

(Translation)

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

Date : 3 July 2017 (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 WONG Hon-kuen, Ken
Mr CHAN Lin-wai
Mr FAN Chi-ping
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

Attendance by Invitation

Mr WONG Wing-kin	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 LEE Kit-yee, Kitty	Senior Manager (New Territories South) Promotion, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms YUEN Chi-ling, Margaret	Manager (New Territories South) Marketing & District Activities, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr TAM Kwok-chu, Joe	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 CHOW Chit, Joe	Assistant District Officer (Islands)2, Islands District Office
Ms YUEN Wai-kwan	Representative, Association of School Heads of Islands District

Secretary

Miss CHAN Shuk-yi, Rachel

Executive Officer (District Council)1, Islands District Office

Absent with Apologies

Mr TANG Ka-piu, Bill, JP

Mr WONG Hoi-yu

Ms KWOK Wai-man, Mealoha

Mr LEE Man-on

Mr LAM Kit-sing

Ms CHOI Kwok-por

Representative, Islands District Sports Association

Representative, Hong Kong Islands Cultural & Art Association

Welcoming remarks

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

2. Members noted that Mr Bill TANG, Mr WONG Hoi-yu, Ms Mealoha KWOK, Mr LEE Man-on, Mr LAM Kit-sing and Ms CHOI Kwok-por were unable to attend the meeting due to other commitments.

I. **Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 8.5.2017**

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

4. The captioned minutes were confirmed unanimously without amendments.

II. **Question on follow up on district free entertainment programmes in Discovery Bay**
(Paper CACRC 33/2017)

5. The Chairman welcomed Ms LEE Kit-yee, Kitty, Senior Manager (New Territories South) Promotion of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) to the meeting to respond to the question.

6. Ms Amy YUNG presented the question.

7. Ms Kitty LEE responded as follows:

- (a) LCSD attached great importance to the opinions of the District Council (DC) and the local communities and proactively established collaborative relationship among each other. Following the provision of valuable comments on district free entertainment programmes in Discovery Bay by Ms YUNG in early May, the Cultural Services Office (New Territories South) of LCSD had taken follow-up action.
- (b) Every year, the Entertainment Office of LCSD assisted DCs in coordinating more than 600 district free entertainment programmes in over 400 venues throughout Hong Kong, with a view to maximising the cost-effectiveness. The average cost of each district free entertainment programme organised by LCSD was \$18,000, which included the fees for engaging performing groups, stage sound system, technical support and publicity, etc. Currently, district free entertainment programmes were arranged in sequence according to LCSD's approved list of performing groups. To be included in the list, the group had to submit an application and meet the basic requirements, such as more than three years of establishment, with past performance experience, and programme proposal suitable for outdoor presentation. Groups meeting these requirements would be invited to give trial performances and were required to pass at least two trial performances to ensure their artistic standard and organisation experience. After inclusion in the performing groups list, the groups would be given an agreed fee to give performances in different venues in the 18 districts. Arts groups that were not included in LCSD's approved list of performing groups would not be invited to perform in district free entertainment programmes.
- (c) At present, in line with the above mode of operation, LCSD organised 24 district free entertainment programmes in the Islands District per annum, in which two performances were given in Discovery Bay. LCSD was open to Member's proposal of inviting local groups or local communities in Discovery Bay to give free entertainment programmes. To facilitate organisation and liaison, the DC might consider commissioning the Committee or the Secretariat to coordinate the programmes, including verifying the information of local groups and local communities, arranging the order of performance, signing performance agreement, and deploying staff to coordinate the performance at the scene on the day of performance, etc. LCSD would be responsible for venue arrangement, following up with contractors on stage technical support and relevant details, such as the date and time of performance, admission arrangement, crowd control and general publicity matters.
- (d) As regards the quality of district free entertainment programmes, LCSD had been closely monitoring and recording each performance of the arts groups. If a performance was found not up to the required standard, the Department would request the arts group concerned to make improvement

and closely monitor the standard of its next performance. If the performance of the arts group continued to be unsatisfactory, the Department would delist the arts group in accordance with the established procedure. In 2014, a performing group failed to meet the requirements and the Department had since then sought the advice of respective DC Member in the programme planning stage in respect of the date of performance, type of programme and performing group, etc., to ensure the entertainment programmes were of high quality and met the requirements of the residents in Discovery Bay. LCSD would continue to regularly report the entertainment programmes to be organised in the Islands District to the Committee and listen to the views of Members in order to provide programmes that better met the needs of local residents.

8. Ms Amy YUNG raised the following views:

- (a) LCSD made similar response at the last meeting, and this time even proposed setting up a working group under the DC for vetting arts groups. However, every time Members made proposals, the Department would set out certain procedures to make it difficult to implement the proposals, such bureaucratic practice was distressing.
- (b) On one occasion an arts group that did not meet the artistic standard performed in Discovery Bay. There were only 6 viewers and the arts group failed to comply with the community halls house rules by coming downstage for photo-shooting and eating during performance.
- (c) Other than Discovery Bay, there were many quality performers in various locations of the Islands District (such as Cantonese opera groups in Peng Chau). She hoped to identify these performers to give performance in various districts. Performers could use their own resources and arrange audio equipment on their own in order to save transportation time and cost. These arts groups were longing to give performances to local residents and would not ask for remuneration. As regards the quality of arts groups, local residents could make assessment on their own. If the performance was poor, the performers would be booed.
- (d) She hoped LCSD could arrange performances for the residents in a time-saving and convenient manner. LCSD had earlier scheduled a performance in Discovery Bay to which equipment had to be transported. However, as the tunnel only operated until 6 p.m., the programme could not be arranged at the end. This was the second time she raised the proposal, but the Department set out new provisions. She hoped LCSD could re-consider her proposal and review the number of participants and the comments of viewers of each performance in order to make improvement.
- (e) LCSD had earlier said that this practice had been in place since the Urban and Regional Councils era. She indicated that LCSD had not considered improving the practice all these years or stepped up publicity to encourage

the participation of residents and promote cross-district exchange. She found LCSD's response unacceptable.

9. Ms LEE Kwai-chun enquired of LCSD about the arrangement of district free entertainment programmes in other districts.

10. Ms Kitty LEE indicated that as she had just said, LCSD offered assistance to DCs in coordinating over 600 district free entertainment programmes in more than 400 venues per annum.

11. Mr LAI Tsz-man enquired as follows:

- (a) Were the free entertainment programmes funded by the DC and organized by LCSD or were the programmes held by district non-governmental organisations hiring venues on their own?
- (b) Did the arrangement of performances of arts groups follow the same procedure as recruitment of trainers by schools, where tender invitation could only be made to the trainers listed in the relevant register?
- (c) He hoped LCSD could give detailed explanation on the proposal of setting up a working group under the DC for following up the proposal of Ms YUNG, which seemed to have no precedent. He enquired whether the arts groups recommended by the working group would be required to be included in the list and whether they would be remunerated.

12. Ms Kitty LEE remarked that the activities concerned were free entertainment programmes funded by the 18 DCs and organized by LCSD. The arrangement of performances of the arts groups was similar to the practice of the "register" mentioned by Mr LAI. LCSD would arrange the performing groups in the approved list to perform in the 18 districts on a rotational basis. In this regard, the Department could not invite local groups or communities not included in the list to give performances. The Department was open to the proposal of the Member, and the DC may consider commissioning the Committee or the Secretariat to coordinate the performances of such local groups or communities. In view that the said proposal would not be taken forward under LCSD's prevailing procedure, no remuneration would be involved. LCSD could arrange venues and assist in liaising with local groups, etc.

13. Ms Amy YUNG said she had never mentioned payment of remuneration to the groups. She proposed LCSD to coordinate the uncompensated performances because DC Members were not professionals in that respect and could not do the vetting. In her views, under a market-led mechanism, the performance standard of the groups would affect the number of viewers, and thus she suggested LCSD collect the comments of the viewers after each performance by questionnaire. In her past viewing experience, there was no channel for viewers to give feedback. As regards the arts group which she just mentioned, she opined that the performance standard of any primary school choir in the Islands District would not be inferior to that of the arts group, and the performers had violated the community hall house rules. Currently all Saturday and Sunday

sessions of the community halls in the Islands District were reserved by LCSD, local groups were unable to hire venue for performance, but there were few viewers for the programmes organised by LCSD and wasting the venues which could accommodate around 400 people. She hoped LCSD could maximise the use of resources to offer opportunities for local residents to give performances to improve the quality of local arts groups. The Department could save resources and transportation costs as there would be no need of hiring vehicles and vessels to transport equipment and could also attract more participants. She urged LCSD to study and put forth practical proposals.

14. Mr Eric KWOK suggested LCSD enhance publicity to facilitate district groups in the Islands District to apply for inclusion in its list of performing groups. The Department could make reference to the mode of the TV show “America’s Got Talent” to invite the groups wishing to be included in the list to give performances on specified dates for quality assessment by the Department. He opined that if groups were recommended by the DC, the public might query the impartiality of the DC or consider it black-box operation. If LCSD put the proposal of Ms YUNG into practice after considering resource allocation, he was willing to offer assistance.

15. Ms LEE Kwai-chun said there were views that the location of performance was undesirable and LCSD was willing to accept the views. The local communities had reflected that performances which scheduled for 2 p.m. or 3 p.m. could not attract residents, and LCSD had also made improvement. A programme was originally scheduled for noon time at Pak Tai Temple Playground, in view of the hot weather and after listening to the views of the local communities, the programme was rescheduled for night time at Cheung Chau Public Pier. These examples all showed that LCSD was willing to listen to the views of local communities on entertainment programmes. She suggested LCSD listen to the views of residents and local communities and select suitable time and venue for organising district entertainment programmes. In addition, she asked whether arts groups would require a “purchasing card” for giving performances.

16. Ms Kitty LEE said that the Department welcomed district groups to apply for inclusion in the approved list of performing groups. Local district groups currently on the list included Cheung Chau Cantonese Opera House, Kwai Fong Tak Fook Opera House, Yuen Long Choir and the Cantonese Opera Troupe of Shatin Arts Association, etc. When a group passed trial performances and was then included in the list of performing groups, the Department would sign a contract with the group concerned according to the procedure for engagement of artists.

17. Ms Amy YUNG asked whether LCSD would collect the comments of the viewers to assess the performance standard of arts groups.

18. Ms Kitty LEE said that the Department would deploy staff to monitor the performance of the performing groups and keep record of each performance. In relation to Ms YUNG’s proposal of distributing questionnaires to viewers to collect comments, the Department had no similar arrangement for the time being. If necessary, however, the Department would collect the views of the local residents to make improvement.

19. Ms Amy YUNG said that it was simple to collect comments through questionnaires, where the Department only needed to provide a simple form for completion by the viewers and then collect the forms. The feelings and comments of viewers were of utmost importance and it was inappropriate for LCSD to both vet the arts groups and assess their live performances. LCSD spent over ten thousand dollars each time to arrange a performance, but viewers were few and performers even pretended to be viewers off the stage. She opined that LCSD should measure cost-effectiveness and obtain a clear understanding of the standard of performers and whether they were welcomed by viewers.

20. Ms Kitty LEE said that as mentioned earlier, in the programme planning stage, the Department would consult respective DC Members on the date of performance, type of programme and suggestions on performing groups in order to meet the needs of local residents. This had been a long-standing practice. As Ms YUNG pointed out that the performance of a choir in 2014 did not meet the needs of the residents in Discovery Bay, the Department had since 2015 consulted the concerned District Councillors in the preparatory stage. As such, the performing groups were approved by the District Councillors and of substantial reputation and good quality. The Department would consider the proposal of collecting the comments of local residents on the spot.

21. The Chairman raised opinions as follows:

- (a) As mentioned at the last meeting, after the problem with district free entertainment programmes in Discovery Bay was found in 2014, LCSD had reviewed the arrangement of performing groups of entertainment programmes, and was open to include organizations in the list of performing groups, which could give performances in the 18 districts after passing two trial performances. Free entertainment programmes were funded by the DC and organised by LCSD, who assessed the performances of groups in a fair, open and impartial manner. If District Councillors, Members and local residents considered it necessary for local groups to give performances in the district, they could liaise with LCSD direct for follow-up and arrangement of trial performances. After inclusion in the approved list, the groups could give performances in the 18 districts on a rotational basis. She welcomed local groups to give free performances in the district, where community halls or complexes were available for groups to apply for performance purpose.
- (b) She considered it unfeasible to set up a working group under the DC for follow-up. District free entertainment programmes were funded by the DC for organisation by LCSD, and many local groups currently applied to the DC for funding to organise cultural and recreational activities in the district.
- (c) For the activity in Discovery Bay in 2014, the location of the community hall was quite remote. If the local people considered that the existing performing venue was not desirable, LCSD could identify suitable alternative venue to organise district free entertainment programmes. If Members had any comments on the district free entertainment programmes

organised by LCSD, they could convey their comments to the Department direct for improvement.

(Ms Sammi FU left the meeting at around 2:35 p.m.)

III. Reports by Working Groups

(i) CACRC Activities Working Group

(a) Islands District Cultural Festival 2017

- Islands District Council Presents: Golden Oldies Concert in Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR was scheduled for 2 August 2017 (Wednesday) at the Concert Hall, Hong Kong City Hall. After deliberation, the working group decided to engage One Points Marketing and PR Company Limited to take up the event production work.
- Islands District Cantonese Opera Show in Celebration of the 68th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China was scheduled for 3 and 4 October 2017 (Tuesday and Wednesday) at the Concert Hall, Hong Kong City Hall. After deliberation, the working group decided to invite the Cantonese opera troupe “新群英劇團” to give performance.

(b) Cooperation Scheme with District Councils 2017-18

As advised by the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education, funding were allocated to the four non-governmental organisations recommended earlier for implementing the scheme, the details were as follows:

- (i) A funding of \$37,605 was allocated to Cheung Chau Rural Committee Integrated Youth Centre;
- (ii) A funding of \$76,726 was allocated to Tung Chung Youth Association Limited;
- (iii) A funding of \$35,996 was allocated to Tung Chung Safe and Healthy City (Community Services) Foundation Limited; and
- (iv) A funding of \$20,705 was allocated to Hong Kong Young Women's Christian Association Tai O Community Work Office.

(c) Funding Scheme for Women's Development of Islands District 2017-18

- The working group earlier wrote to 16 women groups and non-profit making organisations in the district to invite activity proposals, and received two proposals as of the deadline. After deliberation, the working group proposed that YMCA of Hong Kong Tung Chung Centre and the Neighbourhood Advice-Action

Council Tung Chung Integrated Services Centre be allocated funding for organising the Funding Scheme for Women's Development of Islands District this year.

22. Members noted and endorsed the above report and proposals of the working group.

IV. Reports on the Work of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department in Islands District

(i) Cultural Activities

(Paper CACRC 30/2017)

23. The Chairman welcomed Ms Kitty LEE, Senior Manager (New Territories South) Promotion of LCSD to the meeting to present the paper.

24. Ms Kitty LEE presented the paper.

25. Members noted the contents of the paper.

(ii) Extension Activities Held in Public Libraries

(Paper CACRC 31/2017)

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

27. Ms Elaine KWOK presented the paper.

28. Members noted the contents of the paper.

(iii) Sports and Recreational Activities

(Paper CACRC 32/2017)

29. The Chairman welcomed Mr WONG Wing-kin, Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Islands of LCSD to the meeting to present the paper.

30. Mr WONG Wing-kin presented the paper.

31. Mr Holden CHOW enquired about the list of participating schools and details of School Sports Programme (Paragraph 5 of the paper).

32. Mr WONG Wing-kin said that the programme was directly organised by School Sports Programme Unit of the headquarters of the Department. He could provide relevant information for reference after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: LCSD said that the statistics of the activities of School Sports Programme organised in various primary and secondary schools in the Islands District were provided to Mr Holden CHOW for reference on 6 July).

33. Ms LEE Kwai-chun said that a lot of free recreation and sports programmes were highly welcomed and hoped the Department would continue to organise more such activities.

34. Mr WONG Wing-kin thanked Members for their comments and said arrangements would be made as far as possible if resources permitted.

35. Mr LAI Tsz-man said that the School Sports Programme was not directly related to the work of the DC and asked why a report was made at the DC meeting and whether LCSD did so in all the 18 districts.

36. Mr WONG Wing-kin said that the programme was organised in the schools in the Islands District by the School Sports Programme Unit and was therefore included in the report but no details were provided in the attachment. The Department reported in a similar way in other districts.

V. Any Other Business

37. The Committee congratulated Mr CHOW Yuk-tong on his award of Silver Bauhinia Star.

38. Mr Eric KWOK thanked LCSD for organising a puppet and magic show in Yat Tung (I) Estate. As the show was well received by families and children, he hoped the Department would organise one more session.

39. The Chairman supplemented that any comments received from residents on district free entertainment programmes could be conveyed to LCSD direct.

VI. Date of Next Meeting

40. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m. The next meeting was scheduled for 2:00 p.m. on 5 September 2017 (Tuesday).

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