

(Translation)

Islands District Council
Minutes of Meeting of the
Community Affairs, Culture and Recreation Committee

Date : 7 January 2019 (Monday)
Time : 2:00 p.m.
Venue : Islands District Council Conference Room

Present

Ms YU Lai-fan (Chairman)
Ms TSANG Sau-ho, Josephine (Vice-Chairman)
Mr CHOW Yuk-tong, SBS
Mr YU Hon-kwan, Randy, JP
Mr YUNG Chi-ming, BBS
Mr CHAN Lin-wai
Mr WONG Hon-kuen, Ken
Ms LEE Kwai-chun
Ms YUNG Wing-sheung, Amy
Mr KWONG Koon-wan
Mr CHOW Ho-ding, Holden
Mr KWOK Ping, Eric
Ms FU Hiu-lam Sammi
Mr LAI Tsz-man
Ms KWOK Wai-man, Mealoha
Mr ON Man-sang
Ms YIP Sheung-ching
Mr WONG Chun-kit

In Attendance

Ms CHAN Sok-fong, Cherry	Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Islands, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms KWOK Lai-kuen, Elaine	Senior Librarian (Islands), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms WONG Fan-ni, Jasmine	Senior Manager (New Territories South) Promotion, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr WONG Kin-sun, Frederick	Senior Community Relations Officer (Hong Kong West/Islands), Independent Commission Against Corruption
Dr LEE Chi-on, Clement	Senior School Development Officer (Islands)1, Education Bureau
Mr NG Wai-lung, David	Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Central Western, Southern and Islands)2, Social Welfare Department

Mr AU Sheung-man, Benjamin	Assistant District Officer (Islands)1, Islands District Office
Ms YUEN Wai-kwan	Representative, Association of School Heads of Islands District
Mr LAM Kit-sing	Representative, Islands District Sports Association

Secretary

Miss LAM Po-yan, Eloisa	Executive Officer (District Council)1, Islands District Office
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Absent with Apologies

Mr TANG Ka-piu, Bill, JP	
Mr WONG Hoi-yu	
Ms CHOI Kwok-por	Representative, Hong Kong Islands Cultural & Art Association

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Welcoming Remarks

The Chairman welcomed representative of government departments and organisations as well as Members to the meeting.

2. Members noted that Mr Bill TANG, Mr WONG Hoi-yu and Ms CHOI Kwok-por were unable to attend the meeting due to other commitments.

I. **Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 5.11.2018**

3. The Chairman said that the captioned minutes had incorporated the amendments proposed by government departments and organisations and had been distributed to Members for perusal prior to the meeting.

4. The captioned minutes were confirmed unanimously without other amendment.

II. **Question on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance recipients not allowed to select Chinese medicine practitioners**
(Paper CACRC 7/2019)

5. The written reply of the Hospital Authority (HA) had been distributed to Members for perusal prior to the meeting.

6. Mr Eric KWOK briefly introduced the question and said that government officials shirked their responsibilities, thereby intensifying public grievances. It could be seen from the case that HA obviously targeted Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients and deprived them of the right to choose, whereas members of the public making cash payment had such right. He pointed out that holders of Certificate of Medical Waivers did not actually receive free medical consultation, but their expenses borne by the Government. He did not understand why they were not given the right to choose. The written reply of HA was absurd, which indicated that “at individual centres, designated Chinese medicine practitioners would be deployed to provide consultation to CSSA recipients, so that qualified registered Chinese medicine practitioners were given sufficient consultation opportunities for training and research purposes”. He considered this a discriminatory arrangement and asked whether HA treated CSSA recipients as laboratory mice. The SAR Government had always promoted justice procedures and equality, and all people, be they the Chief Executive, CSSA recipients, rich merchants or the poor, were equal. However, it was disappointing that the Government allowed social stratification of inequality. He hoped that the Secretariat would write to HA, stating that its reply had a hint of discrimination and request for an explanation. He would discuss with the CSSA recipient concerned to refer the case to the Equal Opportunities Commission or reveal it to the media to demand equal treatment.

7. Mr Holden CHOW echoed the view and said that HA’s reply showed differential treatment in that patients who paid out of their own pockets had the right to choose while those subsidised by the Government did not have such right. He opined that HA should, from the policy perspective, consider whether such arrangement would lead to less favourable treatment of or even discrimination against certain persons. He said that self-paying patients and those holding Certificate of Medical Waivers could be handled under the system, and the matter warranted attention.

8. Ms Josephine TSANG considered the above arrangement improper. Not allowing CSSA recipients to select Chinese medicine practitioners amounted to a deprivation of rights. She reiterated that it had to make clear whether CSSA recipients lost their right to choose due to their financial condition. HA’s reply stated that the arrangement was to provide sufficient practice opportunities for Chinese medicine practitioners, yet CSSA recipients were not laboratory mice and were entitled to the rights and interests.

9. Mr Eric KWOK sought Members’ consent for the Secretariat to make a written request to HA for amendment to the policy to ensure equal treatment to CSSA recipients and patients who paid for their own consultation fee.

10. Members unanimously agreed that the Secretariat, in the name of the Community Affairs, Culture and Recreation Committee, request HA in writing to

respond and explain the existing mechanism so as to prevent discrimination against CSSA recipients.

III. 2019/20 Work Plan for Free Entertainment Programme at Islands District by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department
(Paper CACRC 4/2019)

11. The Chairman welcomed Ms Jasmine WONG, Senior Manager (New Territories South) Promotion of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) to the meeting to present the paper.

12. Ms Jasmine WONG briefly presented the paper.

13. Ms Amy YUNG said that the paper revealed that the average annual expenditure of Islands District free entertainment programmes organised by LCSD was about \$500,000, with an average of about \$20,000 for each activity. She pointed out that activities held in Islands District were extremely costly as they involved transportation of musical instruments and ferry fares of participants. Since the situation of Islands District was different from other districts, special arrangement should be made and flexibility should be exercised in funding allocation.

14. Mr Eric KWOK agreed with Ms Amy YUNG's suggestion of increasing the funding for Islands District free entertainment programmes. He emphasised that the cultivation of culture, arts, music and singing was very important for the community and enhancement of the quality of residents. He suggested LCSD adjust the funding upwards to provide more sessions of arts and cultural performances as well as enhance the quality of activities. As stated by the Secretary for Home Affairs, apart from sports, the Government also strived to enhance public interest in culture and arts. He hoped that the community culture of Islands District would be enhanced.

15. Ms Jasmine WONG responded as follows:

- (a) She was grateful to Members for their concern and understanding in respect of the cost of organising free entertainment programmes in Islands District, and agreed that programmes in Islands District involved higher expenses for transportation and various items. On increasing the number of performance sessions, free entertainment programmes were held throughout the year in 18 districts of Hong Kong (mainly on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays or public holidays) and resources were needed by all 18 districts, thus putting immense strain on resource allocation. At present, 24 performance sessions were scheduled for Islands District each year, which was the best possible arrangement made by the department. She hoped that Members would understand the difficulties involved.

- (b) On quality of activities, the department had all along closely monitored the performances and standards of performing groups. She pointed out that the expenditures varied among different types of performance, for example, the expense of band performance was higher than that of magic show which involved less performers. Members were welcome to make recommendation on more diversified programmes. If the resources required exceeded the initial budget, a funding request would be made to the District Council (DC).

16. Mr Eric KWOK said that the professional and exotic symphony orchestra performance given at Fu Tung Plaza last night had attracted many audiences. He suggested that, if resources were insufficient, additional funding should be sought to maintain the quality of programmes. He hoped that, apart from Fu Tung Plaza, at least one performance would be given at Yat Tung Estate, Ying Tung Estate or other places each year.

17. Ms Jasmine WONG said that the department would make further plan for the programmes next year and discussion might be held after the meeting if necessary.

18. The Chairman said that the department had listened to the views of Members and District Councillors. She hoped that more performances of a wider variety would be organised in Islands District.

19. Members supported the 2019/20 work plan for free entertainment programme at Islands District, and endorsed in principle the funding application of \$530,000 for the implementation of the plan.

20. The Chairman said that the funding arrangement would need to be re-confirmed upon finalisation of the allocations to the Committee for 2019/20. Since the funding amount exceeded the approval limit of the Committee, endorsement by DC would be required.

(Ms LEE Kwai-chun joined the meeting at around 2:20 p.m.)

IV. 2019/2020 Extension Activities of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department in Public Libraries in Islands District
(Paper CACRC 5/2019)

21. The Chairman welcomed Ms Elaine KWOK, Senior Librarian (Islands) of LCSD to the meeting to present the paper.

22. Ms Elaine KWOK briefly presented the paper.

23. Members supported the 2019/2020 extension activities in public libraries in Islands District, and endorsed in principle the funding application of \$119,665 for the implementation of the plan.

24. The Chairman said that the funding arrangement would need to be re-confirmed upon finalisation of the allocations to the Committee for 2019/20.

V. Recreation and Sports Activities organised by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department in Islands District between April 2019 and March 2020
(Paper CACRC 6/2019)

25. The Chairman welcomed Ms Cherry CHAN, Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Islands of LCSD to the meeting to present the paper.

26. Ms Cherry CHAN briefly presented the paper.

27. Mr Holden CHOW enquired about the difference between the aerobic dances under “training courses” and “recreation activities” in item 2 at Annex 4. Some residents told him earlier that they were satisfied with the aerobic dance lessons and hoped that more aerobic dance activities would be provided. Noting the significant difference between the estimated numbers of aerobic dance training courses and aerobic dance recreation activities planned, he would like to know the differences between the two.

28. Mr Eric KWOK said that he was told by his friends that the fitness equipment at Mui Wo Sports Centre was old and worn out and hoped that they could be replaced as soon as possible where resources permitted to prevent injuries to users. Moreover, he enquired about the details of Pui O Campsite ambassador programme.

29. Mr WONG Chun-kit enquired about the review of the 995 recreation and sports activities planned for the year, and whether the department would consider introducing new sports activities. He said that ball games such as rouliqiu, floor curling and kendama were becoming popular in our community in recent years and enquired whether the department would organise training courses for such games.

30. Ms Cherry CHAN responded as follows:

- (a) Annex 4 only set out those activities planned for April to July 2019, and the activities for the whole year were set out at Annex 1. Regarding the two types of aerobic dance activities listed separately at Annex 4, the first type referred to aerobic dance training courses each comprising 8 to 10 sessions of training lessons. Since the training courses were

conducted one after another, they were in greater numbers. The other type referred to the aerobic fun day which would be held and completed within the same day.

- (b) Regarding the fitness room in Mui Wo Sports Centre, the department had been closely monitoring the usage of fitness equipment of fitness rooms in all sports centres and replaced the equipment as appropriate. The department had earlier applied to the District Facilities Management Committee for funding for replacement of some aged fitness equipment at Mui Wo Sports Centre and would report the details to Mr Eric KWOK after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: The relevant information was provided to Mr Eric KWOK after the meeting.)

- (c) Pui O Campsite ambassadors were recruited by the department to assist in managing the campsite.
- (d) The department had been keeping a pulse on new recreational sports activities to adjust the relevant services as appropriate. She would relay the view of Mr WONG Chun-kit to relevant section of the headquarters for consideration.

31. Mr Eric KWOK thanked the department for the detailed reply. He said that as mentioned by the department, Pui O Beach campsite was very popular, and the beach had a unique conch-shaped terrain looking out to Pui O Wan. He hoped that the Pui O Campsite ambassadors would impart knowledge about environmental conservation to campers for protection of the beach. When the legitimate camping area at the rear of the beach was full, campers would pitch tents in the periphery, causing damage to the climbing plants nearby. He pointed out that the climbing plants offered protection to prevent sand loss so that the beach could remain intact. At present, there was massive loss of sand near the river in the middle of the beach; if the situation persisted, the river and the sea would merge and the beach would disappear completely. He considered it necessary to impart knowledge about conservation of climbing plants to campers and urge them not to cut the plants recklessly. He hoped that the Pui O Campsite ambassadors would call on the campers to protect the ecology of the beach.

32. Ms Cherry CHAN said that she would conduct inspection with relevant colleagues to confirm whether the said location fell within the campsite and take follow-up action.

33. Mr Holden CHOW said the residents hoped that more aerobic dance training courses would be offered. He expected that the department would continue to closely monitor the trends and preferences of residents. It was a good thing that the residents

gave positive feedback on aerobic dance and he hoped that the department would deploy more resources for providing similar activities.

34. The Chairman asked LCSD to note the views of District Councillors and Members and enquired whether they had other comments.

35. Mr WONG Chun-kit agreed that new sports might not be widely popular in the beginning and the department had the responsibility for promoting the sports. He said that the recreation and sports activities held by the department over the years lacked variety and novelty, and he would like to know the criteria for the increase and decrease in the number of activities. If resources were limited, review of the effectiveness of activities with relatively few number of participants should be conducted. There were some activities (e.g. rouliqiu) which required no more than a venue (e.g. premises of the Housing Department or public land) and the cost incurred would be lower. He hoped that the department would consider including such activities in the plan for next year.

36. Ms Cherry CHAN said that she would relay the views to the headquarters and follow up with Mr WONG Chun-kit after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: A reply was given to Mr WONG Chun-kit after the meeting.)

37. Members supported the recreation and sports activities of Islands District in 2019/20, and endorsed in principle the funding application of \$9,193,350 for the implementation of the plan.

38. The Chairman said that the funding arrangement would need to be re-confirmed upon finalisation of the allocations to the Committee for 2019/20. Since the funding amount exceeded the approval limit of the Committee, endorsement by DC would be required.

VI. Reports on the work of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department in Islands District

(i) Cultural Activities (Paper CACRC 1/2019)

39. The Chairman welcomed Ms Jasmine WONG, Senior Manager (New Territories South) Promotion of LCSD to the meeting to present the paper.

40. Ms Jasmine WONG briefly presented the paper.

41. Members noted the contents of the paper.

(ii) Extension Activities held in Public Libraries
(Paper CACRC 2/2019)

42. The Chairman welcomed Ms Elaine KWOK, Senior Librarian (Islands) of LCSD to the meeting to present the paper.

43. Ms Elaine KWOK briefly presented the paper which covered district-based and territory-wide activities to be held next year. Regarding the planned territory-wide activities detailed at Annex 3 of the paper, she said that the department held the “Discover and Share the Joy of Reading” campaign across the territory from 2018-19 to 2022-23 with different sectors of the community to promote reading culture by increasing community involvement, launch the reading-for-all campaign, and organise large-scale reading promotion campaign and reading outreach programme, etc. Large-scale activities including “423 World Book Day”, Summer Reading Fiesta and Library Festival, etc. would be planned to join hands with various sectors such as the Education Bureau, DCs, community groups, the publishing and business sectors to promote reading for all, for example, seeking support from publishers to organise more Meet-the-Author activities and a large-scale e-book promotional activity in January 2019. Moreover, in order to enhance community involvement, “Storytelling Ambassador Programme” would be launched to train ambassadors to provide volunteer storytelling services at social organisations, schools and special needs communities. The department would also step up promotion of outreach reading, design book carts, provide thematic book loan service and tie-in storytelling sessions to kindergartens and child care centres, as well as organise Pop-up Library activities at open spaces, etc.

44. Members noted the contents of the paper.

(iii) Sports and Recreational Activities
(Paper CACRC 3/2019)

45. The Chairman welcomed Ms Cherry CHAN, Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Islands of LCSD to the meeting to present the paper.

46. Ms Cherry CHAN briefly presented the paper.

47. Ms Amy YUNG said that the response to the recreation and sports activities in the past few months was overwhelming, in particular the Tai Chi class at Discovery Bay, which had only 40 quotas. She hoped that the department would organise more similar activities including wushu classes such as Baduanjin and Wing Chun, and enquired whether it would consider including the said activities in the list of recreation and sports activities. Due to the ageing of population in recent years, many residents joined the Tai Chi classes and Tai Chi Sword activities in the mornings, but all quotas were filled in a short time and many people were unable to join. She hoped that the department would increase the quotas of the activities to meet the demand of residents.

48. Ms Cherry CHAN said that the department would review and follow up on the matter. Regarding the proposal of organising Baduanjin and wushu activities, the department would explore the feasibility.

(Post-meeting note: A reply was given to Ms Amy YUNG after the meeting.)

49. Ms LEE Kwai-chun noted that recently the young people were keen on unicycling and she learnt that relevant training courses were provided at some schools. She pointed out that balance control was essential to unicycling, which was an effective exercise to foster healthy development of the young people. She enquired whether the department would consider organising this activity.

50. Ms Cherry CHAN said that the feasibility of organising the activity would be explored.

(Post-meeting note: A reply was given to Ms LEE Kwai-chun after the meeting.)

51. Mr LAI Tsz-man expressed his views as follows:

- (a) His school had a unicycling team. He opined that it would be hard for LCSD to promote the activity since such matter had to be handled according to procedures as in the case of introducing other new sports items. He said it was important that the sports association gave proactive support for schools to organise sports activities at campus for community participation. His school had submitted application for opening the school campus for unicycling training activities.
- (b) Regarding the sports items that became popular recently, various schools were actively organising relevant activities to help promote universal development in the community, which meant that the new activities were first introduced in schools, and when public acceptability was gained and the coaching or licencing mechanism became mature, activities would then be organised by LCSD, such as fencing and tennis activities which were not provided by LCSD in the past.
- (c) He pointed out that there was an increased number of swimming training courses but only 2 lifesaving training courses. LCSD recruited lifeguards annually but staff could only be employed on a part time basis. Since there were many beaches in Islands District, if the department did not provide more lifesaving training courses, it would certainly face difficulties in hiring lifeguards. The report revealed that more than \$200,000 was earmarked for organising swimming training courses but

only some \$20,000 for lifesaving training courses. He opined that the department might consider providing more lifesaving training courses.

- (d) He concurred with Ms YUNG that Tai Chi was good for body and mind, and opined that the service targets should be shifted from those who yearned for competitive interactions to those who preferred to lead a life of leisure.
- (e) On unicycling training, it was learnt that Wong Cho Bau School in Tung Chung already provided relevant training. He said that the Unicycling Association would promote unicycling at some schools. With rapid development of unicycling in recent years, unicycle competitions were held by some organisations. A Taiwanese renowned coach recently visited Hong Kong to provide special training to participants from all schools in the territory. Although his students were injured during the training, he reckoned that unicycling was a good activity.

(Post-meeting note: A reply on lifesaving training course was given to Mr LAI Tsz-man after the meeting.)

52. The Chairman asked LCSD to note the issues on sports activities raised by District Councillors and Members.

53. Members noted the contents of the paper.

VII. Any Other Business

(i) Arrangement on group visits under the Community Involvement Projects

54. The Chairman said that as the Committee had new members, the list for group visits of 2019/2020 had been revised and tabled at the meeting. Members were asked to take note of the changes.

55. Members noted the revised list for group visits under the Community Involvement projects in 2019/2020.

VIII. Date of Next Meeting

56. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m. The next meeting would be held at 2:00 p.m. on 4 March 2019 (Monday).

-End-