

(Translation)

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

Date : 9 July 2018 (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
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 WONG Hoi-yu
Mr LAI Tsz-man
Ms KWOK Wai-man, Mealoha
Mr ON Man-sang
Ms YIP Sheung-ching

Attendance by Invitation

Dr YANG Rong, Ron	Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Water Policy & Science) ¹ , Environmental Protection Department
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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
Ms YUEN Chi-ling, Margaret	Manager (New Territories South) Marketing & District Activities, 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
Mr LAM Kit-sing	Representative, Islands District Sports Association
Ms CHOI Kwok-por	Representative, Hong Kong Islands Cultural & Art Association

Secretary

Miss CHAN Shuk-yi, Rachel	Executive Officer (District Council)1, Islands District Office
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Absent with Apologies

Mr WONG Hon-kuen, Ken	
Mr TANG Ka-piu, Bill, JP	
Ms YUEN Wai-kwan	Representative, Association of School Heads of Islands District



Welcoming Remarks

The Chairman welcomed representatives of government departments and organisations as well as Members to the meeting. She introduced Ms WONG Fan-ni, Jasmine, Senior Manager (New Territories South) Promotion of Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) who succeeded Miss LEE Kit-ye, Kitty.

2. Members noted that Mr Ken WONG, Mr Bill TANG and Ms YUEN Wai-kwan were unable to attend the meeting due to other commitments.

I. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 7.5.2018

3. The Chairman said that the above 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 amendments.

II. The 7th Hong Kong Games (Paper CACRC 28/2018)

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

6. Ms Cherry CHAN briefly presented the paper.
7. Ms Amy YUNG suggested representative of LCSD use appropriate wording when presenting the paper.
8. The Chairman asked Members to consider endorsing the proposals of the composition of Islands District delegation and the process of athlete selection set out in the paper.
9. The Committee endorsed the proposals set out in the paper.

III. Question on the grading of water quality of Discovery Bay beach by the Environmental Protection Department
(Paper CACRC 29/2018)

10. The Chairman welcomed Dr YANG Rong, Ron, Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Water Policy & Science)¹ of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) to the meeting to respond to the question.
11. Ms Amy YUNG briefly introduced the question.
12. Dr Ron YANG responded as follows:
 - (a) First, he thanked Ms YUNG for raising the question and her concern about the risks of swimming at the beach. He explained that the water quality of beaches was classified into 4 grades, namely “Good” (Grade 1), “Fair” (Grade 2), “Poor” (Grade 3) and “Very Poor” (Grade 4), by EPD according to the level of *E. coli* in the water. Regarding the question raised by Ms YUNG that the water quality of Discovery Bay (DB) was rated as “Very Poor” (Grade 4) by the department in early June this year, he explained that typhoon signal no. 1 was issued for the first time in the year by the Hong Kong Observatory on 5 June, and the pollutants on the ground were flushed into the sea after heavy rain in consecutive days, resulting in a transient degradation of the water quality. Similar situations were found in other high-quality beaches after heavy rain as well besides DB. According to past records, such situation occurred only 4 times in DB over the past 5 years, i.e. about once per year. To protect public health, in the weekly press release about grading of beach water quality, EPD specifically reminded members of the public that beach water quality could be temporarily affected during and after periods of heavy rain, and bathers should avoid swimming at beaches within 3 days after a storm or heavy rainfall.
 - (b) The bathing season of Hong Kong was from 1 March to 31 October. There were 41 gazetted beaches in Hong Kong and DB was a non-gazetted beach. Since 1997, the latest rating of DB had been released weekly by the department during the bathing season with a view to providing information to members of the public about the health risk posed by

contact with seawater during beach activities. In view that DB was a more well-known beach in Lantau with many beach goers, EPD issued press release every Friday over the past 20 years to inform members of the public of the water quality of DB. According to past records, except that the water quality of DB was affected by the heavy rain episodes in 2016, it received “Good” annual ranking (Grade 1) throughout the 16 years from 2002 to 2017, indicating that the water quality of DB was not bad and should not be concluded as very poor based on just one “Very Poor” weekly grading.

13. Ms Amy YUNG said that the crux of this question was not water quality. The saying of the department that numerous people visited DB departed from the truth. It was only during the summer holiday, Fridays and weekends when activities took place that a larger number of people would go to the beach, but the local residents rarely go swimming there. She was worried that members of the public might be drawn to the beach by the message of good beach water quality announced by EPD. She hoped that the department would pay attention to public safety since outsiders had no idea about the situation of DB and there was no lifeguard on duty at the beach and fatal accidents did happen in the past. Moreover, there had been numerous overseas tourists pitching tents at the beach in recent years and accidents might happen if they were unaware of the dangers of the beach. She proposed that when releasing the grading of beach water quality, the department should state that DB was a man-made beach and would pose certain dangers, so as to inform members of the public of the situation of the beach.

14. Dr Ron YANG responded as follows:

- (a) He understood Ms YUNG’s concern and agreed that the crux of the question was not water quality. The beach was not managed by LCSD but Hong Kong Resort Company Limited (HKR). According to information, Ms YUNG had suggested at previous District Council (DC) meetings that HKR and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department should make arrangement for lifeguard and other services such as transport and hygiene when large events took place at the beach. He opined that the departments concerned might consider the proposal of Ms YUNG. He hoped that Members understood that the press release issued by EPD was written in a concise manner according to specified format, aiming at informing members of the public about the water quality of beaches. As for personal safety, it might be followed up by the responsible departments or the management company, such as posting notices at appropriate places at the beach.
- (b) If DB was removed from the list of grading when EPD released the grading of beach water quality, members of the public would have no way to know the water quality of the beach, which might cause inconvenience to them. He believed members of the public did not wish the department provided less information.

15. Ms Amy YUNG raised her views and enquiries as follows:

- (a) The beach was a public leisure facility managed by private company. It

was pointed out in the paper that a notice was put up on the beach stating the points to note at the beach but members of the public rarely paid attention to it over the years. She was very worried that accidents would happen at the beach and understood that EPD was responsible to assess the grading of beach water quality.

- (b) She enquired, apart from the 41 gazetted beaches managed by LCSD, whether EPD would announce the water quality grading of other beaches which were public leisure facilities. If a large number of people were attracted to the beach due to the good water quality but the department had not reminded them of the dangers thereat, it seemed unfair to members of the public. The department should not allow visitors to enjoy the beach without reminding them of the unavailability of lifeguard service. In addition, man-made beaches were prone to accidents due to the uneven seabed and different water depths.
- (c) While such information had been provided by the department for over 10 years, the situation 10 years ago was different from the current situation. At present, the beach was full of visitors and even overcrowded. The announcement of “Good” water quality of DB by the department might attract members of the public to pitch tents or swim at the beach and accidents might occur. As such, she proposed that when issuing the press release, the department should state that DB was a man-made beach without lifeguard service and with uneven seabed and different water depths, hence posing certain dangers. She enquired of the department whether the suggestion was feasible.

16. Dr Ron YANG said that he noted Ms YUNG’s opinions and suggestion. He explained again that the department was mainly responsible for work concerning water quality, environmental pollution and handling of related complaints, but not the safety of visitors. Nevertheless, he would relay Ms YUNG’s request to his colleagues.

(Post-meeting note: The press release of EPD would be slightly modified to state that DB was a non-gazetted beach without lifeguard service.)

IV. Reports by Working Groups

(i) CACRC Vetting Group

17. The Chairman said that at the meeting on 27 June this year, the vetting group processed 62 funding applications for the Community Involvement Projects to be held in September to October this year. The funding proposals would be submitted to the Committee by circulation of paper for endorsement.

(ii) CACRC Activities Working Group

(a) Islands District Cultural Festival 2018

- “Islands District Cantonese Opera Show in Celebration of the 21st Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR and Mid-Autumn

Festival” and “Islands District Cantonese Opera Show in Celebration of the National Day” were scheduled to be held at Concert Hall of Hong Kong City Hall on 30 August and 4 October this year respectively. Upon deliberation, the working group decided to engage Super Talent International Limited to perform the show.

- “Islands District Council Presents – Golden Oldies Concert” was scheduled to be held on 14 October this year at Auditorium of Tsuen Wan Town Hall. Upon deliberation, the working group decided to engage One Points Marketing and PR Company Limited for concert production.
- “Show Time!” Islands District Youth Musical Talent Show was scheduled to be held on 4 November this year at Concert Hall of Hong Kong City Hall. Upon deliberation, the working group decided to engage TVB Publication Limited for production of the show.

(b) Islands District Funding Scheme for Women’s Development 2018-19

- The working group had earlier invited 16 women’s groups and non-profit-making organisations in the district in writing to submit activity proposals and 3 proposals were received by the deadline. Upon deliberation, the working group proposed recommending the Women’s Commission to provide funding to Young Men’s Christian Association of Hong Kong Tung Chung Centre, OIWA Limited and The Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council Tung Chung Integrated Services Centre for organising this year’s Islands District Funding Scheme for Women’s Development activities.

18. Members endorsed the above reports of the 2 working groups.

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

(i) Cultural Activities
(Paper CACRC 25/2018)

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

20. Ms Jasmine WONG briefly presented the paper.

21. Members noted the paper.

(ii) Extension Activities held in Public Libraries
(Paper CACRC 26/2018)

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

23. Ms Elaine KWOK briefly presented the paper.

24. Mr Eric KWOK, for the DC-funded extension activities held in May 2018 set out in Annex I to the paper, enquired about what “other activities” mentioned therein referred to.

25. Ms Elaine KWOK said that, in general, the activities funded by DC were mainly “Storytelling for Children” and “Subject Talk” and some special events such as carnival would be included in “other activities”.

26. Members noted the paper.

(iii) Sports and Recreational Activities
(Paper CACRC 27/2018)

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

28. Ms Cherry CHAN briefly presented the paper.

29. Members noted the paper.

VI. Any Other Business

30. Mr Eric KWOK said that he attended the Tung Chung Community Hall (CH) managed by the Islands District Office (IsDO) on 1 July this year to oversee a dance competition. It was estimated that there were almost 600 people in the venue where many young people were dancing. The organiser requested the CH staff to lower the air-conditioner temperature but was refused. He later raised the request again to the CH staff who indicated that it was a central air-conditioning system and the temperature could not be adjusted. He further enquired whether the air-conditioning temperature remained unchanged regardless of the number of people in the venue. The staff said that during the course of an earlier activity with only about 30 participants, the air-conditioner in the venue was unable to be set at a higher temperature. He was beaded with sweat after staying there for almost 3 hours, not to mention the contestants. He opined that the central air-conditioning system should be adjusted according to the situation and needs and hoped that IsDO would relay his opinion to Tung Chung CH.

31. Mr Benjamin AU said that he would obtain information from the personnel responsible for the CH and would follow up with Mr KWOK after the meeting.

VII. Date of Next Meeting

32. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m. The next meeting would be held at 2:00 p.m. on 4 September 2018 (Tuesday).

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