

(Translation)

Minutes of the 6th Meeting of
Community Involvement, Culture and Recreation Committee (5/24-25)

Date : 30 December 2024
Time : 2:30 p.m.
Venue : Main Conference Room, Tsuen Wan District Office

Present:

Mr KOO Yeung-pong, MH (Chairman)
Mr CHAN Chun-chung (Vice Chairman)
Ms WONG Shuk-fan, Luparker
Mr NG Chun-yu
Mr CHU Tak-wing, MH
Ms LAM Yuen-pun
Mr CHOW Sum-ming
Mr YAU Kam-ping, BBS, MH
Ms CHEUNG Man-ka
Ms CHAN Shun-shun
Mr MOK Yuen-kwan
Mr CHAN Hiu-chun, MH
Mr TSANG Tai
Mr FUNG Cheuk-sum
Ms WAH Mei-ling
Mr WONG Kai-chun
Mr KOT Siu-yuen, MH
Mr LAU Chung-kong
Mr CHENG Chit-pun
Mr HUI Chun-fai

Government Representatives

Mr KWAN Chun-kit, Eric	District Officer (Tsuen Wan) (Acting), Tsuen Wan District Office
Ms TSE Sai-lin, Jasmine	Deputy District Leisure Manager (Tsuen Wan) District Support, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Miss LEUNG Wai-nga, Viola	Senior Manager (New Territories South) Promotion, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr LEE Wai-man	Senior Librarian (Tsuen Wan), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms CHAN Sui-wun, Wendy	Senior School Development Officer (Tsuen Wan) ¹ , Education Bureau

Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat Representatives

Mr LIM Kuen	Senior Executive Officer (District Council), Tsuen Wan District Office
Ms IP Wai-ling, Jennifer (Secretary)	Executive Officer (District Council)3, Tsuen Wan District Office
Miss LEUNG Wai-ching, Clementine	Executive Officer (District Council)1, Tsuen Wan District Office

The Meeting

I Opening Remarks and Introduction

The Chairman welcomed Members and representatives from government departments to the 6th meeting of the Community Involvement, Culture and Recreation Committee (CICRC).

2. The Chairman stated that according to the requirements stipulated in the Tsuen Wan District Council Standing Orders, if a District Council (DC) Member found that he/she had any direct personal or pecuniary interests in a discussion item or relevant matters when attending a meeting of the Council or dealing with matters related to the Council, the DC Member should declare the interests. The Secretariat had not received any declaration of interests prior to this meeting. The Chairman enquired whether Members had to make declarations of interests immediately. No Member made a declaration of interests immediately.

3. The Chairman said that Members could speak once and make supplementary remarks once on each agenda item at the meeting. Each Member could speak up to two minutes in the first round of speeches and up to one minute in the second round of speeches.

II Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes of the 5th Meeting held on 28.10.2024

4. The Chairman said that the Secretariat had not received any proposed amendment prior to this meeting. The Chairman enquired whether Members had to put forth proposed amendments immediately. No Member put forth a proposed amendment immediately. Members unanimously endorsed the captioned minutes.

III Item 2: Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meetings

5. The Chairman said that there were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

IV Item 3: Concern about the Current Implementation of the Venue Partnership Scheme of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department and Recommendation on Making Continuous Efforts in Attracting Different Quality Arts Groups in Tsuen Wan District to Join the Scheme

(TWDC CICRC Paper No. 23/24-25)

6. The Chairman said that Mr HUI Chun-fai submitted the paper. The representative from the department responsible for giving responses was Miss LEUNG

Wai-nga, Viola, Senior Manager (New Territories South) Promotion (SM(NTS)P), Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD). Besides, the written reply of the LCSD was tabled at the meeting.

7. Mr HUI Chun-fai introduced the paper.
8. The views and enquiries of Members were summarised as follows:
 - (1) a Member enquired about the number of days and purposes of use of the Auditorium in Tsuen Wan Town Hall (the “Auditorium”) by its corresponding partnering performing arts groups, and pointed out that other performing arts groups had encountered a great deal of difficulties in hiring the Auditorium;
 - (2) a Member enquired whether the partnering performing arts groups of various venues under the fifth round of the Venue Partnership Scheme (the “Partnership Scheme”) had offered members of the public with any form of concessions (such as free tickets, etc.) after receiving funding from the Government;
 - (3) a Member enquired whether the public could access the reports submitted to the LCSD by partnering performing art groups, as well as the information on the activities they had organised in the past;
 - (4) a number of performing arts groups in the district had attempted to apply for becoming a partnering performing art group under the Partnership Scheme, yet they had failed the assessment ultimately. The Member would like to learn about the assessment criteria of the Partnership Scheme;
 - (5) a Member enquired about the number of groups that had applied for the fifth round of the Partnership Scheme;
 - (6) a Member enquired whether the eligibility criteria for the Partnership Scheme were not limited to performing arts groups in Tsuen Wan district;
 - (7) a Member considered that although Tsuen Wan Town Hall was open for use by all members of public in Hong Kong, residents in Tsuen Wan district should account for a higher usage rate of the venue concerned. In addition, the Member asked for the LCSD to provide relevant data on the participation of local residents in activities organised by partnering performing arts groups;
 - (8) a Member opined that the implementation period of each round of the Partnership Scheme was too long;
 - (9) a Member enquired about the number of times that Ming Ri Institute for Arts Education (MRIAE) had become a partnering performing arts group;
 - (10) a Member suggested enhancing publicity on activities organised by partnering performing arts groups among schools; and
 - (11) a Member enquired whether there was a ceiling on the number of partnering performing arts groups and whether an increase in the number of partnering performing arts groups would lead to an adjustment in the maximum number of days they could use the relevant venue facilities each year.
9. SM(NTS)P of the LCSD responded as follows:
 - (1) the partnering performing arts groups of the Auditorium could use the venue

facilities concerned for a maximum of 42 days each year, and they were required to submit a business plan to the LCSD for approval yearly. In the past three years, Jazz World (Hong Kong) Limited (JWHK), the partnering performing arts group of the Auditorium, had used the venue concerned for approximately 20 to 30 days every year;

- (2) partnering performing arts groups were required to cover the major cost for production, administration and publicity of an event, while the LCSD would provide the venue and assist in publicity. In addition to performances, partnering performing arts groups would organise audience-building activities for participation by the public and students;
- (3) the LCSD encouraged partnering performing arts groups to provide concessionary ticket prices to elderly persons aged 60 or above, persons with disabilities and their carers, as well as full-time students. Moreover, admission to some audience-building activities was free. The LCSD welcomed residents in Tsuen Wan to actively take part in performing arts programmes and activities organised by partnering performing arts groups;
- (4) each round of the Partnership Scheme would openly invite performing arts groups across the territory to submit applications. The applicant groups should meet specified criteria and their proposals would be assessed by an assessment panel composed of members from the Committee on Venue Partnership as well as the Programme and Development Committee. The LCSD welcomed applications from all eligible performing arts groups. Regarding the number of applicant groups under the fifth round of Partnership Scheme, the LCSD would supplement the information concerned after the meeting;
- (5) as for the number of partnering performing arts groups of each venue, the LCSD would make appropriate arrangements having regard to the demand for venues;
- (6) the LCSD would continuously review the length of the implementation period for each round of the Partnership Scheme. If the implementation period was too short, it would affect the venue-based marketing strategies formulated by the partnering performing arts groups and the effectiveness of their publicity; and
- (7) in regard to stepping up publicity efforts among schools on the activities organised by partnering performing arts groups, the LCSD would relay the views concerned to the partnering performing arts groups. Besides, she supplemented that in addition to public performances, the MRIAE (i.e. the Venue Partner of the Cultural Activities Hall, another facility in Tsuen Wan Town Hall) would also arrange other activities (such as exhibitions, performances exclusively for students, workshops for parents and teachers, etc.) so that the school sector would have an opportunity to participate in the activities organised by the institute concerned.

(Post-meeting note: The LCSD supplemented that the fifth round of the Partnership Scheme received a total of 48 applications from 53 groups.)

10. The views and enquiries of Members were further summarised as follows:
- (1) a Member proposed that the public should be admitted to the venues to watch rehearsals of the partnering performing arts groups;
 - (2) in addition to kindergartens, a Member suggested that the publicity on activities organised by the partnering performing arts groups should be stepped up among primary schools;
 - (3) a Member enquired whether there was a partnership between the two partnering performing arts groups of the Auditorium, namely the JWHK and Count-in Music Limited (CML), under the fifth round of the Partnership Scheme;
 - (4) a Member enquired whether the LCSD had provided office space to the JWHK;
 - (5) a Member suggested that a balance should be struck between the venue demand of partnering performing arts groups and that of other local performing arts groups;
 - (6) a Member pointed out that the number of partnering performing arts groups of the Auditorium had reduced from three in the fourth round to two in the fifth round. The Member enquired about the reason for such reduction;
 - (7) a Member enquired whether the LCSD would approve the application concerned if the partnering performing arts groups requested to use the Auditorium for more than 42 days each year; and
 - (8) a Member enquired about the attendance rates of performances organised by partnering performing arts groups.
11. SM(NTS)P of the LCSD responded as follows:
- (1) the LCSD noted Members' suggestion of allowing the public to watch rehearsals of the partnering performing arts groups at the venues;
 - (2) the productions of the MRIAE, the Venue Partner of the Cultural Activities Hall in Tsuen Wan Town Hall, were mostly children's dramas. The target audience groups were children and their parents. The LCSD would reflect to the partnering performing arts groups that they should step up their publicity efforts among primary schools in the district;
 - (3) the JWHK and CML, the Venue Partners of the Auditorium, were an allied performing arts group. They had jointly submitted a proposal to apply for the fifth round of the Partnership Scheme. The partnering performing arts groups had their own strengths which complemented each other. Their productions would enhance the public's interest in arts and provide young local jazz performers with performance opportunities. The LCSD had provided working space for use by the partnering performing arts groups;
 - (4) the LCSD would strike a balance between the venue demand of partnering performing arts groups and that of other local performing arts groups. The guidelines for hiring venues had been set out on the websites of various venues;
 - (5) the partnering performing arts groups of the current term could apply for using the Auditorium for a maximum of 42 days and using the Cultural Activities Hall for a maximum of 60 days per year; and

- (6) the attendance rates of the programmes organised by the MRIAE in 2022-23 and 2023-24 were 78% and 51% respectively. The attendance rates of the programmes organised by the JWHK in 2022-23 and 2023-24 ranged from 40% to 100%, depending on the nature of individual programmes.

12. The Chairman said that it had been 15 years since the implementation of the Partnership Scheme in 2009. He suggested that the LCSD should review the mode of operation as well as the effectiveness of the Partnership Scheme and increase the participation rates of other performing arts groups in the district. There were many large-scale activities in Tsuen Wan district with an abundance of diversified programmes and a keen demand for venues. The LCSD should strike a balance between the venue demand of the partnering performing arts groups and that of other local performing arts groups. The Chairman urged the LCSD to consider Members' views when formulating plans for a new round of the Partnership Scheme.

V Item 4: Reflecting the Views from Residents of Tsuen Wan District on the Fitness Room Monthly Ticket Scheme of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department
(TWDC CICRC Paper No. 24/24-25)

13. The Chairman said that Mr CHENG Chit-pun submitted the paper. The representative from the department responsible for giving responses was Ms TSE Sai-lin, Jasmine, Deputy District Leisure Manager (Tsuen Wan) District Support (DDL(M)(TW)DS), LCSD.

14. Mr CHENG Chit-pun introduced the paper.

15. DDL(M)(TW)DS of the LCSD responded as follows:

- (1) the LCSD had all along been committed to providing quality recreational and sports services for members of the public in the district and to continuously upgrading the standards of its recreational and sports facilities, so as to encourage the public to participate in sports activities more often. Each session of the fitness rooms under the LCSD had quotas for both monthly and hourly ticket holders. With a view to effectively utilise the fitness room resources, the LCSD had implemented a new measure since 1 November 2024, requiring fitness room monthly ticket holders to book sessions of the fitness rooms within the next seven days through the SmartPLAY system (the "SmartPLAY"). Under the new measure, the LCSD had consolidated the booking arrangements for both monthly and hourly ticket holders through the SmartPLAY to ensure optimal utilisation of the fitness room resources. Also, fitness room monthly ticket holders were no longer required to queue at the venue to use the facility concerned;
- (2) the LCSD had enhanced the arrangement of the new measure on 12 December 2024. Discretion had been exercised to allow fitness room monthly ticket holders to cancel the booking concerned through the SmartPLAY no later than one hour before the booked session until further notice. The LCSD encouraged members of the public to book fitness room

sessions according to their actual needs. In addition, considering that some fitness room monthly ticket holders might need more time to familiarise themselves with the procedures of using the SmartPlay to book fitness room sessions and cancel relevant bookings, the LCSD would therefore adopt a more lenient handling approach during the initial implementation period of the new measure. In the event that a person who had scheduled a fitness room session failed to show up to use the facility during that session, the LCSD would record the absence but suspend the relevant penalties against the offender until further notice. If members of the public had any enquiries about the SmartPLAY, they could contact the staff of the venues at any time; and

- (3) regarding Members' suggestion that the LCSD should update the arrangement for the use of the fitness rooms in a timely manner, the LCSD noted such suggestion and would gradually enhance the booking arrangement concerned.

16. The views and enquiries of Members were summarised as follows:

- (1) a Member enquired when the discretionary arrangement provided by the LCSD for the fitness room monthly ticket holders would end; and
- (2) a Member suggested that the LCSD should standardise the way in which its venues managed the quotas for the use of fitness rooms so that the venue staff could promptly arrange for persons waiting on site to use the facilities concerned.

17. DDLM(TW)DS of the LCSD further responded as follows:

- (1) the discretionary arrangement provided by the LCSD for the fitness room monthly ticket holders had been implemented since 12 December 2024, and would be effective until further notice; and
- (2) the LCSD noted Members' suggestions and would gradually enhance the system concerned in the SmartPLAY.

VI Item 5: Information Paper

Report on the Cultural Activities in Tsuen Wan District by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department

(TWDC CICRC Paper No. 25/24-25)

18. SM(NTS)P of the LCSD introduced the paper.

VII Any Other Business

19. The Chairman said that three Members from the TWDC, including himself, Mr KOT Siu-yuen and Mr LAU Chung-kong, would participate in the District Anti-Phone Deception Ambassador Scheme launched by the Office of the Communications Authority. The organiser would hold the launch ceremony of the aforementioned scheme and an anti-scam information seminar on 16 January 2025. The Chairman asked if Members agreed the use of the TWDC's logo by the aforementioned scheme. Members unanimously agreed to the arrangement.

VIII Adjournment of Meeting

20. The Chairman reminded Members that the next meeting was scheduled for 24 February 2025 (Monday) and the deadline for submission of papers was 7 February 2025 (Friday).

Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat

14 January 2025