, and enquired about their effectiveness. Other Members also enquired about the expenses for organising R&S programmes and the qualifications of the coaches.

- (b) Members suggested that the LCSD provide the expected and actual number of participants in the programmes in the meeting papers for comparison.
- (c) Members suggested that the LCSD demonstrate the achievements of the R&S training courses to the public, such as providing dance class participants with a platform to perform or compete.
- (d) Members enquired about the LCSD's plan to promote the 2025 National Games in the district.

12. The representative from the LCSD responded to Members' views and enquiries as follows:

- (a) In general, the expenditure components for R&S training courses included venue hire charges, coach fees, and the cost of purchasing balls/shuttlecocks or other related consumables according to LCSD guidelines. To ensure the effective use of resources, the LCSD would set quotas for various R&S programmes and the number of enrolment must reach half of the quota before the programme could be held. The number of participants would also be used as a reference indicator for organising related programmes in the future.
- (b) The LCSD had stringent selection procedures for hiring coaches. Applicants must hold qualifications recognised by local national sports associations, pass interviews and meet specified requirements to ensure their professional standards. The LCSD would hire the required coaches from the established list of coaches according to the LCSD guidelines when organising R&S programmes.
- (c) The LCSD noted Members' views, and would provide the expected and actual number of participants for the programmes in future meeting papers.
- (d) The LCSD organised a variety of training courses and R&S programmes

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with the aim of promoting the popularisation of sports and improving the physical fitness of the public. Competitions would focus mostly on popular ball games, athletics and swimming. The LCSD would consider organising public performances or competitions subject to the suitability of the sports.

- (e) Regarding the promotional activities of the 2025 National Games, it was expected that the responsible organisations would refer to that of the Asian Games Hangzhou last year and launch relevant publicity activities in the community in a timely manner.

13. The CICRC noted the captioned paper.

**Agenda Item 5. Progress Report of Matters Arising from Previous CICRC Meetings under Eastern District Council**  
**(CICRC Paper No. 5/2024)**

- (i) ***“Solemnly Requesting the LCSD to Squarely Face the Problems of Abuse or Touting Activities of Leisure Facilities  
Requesting the LCSD to Update the Leisure Link System and to Plug the Loophole Regarding Priority Booking”***

14. The CICRC noted the written reply of the LCSD.

15. The views and enquiries of Members about the agenda items were summarised as follows:

- (a) Members said that the public had reflected that the new intelligent sports and recreation services booking and information system (the new system) failed to give a clear description of the location of R&S facilities. They suggested providing photos of or directions to the venues in the new system.
- (b) Members were concerned whether the elderly were accustomed to the new system, and enquired whether the LCSD had support measures to assist the elderly in using it. Other Members suggested setting up exclusive service time slots for the elderly, so that elderly people unaccustomed to using the new system could still book leisure facilities

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in person.

- (c) Members enquired about the effectiveness of the new system in combating touting, including the specific measures to combat touting, and asked the LCSD to provide law enforcement statistics. Members also enquired whether the LCSD would consider setting up a blacklisting system to document unsuccessful law enforcement cases due to evidence insufficiency, as well as to blacklist users suspected of touting from booking leisure facilities.
- (d) Members pointed out that under the new system, some touts would impersonate venue users to sign in and enter leisure facilities with the bona fide users, and the touts would sit around for a long time or loiter. They enquired of the LCSD about the ways to ameliorate the situation. Members suggested the LCSD set up dedicated venues for certain sports.
- (e) Members noted that about 200 000 people had used the new system on the first day, hence enquired about whether the system had been interfered by hackers or bots.
- (f) Members enquired about the differences between the new and the old booking system, the number of downloads of the mobile application, and the maximum number of concurrent users it could accommodate.

16. The representative from the LCSD noted Members' views and suggestions, and responded to their views and enquires as follows:

- (a) The LCSD was enhancing venue descriptions of leisure facilities in the new system.
- (b) The LCSD had arranged for customer service ambassadors to be on duty at Self-Service Stations to help members of the public (including the elderly) to be familiarised with the equipment of the new system and use the services. In addition, the LCSD had organised about 20 “‘SmartPLAY’ Smart Way Workshops” in the Eastern District to show the public how to use the new system, some of which were specifically for the elderly. Furthermore, some R&S programmes currently accept walk-in enrolment.

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- (c) The new system was designed to incorporate functions preventing touting activities, including requiring real-name registration for creating personal accounts; allocating leisure facilities by ballot instead of the previous “first-come-first-served” allocation mechanism; requiring hirers to verify their identity through a card reader that could authenticate Hong Kong Identity Cards prior to using the venues; and requiring hirers to fill in a statement undertaking not to transfer user permits in whatever forms. A hirer who breached the statement committed an offence under the Theft Ordinance, and the LCSD would take legal actions with the police to deal with the case. Meanwhile, venue staff of leisure facilities would also step up inspections during booked sessions to verify the identities of those present, observe for any abnormalities and take further action where necessary.
- (d) The LCSD had been closely monitoring the login status and usage of the new system. Users must first pass the security check of the system’s network security control when logging into the system. The new system had also been equipped with a number of programmes and mechanisms for monitoring and filtering suspicious and malicious traffic, such as anti-bot programmes, firewalls, prevention systems against distributed denial of service attack, anti-virus solutions, intrusion detection and prevention systems. All confidential and personal information was encrypted and stored in government data centres. The new system had completed an independent third-party information security risk assessment and audit, and experts had conducted penetration testing to ensure that it met the security requirements of government information technology.
- (e) In addition to simplifying the booking and enrolment procedures, the new system also introduced more personalised services, such as bookmarking functions and receiving emergency notifications. The new system also supported more electronic payment methods, including Faster Payment System, Apple Pay and Google Pay. In addition, the capacity of the new system was also increased from being able to accommodate around 1 000 concurrent users under the old system to 10 000 users.

17. After discussion, the CICRC agreed to cease following up on the agenda items.

**Agenda Item 6. Any Other Business**

**(1) Sincere Invitation to the Eastern District Council for Supporting Arsenal Soccer School's District Soccer Development Programme Organised by the "Easter District Sports Association" again**

18. The Chairman said that the Secretariat had received a letter from the Eastern District Sports Association (EDSA) enquiring whether Members agreed to support the "Arsenal Soccer School's District Soccer Development Programme" (the Programme) and allow the EDSA to use the Eastern District Council (EDC) logo in the publicity and promotion of activities from February 2024 to 31 December 2027.

19. After discussion, the CICRC agreed to support the Programme and allow the EDSA to use the EDC logo in the publicity and promotion of activities from February 2024 to 31 December 2027.

**(2) Invitation to Nomination of "Sports Ambassadors"**

20. The Chairman said that the Secretariat had received a letter from the LCSD inviting the EDC to nominate no fewer than two DC Members to represent the Eastern District in the capacity as "Sports Ambassadors" (SAs) to take part in community sports activities organised by the LCSD and assist in the promotion of sports in the district. The tenure would last for two years, i.e. from January 2024 to the end of December 2025.

21. The Chairman said that as agreed by the EDC Chairman and himself, Mr CHENG Chi-sing, Mr LAM Sum-lim, Ms Elaine CHIK and Ms Dana LAU were nominated to represent the EDC as SAs.

22. The Chairman asked the Secretariat to send the above list to the LCSD.

(Post-meeting note: Some Members self-recommended themselves to be SAs after the meeting. As agreed by the Chairmen of the EDC and the CICRC, the nomination list was updated to include Mr CHENG Chi-sing, Mr LAM Sum-lim, Ms Elaine CHIK, Ms Dana LAU and Mr Benny CHAU. The Secretariat sent the updated nomination list to the LCSD on 31 January 2024.)



## Action

### **Agenda Item 7. Date of Next Meeting**

23. The second CICRC meeting would be held at 2:30 pm on 26 March 2024 (Tuesday).

24. The meeting ended at 3:40 pm.

**Eastern District Council Secretariat  
March 2024**