

(Translation)

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

Date : 5 November 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 WONG Hon-kuen, Ken
Ms LEE Kwai-chun
Mr TANG Ka-piu, Bill, JP
Ms YUNG Wing-sheung, Amy
Mr CHOW Ho-ding, Holden
Mr KWOK Ping, Eric
Ms FU Hiu-lam Sammi
Mr WONG Hoi-yu
Mr LAI Tsz-man
Mr ON Man-sang
Ms YIP Sheung-ching

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 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
Miss YEUNG Cin-man, Winnie	Assistant District Officer (Islands)2, Islands District Office
Ms YUEN Wai-kwan	Representative, Association of School Heads of Islands District
Mr LAM Kit-sing	Representative, Islands District Sports Association
Ms CHOI Kwok-por	Representative, Hong Kong Islands Cultural & Art Association

Secretary

Miss LAM Po-yan, Eloisa

Executive Officer (District Council)1, Islands District Office

Absent with Apologies

Mr YUNG Chi-ming, BBS

Mr CHAN Lin-wai

Mr KWONG Koon-wan

Ms KWOK Wai-man, Mealoha

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**Welcoming Remarks**

The Chairman welcomed representatives of government departments and organisations as well as Members to the meeting and introduced the following department representatives who attended the meeting:

- (a) Miss YEUNG Cin-man, Winnie, Assistant District Officer (Islands)2 of the Islands District Office who stood in for Mr Benjamin AU; and
- (b) Ms YUEN Chi-ling, Margaret, Manager (New Territories South) Marketing & District Activities of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) who stood in for Ms Jasmine WONG.

2. Members noted that Mr YUNG Chi-ming, Mr CHAN Lin-wai, Mr KWONG Koon-wan and Ms Mealoha KWOK were unable to attend the meeting due to other commitments.

I. **Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 4.9.2018**

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. **Reports by Working Groups**

(i) **CACRC Vetting Group**

- (a) Review of the Manual on the Use of Islands District Council Funds for Non-governmental Organisations (the Manual)
  - The Vetting Group had reviewed the current Manual at the meetings held on 4 September and 12 October this year, including the approval

criteria and ceiling of the fund, subsidised items and the ceilings, etc. with revisions proposed. If the proposed revisions were endorsed, they would be applicable to activities held after the financial year 2019/20.

- (b) Funding applications for Community Involvement Projects (CIPs) to be held in November to December 2018
  - At the meeting on 4 September this year, the Vetting Group continued to process a funding application for CIPs to be held in November to December 2018. The funding proposal had been submitted to the Committee for endorsement.
- (c) Funding applications for CIPs to be held in January to March 2019
  - At the meeting on 12 October this year, the Vetting Group processed 46 funding applications for CIPs to be held in January to March 2019. The funding proposals would be submitted to the Committee for consideration and endorsement.
- (d) Application deadline for funding request for CIPs in 2019/20
  - The Vetting Group endorsed the application deadline for funding request for CIPs in the next year at the meeting on 12 October this year.
- (e) Assessment reports of CIPs
  - Members noted the content of 8 activity assessment reports.
- (f) Any other business
  - At the meeting on 12 October this year, in respect of the professional qualification of the judge in a dance competition, the Vetting Group reviewed the proof of qualification provided by the organiser and considered that the information failed to serve as sufficient proof of professional qualification of the judge. It was agreed by the Vetting Group that unless a diploma or certificate in dance of the person concerned was presented as proof, arrangement could only be made for reimbursement within the funding ceiling for non-professional judges.
  - At the same meeting, it was agreed by the Vetting Group to deduct the subsidy for the publicity of an activity because the publicity materials did not bear the name of DC. The organiser was also requested to post a notice acknowledging the Islands District Council (IDC) as the sponsor for two consecutive weeks.
  - Regarding a sports competition in which the competition team could not participate due to the fault of the organiser, the organiser applied for partial reimbursement of expenses incurred in preparatory work. Since the Vetting Group members served as Vice-president or

Honourary Advisor of the organiser respectively, it was decided that the issue be tabled for discussion at the Community Affairs, Culture and Recreation Committee (CACRC) meeting.

(ii) CACRC Activities Working Group

- (a) Islands District Cultural Festival 2018
  - The “Islands District Cantonese Opera Show in Celebration of the National Day” was held at the Concert Hall of Hong Kong City Hall on 4 October this year with an audience of about 2 200.
  - The “Islands District Council Presents – Golden Oldies Concert” was held at the Auditorium of Tsuen Wan Town Hall on 14 October this year with an audience of about 1 000.
  - “Show Time!” Islands District Youth Musical Talent Show was held at the Concert Hall of Hong Kong City Hall on 4 November this year.
- (b) Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon 2019 – 18 Districts Challenge
  - The Hong Kong Amateur Athletic Association (HKAAA) invited IDC to participate in the Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon 2019 – 18 Districts Challenge which was to be held on 17 February next year. As there were not enough participants, Islands District would not participate in the event.
- (c) 53<sup>rd</sup> Hong Kong Brands and Products Expo
  - The Hong Kong Brands and Products Expo would be held from 15 December this year to 7 January next year. The Chinese Manufacturers’ Association of Hong Kong invited IDC to assist in arranging performances by local groups. The Working Group invited the Hong Kong Islands Cultural & Art Association (HKICAA) to give a performance.
- (d) Hong Kong Flower Show 2019
  - The Hong Kong Flower Show would be held from 15 to 24 March next year. The Show Committee of the Hong Kong Flower Show invited IDC to assist in arranging local bodies for providing a “green promotional game stall”. The Working Group invited Cheung Chau Island Women’s Association to participate in the event.

(iii) Islands District International Day of Disabled Persons Working Group

- (a) Central Celebration Ceremony
  - The International Day of Disabled Persons (IDDP) opening ceremony cum float parade carnival would be held on 1 December (Saturday) at Lok Fu Plaza. The event would be themed “Arts of the Disabled”. The kick-off ceremony of the float parade would be held at

12:00 noon beside Wanchai MTR Station and performances by disabled groups would be given at midway in Kowloon and the New Territories. The “18 Districts Arts Carnival” would be held right after the float parade to promote the artistic talents of disabled persons and foster the integration of the disabled and the able-bodied. Representatives of the Islands District would take part in setting up game booths in the carnival and the Working Group endorsed the allocation of \$5,000 to subsidise the related expenses.

(b) Ocean Park Fun Day

- Ocean Park Fun Day (Islands District) of the IDDP would be held on 25 November (Sunday) this year and 400 tickets were allocated to the Islands District. The Working Group endorsed the allocation of \$28,000 to subsidise the transport and food expenses of the event.

(c) Free Transportation Day for Disabled Persons

- Free Transportation Day for Disabled Persons of the IDDP would be held on 11 November (Sunday) this year.

(d) District Inclusion Activities

- The Working Group endorsed the allocation of \$19,740 in total to subsidise 4 rehabilitation organisations in the district for organising inclusion activity programmes.

5. Members noted and endorsed the reports of the above 3 working groups.

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

(i) Cultural Activities

(Paper CACRC 41/2018)

6. The Chairman welcomed Ms Margaret YUEN, Manager (New Territories South) Marketing & District Activities of LCSD to the meeting to present the paper.

7. Ms Margaret YUEN briefly presented the paper.

8. Members noted the paper.

(ii) Extension Activities held in Public Libraries

(Paper CACRC 42/2018)

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

10. Ms Elaine KWOK briefly presented the paper.

11. Members noted the paper.

(iii) Sports and Recreational Activities  
(Paper CACRC 43/2018)

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

13. Ms Cherry CHAN briefly presented the paper.

14. Members noted the paper.

(Mr WONG Hoi-yu joined the meeting at around 2:10 p.m.)

IV. Any Other Business

(i) The 7<sup>th</sup> Hong Kong Games

15. The Chairman welcomed Ms Cherry CHAN, Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Islands of LCSD to the meeting to give a report.

16. Ms Cherry CHAN reported as follows:

- (a) At the meeting on 9 July this year, the Islands District CACRC endorsed the formation of the 7<sup>th</sup> Hong Kong Games (HKG) IDC delegation and the Islands District HKG Working Group. LCSD subsequently issued letters to the District Councillors, Members and the Islands District Sports Association to invite them to serve as members of the delegation and the working group. The membership list was confirmed and tabled for Members' perusal. The working group would hold a meeting to discuss the preparatory work right after this meeting.
- (b) The HKG was an event with the DCs as the participating units, and Members and co-opted Members were welcome to participate in support. She asked Members to take note of the following dates and reserve time for the activities, which included the 18 Districts' Pledging cum Cheering Team Competition on 24 February 2019 (Sunday); the Islands District Delegation's Pledging cum Flag Presentation on 2 March 2019 (Saturday); the Opening Ceremony of HKG on 28 April 2019 (Sunday); and the Closing cum Prize Presentation Ceremony on 2 June 2019 (Sunday).
- (c) Moreover, a new activity, namely "The Hong Kong Games 7-minute Schools Vitality Run" was introduced in the HKG this year. Secondary and primary schools were invited to arrange for a 7-minute run during athlete meet to promote sporting culture in schools and encourage

students to develop a habit of doing exercise since childhood. The HKG Secretariat had in early September invited secondary and primary schools by letters and written to the DC Secretariats to call for the DCs to encourage active participation of schools in the district. The department had promoted the activity at the meeting of the Association of School Heads of Islands District on 16 October this year. Members were asked to appeal to the heads of schools to participate.

(ii) Early termination of a CIP activity at the implementation stage

17. The Chairman said that regarding a sports competition requesting for IDC funding, the organiser wrote to CACRC Vetting Group indicating that due to the mistakes of the staff and leader in communication and arrangement for participants to take part in the competition on that day, there had not been sufficient participants reporting at the venue 30 minutes before the competition started, hence the participating team was regarded as having withdrawn from the match by the New Territories Regional Sports Association according to regulations. The organiser now applied for partial reimbursement of the expenses incurred in the preparation/implementation of the activity. Since the Vetting Group members respectively served as Vice-president or Honourary Advisor of the organiser, it was decided that the above issue be brought up at the CACRC meeting for discussion. The relevant document was tabled for Members' perusal. The Chairman said that she and the Vice-chairman both served as Honourary Advisor to the organiser and made tier 1 declaration of interest on the matter. She enquired whether Members agreed that the Chairman and the Vice-chairman participated in the discussion, decision-making and voting on the matter and whether she should continue presiding over the meeting.

18. Ms Amy YUNG opined that neither the Chairman nor the Vice-chairman were suitable for presiding over the meeting.

19. The Chairman said that if Members decided that the Chairman and the Vice-chairman could not preside over the meeting, a Member should be elected as Temporary Chairman.

20. Mr Bill TANG reckoned that Honourary Advisor was a nominal capacity. However, for the sake of prudence and facilitating the proceeding of the meeting, he considered that a Member who needed not declare interests should be elected as Temporary Chairman.

21. The Chairman briefed Members on the recommended approaches to handling various tiers of declaration according to the good practice formulated by the Home Affairs Department (HAD): Members/co-opted Members who made tier 1 declaration of interests could take part in the discussion, decision-making and voting; Members/co-opted Members who made tier 2 declaration of interests should be silent during the discussion concerned, and abstained from decision-making or voting for the funding application concerned; and Members/co-opted Members who made tier 3 declaration of interests should withdraw from the meeting. At the meeting, 5 Committee members

made tier 1 declaration and 4 DC members made tier 2 declaration. The Chairman proposed that Mr Holden CHOW, who needed not declare interests, acted as Temporary Chairman.

22. Members voted on Mr Holden CHOW as Temporary Chairman with a simple majority.

23. The Temporary Chairman handled Members' declarations of interests according to the good practice formulated by HAD and indicated that discussion on the matter might start. He pointed out that according to paragraph 11.2 of the Manual, DC might, according to the situation and grounds of justification, approve the reimbursement claim of expenses incurred in the preparation/implementation of the activity where appropriate. If DC considered that termination of the activity was caused by the negligence of the funding recipient concerned, no further reimbursement should be made to the organisation and the organisation was required to immediately return the advance payment and/or reimbursement in whole or in part.

24. Mr Bill TANG enquired whether CACRC Vetting Group had held discussion on this matter and whether the general opinion could be provided as reference.

25. Ms YU Lai-fun said that since the incident arose out of a mistake of the organisation, the Vetting Group had unanimously agreed at the meeting that no reimbursement should be made to the organisation.

26. Mr Eric KWOK said that although the Vetting Group had reached a consensus on the broad direction, the matter was brought up to the Committee for consideration according to the appeal mechanism. He personally opined that it was clear from the letter of the organisation that the withdrawal from the activity was due to administration and management glitches of the organisation rather than unpunctuality of individual participants, thus the matter should not be handled with discretion.

27. Mr Bill TANG said that since the Vetting Group already had an overall opinion, it should be accepted by the Committee.

28. Ms YU Lai-fun said that the Vetting Group members discussed the matter in private only on the meeting day and most of the members were related to the organisation, though not carrying an executive capacity, thus it was unanimously agreed that the matter be brought up to CACRC for deliberation. She opined that the Committee had all along been upholding the principles of fairness, impartiality, openness and high transparency and hoped that Members would give advice and inform of their decision.

29. Mr Ken WONG concurred with Ms YU Lai-fun that it was inappropriate for the Vetting Group members to make the decision, and the matter should be decided by the Committee.



30. The Temporary Chairman reckoned that the incident was due to administrative error of the organisation and therefore it should take the responsibility and bear the consequences. He believed that rejecting its claim for reimbursement could serve as a warning for the organisation concerned to make corresponding improvement after this incident. He opined that public funds should be used properly and did not want to see similar cases happened in other organisations.

31. Members had no further comment and agreed unanimously that the reimbursement application of the organisation be rejected.

32. The Temporary Chairman asked the Chairman Ms YU Lai-fun to preside over the remainder of the meeting.

(iii) Professional certification of judge for a CIP activity

33. Ms CHOI Kwok-por said that an organisation earlier applied for DC funding for organising a dance competition. Since the organisation submitted only a teaching evaluation report of the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts for the judge without any professional certificate attached, the professional qualification of the judge was not recognised by the Vetting Group. As the Chairman of HKICAA, she had 15 years of experience in organising dance competition. While understanding that relevant certificates were required for funding application, she pointed out that people of the 50s to 70s might possess only one graduation certificate which might have been lost over time. She always invited veteran and renowned professionals to serve as judges, and thereby the dance competitions were held successfully and well received by participants. The competition concerned was adjudicated by Ms CHANG Wan-chao who graduated from the Beijing Dance Academy. Nevertheless, due to unavailability of a certificate, reimbursement could only be made as non-professional judge, which the organiser considered disrespectful to Ms CHANG. She indicated that there was no certification body for the dance profession in Hong Kong and she had proposed accreditation of professional qualification by HKICAA but was not accepted. She hoped that Members would advise and hold discussion to solve the problem.

34. The Chairman said that relevant certificates should be produced as required for approval of funding for professional judges. She opined that the dance competition was held successfully with judge and guests displaying high professional standard. Unfortunately, given the absence of certificate and limited resource, the Vetting Group could not approve a larger amount of remuneration for professional judge. The Vetting Group had enquired of LCSD but there was no association for accreditation of professional qualification of dancers. She asked Members to suggest how to encourage professionals without certificates to continue serving the Islands District.

35. Mr LAI Tsz-man clarified that the Hong Kong Dance Federation (HKDF) was established as early as 1978, which conducted examinations for dance teachers and assisted the Government in organising various activities. He understood that the Chairman and members of the Vetting Group faced difficulties in vetting the funding

applications and agreed that professional teachers and judges should be respected, but the use of public fund should be in compliance with rules and the funding principle should not be changed in response to any individuals or organisations. He cited sports activity as an example and said that although all physical education teachers in schools possessed a degree certificate, when serving as judges in sports competitions funded by DC, they were required to produce the proof of judge qualification awarded by HKAAA for reimbursement of professional judge expense, otherwise they would only receive remuneration for non-professional judge even though they possessed teacher qualification. For judges of dance competition, certificate of relevant degree or diploma was required for confirmation of professional judge qualification. If the veteran dancers lost their certificates, they might apply to HKDF for a re-issue.

36. Ms CHOI Kwok-por said that HKDF was an amateur group without sufficient representativeness. Veterans were reluctant to have their qualifications verified by HKDF. She hoped that a dance certification body could be set up in Hong Kong soonest for confirming the professional standard or qualification of judges.

37. Ms Amy YUNG said that the operation of DC had to comply with the rules and regime. She had once proposed at the meeting to engage yoga teachers for an activity but was rejected by LCSD because there was no certification for qualification of yoga teachers. She considered that the same went for dance competition judges and suggested that people losing their certificates might take the examination again or apply for replacement.

38. Mr Bill TANG said that given the extensive coverage of the issue and wide ranging art activities, the certification presented a hurdle for which he believed the Committee could hardly reach a conclusion within a short period of time. Moreover, as the funding criteria was set by HAD, even if the Committee reached a consensus on this case, the funding mechanism could not be changed. He appreciated the enthusiasm and devotion of Ms CHOI and artists for their own fields but reckoned that their requests would be impossible to be fulfilled by the Committee. He suggested Ms CHOI appeal to a higher level of the Government (e.g. the LCSD Headquarters).

39. Mr Holden CHOW said that he had time and again attended the dance competitions organised by Ms CHOI and expressed appreciation of the activities. Regarding the certification of judges, he agreed that the funding requirements should not be violated and opined that the proposal for implementation of certification system by HKICAA was worthy of consideration. Moreover, Ms CHOI mentioned that the remuneration made for professional or non-professional judges was a matter of respect, not money. He advised Ms CHOI to explain to the judges concerned that whether remuneration for professional or non-professional judge was provided depended on the production of certificates by the organisers and it had nothing to do with the professionalism of the judges.

40. Mr LAI Tsz-man said that LCSD had an established system for certification of athlete and coach qualification but not for dancers. He suggested the Vetting Group exercise its power to verify the certification document, qualification and status of judges

on a case by case basis. Moreover, the hiring by LCSD of tutors of HKICAA to give dance lessons meant that HKICAA was recognised by the Government, and the list of approved tutors of LCSD could be regarded as a certification. If the person concerned was invited by the Government to participate in a territory-wide open dance competition, the relevant information thus produced might be deemed as proof of professional qualification in dance.

41. Mr Eric KWOK said that while the Vetting Group was empowered to vet the applications for DC funds, it should do so according to established procedures. The Manual formulated by HAD served as a yardstick for DC in processing the applications. He understood that most of the people participating in community, art or sports activities were full of enthusiasm and some provided community service on a voluntary basis, yet DC had to perform the role of gate-keeping in maintaining procedural fairness and the use of public funds. If funding applications were handled on a case by case basis, confusion would arise due to a lack of guidelines, thus creating a negative impression of IDC to the outsiders. The Vetting Group had the right to decide that holders of professional certificate would be granted remuneration for professionals, and non-holders would only be granted remuneration for non-professionals. Regarding Ms CHOI's wish for the setting up of a certification body, he wanted to make it clear to Ms CHOI that the Committee did not have sufficient power and capacity in this aspect and relevant associations needed to step up support for it.

42. The Chairman supplemented that it was impossible for HKDF to provide professional qualification certification for each and every judge who did not have a certificate. She advised those who had lost their certificates to apply to the issuing institutions for replacement. The Vetting Group had repeatedly examined the requirements set out in the Manual concerning professional qualification. If no certificate could be produced, even though a detailed teaching evaluation report was provided by the organiser of the activity concerned, the judge would be treated as a non-professional. It was simply because the Vetting Group could not confirm the professional qualification and the judge should obtain the qualification through examination himself/herself.

43. Mr LAI Tsz-man understood that the Vetting Group could not assess the proof of professional qualification out of thin air and suggested it cite specific examples of qualifications. For example, as the Vice-chairman of the Hong Kong Dance Development Association, Ms CHOI was qualified to recognise the professional qualification of the judges. Therefore, the Vetting Group should not just act in accordance with the Manual but cope with the grey areas flexibly and accept equivalent qualification.

44. Mr Eric KWOK said that since the Committee did not have sufficient power in this aspect, the discussion should be halted now. He advised Ms CHOI to make a request to HAD for revising the Manual. He reiterated that it was appropriate to comply with the Manual and the principles laid down.

45. The Chairman thanked Members for their opinions. She understood that Ms CHOI raised the question to express her own ideas and ask Members to find out

effective solutions. However, since the matter was beyond the purview of the Committee, she asked Ms CHOI to obtain the proof of qualification through other means, such as certificates or documents recognised by relevant associations.

46. Ms CHOI Kwok-por thanked Members for their opinions.

(Mr Bill TANG left the meeting at around 2:55 p.m.)

V. Date of Next Meeting

47. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:58 p.m. The next meeting would be held at 2:00 p.m. on 7 January 2019 (Monday).

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