

Southern District Council (2020-2023) (SDC)
Minutes of the 5th Meeting of the
Recreation and District Facilities Committee (RDFC)

Date : 28 January 2021 (Thursday)
Time : 3:30 p.m.
Venue : SDC Conference Room

Present:

Mr LO Kin-hei (Chairman of SDC)
Mr TSUI Yuen-wa (Chairman of RDFC)
Mr CHAN Ping-yeung (Vice-Chairman of RDFC)
Mr CHAN Hin-chung
Ms CHAN Yan-yi
Mr LAM Andrew Tak-wo
Mr LAM Ho-por, Kelvin
Ms LAM Yuk-chun, MH
Mr Jonathan LEUNG Chun
Ms LI Shee-lin
Mr PANG Cheuk-kei, Michael
Mr POON Ping-hong
Mr WONG Yui-hei, Angus
Mr YIM Chun-ho
Mr YU Chun-hei, James
Miss YUEN Ka-wai, Tiffany

Absent with Apologies:

Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN (Vice-Chairman of SDC)

Secretary:

Mr CHEUNG Wai-chun, William Executive Officer I (District Management),
Southern District Office, Home Affairs Department

In Attendance:

Mr LEUNG Ying-kit	Senior Executive Officer (District Management), Southern District Office, Home Affairs Department
Ms MAN Chi-nga, Flora	District Leisure Manager (Southern), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr AU YEUNG Wai-ming, Arthur	Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Southern, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms LAU Sau-ping, Jan	Senior Manager (Hong Kong West), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms ZHAO Yee, Emily	Manager (Hong Kong West) Marketing, Programme and District Activities, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms CHENG Siu-ping, Jessica	Principal Estate Officer / Hong Kong West & South (1) (District Lands Office / Hong Kong West & South), Lands Department
Mr CHAN Ka-lok, Samuel	Senior Estate Officer / Hong Kong West & South (Lands Control) (3) (District Lands Office / Hong Kong West & South), Lands Department

Opening Remarks:

The Chairman said that in view of the latest situation of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), this meeting was not open to the public in order to reduce the risk of crowd gathering. The Chairman said that members and media were advised to bring their own masks and water. Before entering the venue, all persons were subject to checking of body temperature with the assistance of the staff of Southern District Office (SDO), and were required to use the “LeaveHomeSafe” mobile app to scan the venue QR code, complete a health declaration form and declare whether he / she was under the 14-day compulsory quarantine. When leaving the venue, all persons were required to press the “Leave” button on the app.

2. The Chairman welcomed members and the following government representatives to the meeting:

- (a) Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD)
 - (i) Ms MAN Chi-nga, Flora, District Leisure Manager (Southern);
 - (ii) Mr AU YEUNG Wai-ming, Arthur, Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Southern;
 - (iii) Ms LAU Sau-ping, Jan, Senior Manager (Hong Kong West);
 - (iv) Ms ZHAO Yee, Emily, Manager (Hong Kong West) Marketing, Programme and District Activities;

- (b) Lands Department (LandsD)
 - (i) Ms CHENG Siu-ping, Jessica, Principal Estate Officer / Hong Kong West & South (1) (District Lands Office / Hong Kong West & South);
and
 - (ii) Mr CHAN Ka-lok, Samuel, Senior Estate Officer / Hong Kong West & South (Lands Control) (3) (District Lands Office / Hong Kong West & South).

3. The Chairman said that as Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN had to attend another meeting of an advisory body appointed by the Government, he could not attend this meeting. Members were asked to note that.

4. The Chairman said that to avoid suspending the meeting in the absence of a quorum, members should, as far as practicable, advise the Secretary of their early withdrawal before the meeting, and inform the Secretariat staff when they left the meeting.

5. The Chairman advised that to enhance the efficiency of the meeting, each member was allotted a maximum of two 3-minute slots to speak in respect of each agenda item.

Agenda Item 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 4th Meeting held on 17 November 2020

6. The Chairman said that the draft minutes of the above meeting had been circulated to members for comments before the meeting. The Secretariat had not received any amendment proposals so far.

7. The minutes of the 4th meeting were confirmed by the Committee.

Agenda Item 2: Report on the Community Arts Scheme 2021-22, Arts and Cultural Activities Schemes in 2021-22, and Other Arts and Cultural Activities in the Southern District organised by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department
(RDFC Paper No. 1/2021)

8. Ms Jan LAU briefed members on the programme schedule and report of the activities under the Community Arts Scheme organised / to be organised by LCSD in the Southern District from July 2020 to March 2021, the outline of other arts and cultural activities to be organised in the Southern District in 2021-22, as well as other arts and cultural activities organised / to be organised in the Southern District between November 2020 and March 2021, as detailed in RDFC Paper No. 1/2021.

(Mr YU Chun-hei, James joined the meeting at 3:37 p.m.)

9. Regarding Annex III to the paper, the Chairman said that the activities under the School Culture Day Scheme would take place up to March 2021. He asked whether LCSD would call off the activities if the epidemic did not subside within a short time.

10. Ms Jan LAU responded that regarding the schemes set out in Annex III to the paper, LCSD would decide whether to continue to organise the activities subject to the school resumption arrangements. In respect of the School Performing Arts in Practice Scheme, as more rehearsal sessions were involved, LCSD had to coordinate with the participating schools to make arrangements as appropriate, including social distancing measures and special cleaning arrangements. She believed that there would be a higher chance for organising an activity in which the same group of students would participate. For the School Culture Day Scheme, it was expected that there would be a larger number of participants for some activities. The decision on whether to organise the activities as scheduled would depend on the considerations of schools and the implementation of epidemic prevention measures.

11. The Chairman said that the activities in Annex III had commenced between September and November 2020, he asked whether LCSD had been informed by schools or organisations that they did not intend to continue with the activities.

12. Ms Jan LAU responded that they had not been informed of the intention so far. She added that some schemes were ongoing until July 2021, in case the epidemic subsided and schools could resume classes in March 2021, the schemes could still be carried out through increasing the number of rehearsal classes or streamlining the curriculum. As regards the scale or form of finale performance, revision would be made subject to the preferences of schools. LCSD still aimed to provide students with the opportunities for practice through the schemes.

13. The Chairman showed understanding of the special arrangements made by LCSD under the epidemic.

Agenda Item 3: Report on the Organisation of Recreation and Sports Programmes and Management of Facilities in the Southern District by the LCSD (RDFC Paper No. 2/2021)

14. Mr Arthur AU YEUNG briefed members on the recreation and sports (R&S) programmes organised by LCSD from November to December 2020 and those to be organised from February to March 2021 in the Southern District, the opinions by users of leisure services in the Southern District from September to December 2020, the usage of the R&S facilities, assessment of the LCSD's contractors' service levels, greening work, refurbishment/improvement project and improvement work of hard-surface soccer pitches in the Southern District from November to December 2020, recovery works for LCSD's facilities damaged by the Super Typhoon Mangkhut in the Southern District, the construction of a footbridge with lifts to connect the Ap Lei Chau Wind Tower Park and Ap Lei Chau Estate, as well as the provision of heated pool at the Pao Yue Kong Swimming Pool Complex in the Southern District, as detailed in RDFC Paper No. 2/2021.

(Mr PANG Cheuk-kei, Michael, Mr Jonathan LEUNG Chun and Miss YUEN Ka-wai, Tiffany joined the meeting at 3:46 p.m.)

15. Mr LO Kin-hei agreed and supported the conversion of existing 7-a-side hard-surface soccer pitches into hard-surface futsal pitches. In his view, futsal matches under the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) could be organised in standard futsal pitches, it was worth the efforts in conversion for training or usage. Apart from the three venues in the first phase, he asked whether LCSD

had any plan to carry out improvement work to other soccer pitches in the Southern District successively, such as the soccer pitches located at service reservoir roofs. To his understanding, the work nature would be simple, which mainly included a change of goal posts and reprinting of line marking of a futsal pitch. He continued to ask whether improvement would be made to all soccer pitches according to standards and when the improvement work for all soccer pitches in the Southern District was expected to be completed. In addition, he noted that the Invigorating Island South (IIS) initiative mentioned in the Policy Address would involve exploring the existing “Government, Institution or Community” sites or facilities to promote “single site, multiple use”. There were rumours that the sites might include the Pao Yue Kong Swimming Pool Complex, Aberdeen Sports Ground or Wong Chuk Hang Sports Centre. He asked whether LCSD could provide the information; and if the Pao Yue Kong Swimming Pool Complex was included, he asked whether there would be any impact on the provision of heated pool at the Pao Yue Kong Swimming Pool Complex.

(Mr LAM Ho-por, Kelvin and Mr POON Ping-hong joined the meeting at 3:49 p.m.)

16. The Vice-Chairman enquired about the reasons for the delay in completion of the refurbishment project of the resurfacing of the Artificial Turf Soccer Pitch at Wong Chuk Hang Recreation Ground from its original schedule of end February 2021 to April 2021.

17. Mr YIM Chun-ho said that additional spaces in some venues would be released upon completion of redelineation of hard-surface futsal pitches. He enquired of LCSD whether consideration would be given to adding relevant facilities, such as lockers or equipment for use by players during warm-up exercises, etc.

18. Mr CHAN Hin-chung said that the size of the soccer pitch at Tin Wan Estate Playground still did not comply with FIFA’s standards after alteration works. As such, he asked LCSD about the rationale behind the need for conversion.

19. Mr Arthur AU YEUNG gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (i) LCSD would start the improvement works for three venues in the district first. There was no definite timetable for improvement works at the other soccer pitches. It would depend on availability of funds. If sufficient space could be available in venues, the soccer pitches would be converted into futsal pitches in compliance with FIFA’s standards;

- (ii) As IIS initiative under the purview of the Development Bureau was still at the early stage of study, LCSD had no relevant information to report;
- (iii) Regarding the resurfacing of the Artificial Turf Soccer Pitch at Wong Chuk Hang Recreation Ground, the project scope also included the improvement of its underground drainage system. Owing to the epidemic situation, the shipment of drainage pipes to Hong Kong was delayed. As resurfacing work would be conducted after the completion of pipe connection, the project was slightly behind the schedule;
- (iv) Regarding the feasibility of provision of more facilities at peripheral areas in futsal pitches, it would depend on the space availability and safety margin ; and
- (v) Regarding the conversion of soccer pitch at Tin Wan Estate Playground into a futsal pitch, even though the size of the improved pitch did not comply with the international standards for organising futsal competitions, it could be used for non-international futsal matches.

20. Mr Jonathan LEUNG Chun asked LCSD about the purpose of converting the existing non-standard soccer pitch at Tin Wan Estate Playground into a pitch of a size “non-compliant with FIFA’s standards”.

21. Mr WONG Yui-hei, Angus said that the existing soccer pitch at Tin Wan Estate Playground was of a size within the range of “non-compliance with FIFA’s standards” and “standards for non-international matches”. He enquired about the purpose of the conversion and the works details, and suggested that LCSD should consider improving other soccer pitches with more urgent needs.

22. Mr CHAN Hin-chung did not understand why conversion still had to be made given that the existing soccer pitch at Tin Wan Estate Playground was of a size within the range of “standards for non-international matches”.

23. Mr LO Kin-hei wished to know whether FIFA had adopted standards or specifications (such as the length-to-width ratio, etc.) other than the standard measurements; if not, he disagreed of denying public access to the venue during the works period owing to the implementation of minor conversion works. Besides, he enquired about the project lead time.

24. Mr Arthur AU YEUNG responded that despite the slight adjustment of the boundary of the soccer pitch at Tin Wan Estate Playground, considering the condition of the venue after years of use, it was intended to improve other venue facilities, such

as drainage covers and fences, in one go during refurbishment. The project was expected lasting for about three months, and completed in the second quarter of this year.

25. The Chairman considered that members had raised a legitimate question that it was pointless indeed to convert an existing non-standard venue into one that still did not comply with FIFA's standards. LCSD seemed to be a little bit misleading in its reply that it would like to take this opportunity to refurbish the venue.

26. Mr Jonathan LEUNG Chun said that with a length-to-width ratio of 2:1, the other two soccer pitches mentioned in the paper complied with FIFA's standards, while the length-to-width ratio of the existing soccer pitch at Tin Wan Estate Playground was 2:1 already. He wished to know whether LCSD simply intended to take this opportunity to refurbish the venue concerned.

27. The Chairman asked LCSD how to rationalise the conversion works because the venue did not comply with international standards before and after conversion.

28. Mr Arthur AU YEUNG responded that futsal pitch had requirements for outer boundary and buffer area. The improvement work of the pitch would strive to meet the prevailing standards of the game. Architectural Services Department would be requested to provide supplementary information.

29. The Chairman asked LCSD to provide relevant additional information after the meeting. Besides, he said that as mentioned at the last meeting, the "Inclusive Park for Pets" scheme would be implemented in late 2020 or early 2021. As such, he enquired about the latest arrangements for the matter concerned.

30. Mr Arthur AU YEUNG responded that in the light of the recent development of the epidemic, LCSD suspended the "Inclusive Park for Pets" scheme which was originally scheduled for implementation in December 2020, in order to minimise the risk of group gatherings. The scheme would be commenced upon subsidence of the epidemic.

31. Mr WONG Yui-hei, Angus was puzzled by LCSD's arrangement. Regardless of the epidemic, dog owners still had to walk their dogs. He understood that LCSD had to take epidemic prevention into account, yet he would like to express

to LCSD the needs of dog owners and their dogs for going out. He hoped that the scheme could be implemented as soon as possible.

32. The Chairman shared the view of Mr WONG Yui-hei, Angus and queried whether there was a direct relationship between the opening of pet parks and the epidemic. The public had spent a long time staying at home due to the epidemic and this might also give rise to emotional problems and family conflicts. He believed that going out was beneficial to the public's physical and mental health and hoped that LCSD would listen to their views and open "Inclusive Park for Pets" as soon as possible.

Agenda Item 4: Any Other Business

Inspection, cleaning, minor improvement and repair works in the Southern District 2020

33. The Chairman said that the district minor works projects led by the Home Affairs Department (HAD) had been discussed at the last meeting and the Committee endorsed the consolidation of works items with an estimated cost below \$200,000 into "Inspection, cleaning, minor improvement and repair works in the Southern District 2020" for implementation. Although most of the works would be carried out by the Works Section of HAD, the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) would serve as the works agent for some of the works with an estimated cost below \$200,000. He asked whether members agreed to consolidate these types of works items into the above project for implementation; that was, improvement or repair works would be carried out before reporting them to the Committee.

34. Mr LO Kin-hei agreed with the relevant arrangements but opined that even if no prior consultation with the Committee was required for the works items, he requested that a brief report with information such as the works details and schedule be made to the Committee upon works completion.

(Mr PANG Cheuk-kei, Michael left the meeting at 4:03 p.m.)

35. Mr YIM Chun-ho agreed to the relevant arrangements and hoped that the works concerned could be carried out and completed as early as possible. However,

he was unsure which works items were taken up by EMSD, he hoped that the Secretariat could provide the information to members.

36. The Chairman said that EMSD was currently responsible for only one works item located in Ap Lei Chau Community Hall. He invited the Secretary to brief members on the works item.

37. The Secretary said that the works item was to replace the projector lift at the multi-purpose hall of Ap Lei Chau Community Hall with EMSD as works agent.

38. The Chairman agreed with the view of Mr LO Kin-hei. Even though the works items were urgent, the department should at least notify the Chairman of carrying out of the works items and reporting them to the Chairman and RDFC upon completion.

Meetings affected by the epidemic

39. The Chairman said that some members had relayed to him before the meeting that the meetings of other committees under SDC had to be postponed in view of the epidemic. Members hoped that the Southern District Office would arrange the meetings of other committees as soon as possible to maintain the operation of SDC and avoid piling up of work. It was hoped that the Secretariat could express the views concerned to the department.

Venue naming of the Victoria Road / Consort Rise Sitting-out Area

40. Mr Arthur AU YEUNG said that the Committee had discussed the naming of the sitting-out area at Victoria Road near Consort Rise in July and September 2020. LCSD had taken follow-up actions in response to the comments of the members. After consideration of LCSD's guidelines on the naming of venues, the department finally decided to name the new venue in accordance with the street names, i.e. Victoria Road / Consort Rise Sitting-out Area.

41. Mr LO Kin-hei considered that the standard of naming venues adopted by the department was in a wrong direction, and he was dissatisfied with the naming of venues such as Aberdeen Sports Ground, Wong Chuk Hang Recreation Ground and Wong Chuk Hang Sports Centre. He expressed deep regret over LCSD's continued adoption of a wrong standard for naming new venues.

42. The Vice-Chairman felt helpless about the naming of the department's venues. He considered that "Xu Dishan Plain" was one of the landmarks of the Southern District Literary Trail. It was difficult to comprehend why an English name of verifiable source was deleted to evade the issue, which was like putting the cart before the horse.

43. The Chairman said that he and Mr LO Kin-hei had raised an agenda item on "Improvement to the Naming of LCSD's Venues in the Southern District" for discussion at the meeting of the Committee of the last term, yet the naming of another venue which would easily give rise to confusion was added at present. He said that every person or location should have a unique name. While he understood the department's need for a consistent naming standard, it was a regret that improvement had not been made even after problems arose. He considered it a pity and regret that there was no way to appeal to the department to change its decision on naming of venues through minor changes.

44. Mr LO Kin-hei said that despite the naming of most parks and sitting-out areas after street names, there were unique names for some large parks or landmarks, e.g. Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park. He asked LCSD about the criteria and standard of such naming. He understood that it might not be possible to change the name, but still wished to keep a record.

45. Mr Arthur AU YEUNG responded that LCSD generally would not name its venues after someone. A few venues were named after persons who had remarkable contribution well recognised by the public, or persons of historical significance. Citing Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park as an example, it was named after Dr SUN Yat-sen because he had been active mainly in the areas around Sheung Wan and Sai Ying Pun during the period that he lived in Hong Kong, and the Park was connected to the nearby Dr Sun Yat-sen Historical Trail and Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum at Kom Tong Hall. The three-in-one formed a cluster in commemoration of him. At present, there were another two Southern District Literary Trail Landmarks in the district, including Eileen Chang's "Hong Kong Journeys" and Xiao Hong's "Stray Birds 31", which were placed in LCSD's Repulse Bay Gardens and Repulse Bay Beach respectively. LCSD could consider placing historic and cultural features in suitable venues, but would not adopt individual feature in the venue for venue naming.

46. The Chairman said that the Committee could only express regret for it.

Agenda Item 5: Date of Next Meeting

47. The Chairman informed the meeting that the 6th RDFC meeting would be held at the SDC Conference Room in the afternoon on Thursday, 25 March 2021. The exact time would be advised by the Secretariat in due course.

48. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

Secretariat, Southern District Council

March 2021