

(Translation)

Southern District Council (2024-2027) (SDC)
Minutes of the 5th Meeting of the
Community Involvement, Culture and Recreation Committee (CICRC)

Date : 27 September 2024 (Friday)

Time : 4:00 p.m.

Venue : SDC Conference Room

Present:

Ms LAM Yuk-chun, BBS, MH (Chairman of CICRC)
Mr WONG Choi-lap (Vice-Chairman of CICRC)
Mr CHU Lap-wai, MH
Ms HO Yuen-wei
Ms LI Ka-ying
Ms LAM Wing-yan
Ms LAM Wing-yee
Mr CHEUNG Chin-chung
Mr CHEUNG Wai-nam
Mr Jonathan LEUNG Chun, MH
Mr CHAN Man-chun, JP
Professor CHAN Yuk-kit, MH, JP
Ms CHAN Wing-yan
Mr PANG Siu-kei
Ms WONG Yu-ching, Nicole
Mr WONG Chun-tat
Mr YEUNG Sheung-chun
Mr CHAO Howard
Ms LAU Hei-lam, Charlotte
Mr LAU Ngai, Victor
Mr SIU Wai-chung
Mr LAI Ka-chi

Secretary:

Mr POON Ka-ming, Luka

Executive Officer (District Council) 1,
Southern District Office

In Attendance:

Ms NG Yee-mei, Ivy

Senior Executive Officer (District Council),
Southern District Office

Ms SAM Fung-mei, Esther

Senior Manager (Hong Kong West),
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Ms CHAU Kwan-wai, Yvonne

Manager (Hong Kong West) Marketing,
Programme and District Activities,

Mr YU Chi-ying

Leisure and Cultural Services Department
District Leisure Manager (Southern),

Ms YUEN Man-yi, Yoki

Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Deputy District Leisure Manager (District
Support) Southern,

Ms KO Kam-ling

Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Senior Librarian (Southern),

Mr HO Wing-nam, Angus

Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Senior School Development Officer (Central
Western and Southern) 3,

Education Bureau

Opening Remarks:

The Chairman welcomed CICRC members to the meeting and welcomed the following co-opted CICRC members, who attended the meeting for the first time:

- (i) Mr WONG Chun-tat; and
- (ii) Ms LAU Hei-lam, Charlotte.

The Chairman welcomed the following standing representatives of Government Departments to the meeting:

- (i) Ms SAM Fung-mei, Esther, Senior Manager (Hong Kong West), Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD);
- (ii) Ms CHAU Kwan-wai, Yvonne, Manager (Hong Kong West) Marketing, Programme and District Activities, LCSD;
- (iii) Mr YU Chi-ying, District Leisure Manager (Southern), LCSD;
- (iv) Ms YUEN Man-yi, Yoki, Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Southern, LCSD;
- (v) Ms KO Kam-ling, Senior Librarian (Southern), LCSD; and
- (vi) Mr HO Wing-nam, Angus, Senior School Development Officer (Central Western and Southern) 3, Education Bureau.

2. The Chairman said that CICRC members were obliged to attend meetings punctually and avoid leaving while a meeting was being conducted. Details of CICRC members' attendance would be made available for public inspection.

Agenda Item 1: Confirmation of the Draft Minutes of the 4th CICRC Meeting Held on 23 July 2024

1. The Chairman said that the captioned minutes had been circulated to CICRC members for comments prior to the meeting. The Secretariat had not received any amendment proposals so far.
2. CICRC confirmed the captioned minutes.

Agenda Item 2: Provision of Baby Care Rooms and Community Facilities for Babies and Toddlers in Parks Managed by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department
(Item raised by Mr CHU Lap-wai, MH, Ms LI Ka-ying, Mr SIU Wai-chung, Mr LAU Ngai, Victor, Mr CHEUNG Wai-nam and Professor CHAN Yuk-kit, MH, JP)
(CICRC Paper No. 24/2024)

3. Mr LAU Ngai, Victor briefly introduced the agenda item and added the following:

- (i) Several redevelopments were underway in the Southern District. The projects on large-scale community facilities spearheaded by the Invigorating Island South Office were being completed successively in Wong Chuk Hang. It was believed that more tourists would be drawn to the Southern District as a result. Some residents from other districts might choose to move to the Southern District as well. In that regard, he would like to know whether the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) could upgrade the baby care rooms and community facilities for babies and toddlers in the Southern District for the benefit of both residents and tourists;
- (ii) He noted that LCSD was improving the baby care facilities of the parks in the Southern District and would like to know whether LCSD would refer to the advanced smart facilities in the Mainland to provide more modern and safer baby care rooms in the Southern District; and
- (iii) As several public facility enhancement works were underway and part of the old park underneath the flyover had been refurbished, he would like to know whether LCSD would seize that opportunity to provide some playing space for babies and toddlers in the parks in the Southern District and ensure clean and safe playgrounds to meet the needs of young families.

4. The Chairman and CICRC members raised the following comments and enquiries:

- (i) Hong Kong's birth rate was on the low side and the Government had been encouraging childbearing. To that end, facilities for babies and toddlers had become the key supporting facilities in the community. However, the Government often overlooked the needs of breastfeeding mothers when planning facilities for babies and toddlers. For example, concerns like whether there was electricity supply in the breastfeeding rooms to operate breast pumps, and whether breastfeeding rooms were air-conditioned and spacious enough for breastfeeding mothers to feed their babies often went unaddressed. In addition, although facilities for changing diaper were available in the toilets, few people would opt to use them because of the undesirable hygiene conditions around. CICRC members hoped LCSD could adopt a user-oriented approach to that matter by providing clean and separate rooms equipped with a ventilation system and an air-conditioning system as baby care rooms; and
- (ii) There was enquiry about whether LCSD publicised the locations of baby care facilities.

5. The LCSD representatives gave a consolidated response as follows :

- (i) LCSD had always been proactively supporting the Government's policies, including by constructing community facilities for babies and toddlers. In terms of design of the current projects in the District, including the redevelopment project in Wong Chuk Hang, LCSD had already given consideration to the provision of facilities for babies and toddlers or baby care rooms of latest standards for public use;
- (ii) LCSD had already planned to carry out enhancement works for the play equipment in several parks in the Southern District, including Ap Lei Chau Park, Ap Lei Chau Wind Tower Park and Repulse Bay Beach Children's Playground;
- (iii) LCSD would consult the public prior to the above enhancement works and residents could then comment on the provision of suitable facilities for babies and toddlers;
- (iv) There was one separate baby care room in each of the three major parks in the Southern District and two of them had already been equipped with air-conditioning. The remaining one was equipped with fans for ventilation purposes. In conjunction with the future enhancement of the facilities, provision of air-conditioning would be considered as well; and
- (v) The public could visit the LCSD website for detailed information about baby care facilities and breast feeding rooms.

6. In closing, the Chairman said that LCSD should take the above suggestions on baby care facilities into consideration when planning new recreational facilities or enhancement of existing venues in the Southern District in the future. She would like LCSD to take note of CICRC members' comments.

Agenda Item 3: Cultural Promotion in Libraries in 2024

(Item raised by Ms HO Yuen-wei and Ms WONG Yu-ching, Nicole)

(CICRC Paper No. 25/2024)

7. Ms HO Yuen-wei, with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, briefly introduced the agenda item.

8. The LCSD representatives responded as follows:

- (i) Instead of borrowing library materials to read at home, readers could also choose to stay behind to enjoy reading in the comfort of the library;
- (ii) As a district library, Aberdeen Public Library's usage rates were generally higher than those small libraries in Pok Fu Lam, Ap Lei Chau and Stanley. LCSD aspired to keep pushing the library patronage and encourage more people to read. To that end, LCSD organised various kinds of extension activities and book displays in a bid to familiarise the public with the library collections as well as to draw more visits to the libraries and thus boost loans;
- (iii) Children represented a significant reader group and LCSD aspired to foster their interest in and habit of reading from childhood. According to the statistics, the book category with the highest circulation in the Southern District was largely children books. LCSD would continue to encourage reading among children and hoped that while children visited libraries to borrow books, their accompanying parents would be encouraged to borrow other books for themselves as well;
- (iv) For more members of the public to understand the Chinese history and culture, the libraries would continue acquiring more related books and had planned to organise more activities about the Chinese culture in the following year. Moreover, the libraries had planned to organise subject talks on mental health in the following year as well; and
- (v) In every September, library usage rates would be announced at the meeting for CICRC members' reference.

9. The Chairman would like LCSD to take note of CICRC members' comments. It was hoped that LCSD would strengthen promotion to raise public interest in reading, and would acquire books on the topics of the Chinese culture and mental health.

Agenda Item 4: Regular Report on LCSD's Work in the Southern District
(CICRC Paper No. 26/2024, No. 27/2024 and No. 28/2024)

10. The LCSD representatives briefly introduced the captioned reports as follows:
- (i) The arts and cultural activities in the Southern District organised by LCSD for 2024-25;
 - (ii) The usage of recreation and sports facilities in the Southern District between July and August 2024, and the assessment of contractors' service level in the same period; and

(iii) The usage of public libraries in the Southern District between July and August 2024.

11. CICRC members raised the following comments and enquiries:

- (i) The squash facilities of Aberdeen Sports Centre and Ap Lei Chau Sports Centre recorded an overall usage rate of 80% to 90%, but the squash facilities of Aberdeen Tennis and Squash Centre logged a low usage rate. It was suggested that LCSD promote at the other sports centres the squash facilities of Aberdeen Tennis and Squash Centre and consider converting them into other ball sports facilities; and
- (ii) Complaints from residents about rodent infestation inside flower shrubs and flower beds were frequently received. While it was understandable that it was impossible to put an end to rodent infestation, LCSD was urged to strengthen its measures to prevent worsening of rodent infestation.

12. The LCSD representatives gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (i) The squash facilities of Aberdeen Tennis and Squash Centre registered fair usage overall. However, as the Centre housed more squash courts than the other two sports centres, its usage rate on average became lower comparatively. LCSD was aware that squash was less popular than it used to be. Therefore, some venues of Aberdeen Tennis and Squash Centre had already been converted into fitness rooms and multi-purpose activity rooms. LCSD would also strengthen publicity of the squash facilities in the future, in the hope of boosting their usage; and
- (ii) LCSD would strengthen anti-rodent measures at the recreational venues under its management.

13. CICRC members noted the content of the captioned reports.

Agenda Item 5: Any Other Business

14. There was no other business.

Agenda Item 6: Date of Next Meeting

15. The Chairman advised that the next meeting would be held at 2:30 p.m. on 26 November 2024 (Tuesday).

16. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4:32 p.m.

Secretariat, Southern District Council

November 2024