

**Report to / Rapport au:**

**OTTAWA POLICE SERVICES BOARD  
LA COMMISSION DE SERVICES POLICIERS D'OTTAWA**

**24 April 2017 / 24 avril 2017**

**Submitted by / Soumis par:**

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**SUBJECT: BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF OTTAWA GRANT**

**OBJET: SUBVENTION POUR LE CLUB DES GARÇONS ET FILLES  
D'OTTAWA**

**REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

**That the Ottawa Police Services Board approve an annual grant of \$50,000 to the Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa, beginning in 2017, to support its activities with at risk youth.**

**RECOMMANDATIONS DU RAPPORT**

**Que la Commission de services policiers d'Ottawa approuve l'octroi d'une subvention annuelle de 50 000 \$ au Club des garçons et filles d'Ottawa à partir de 2017, afin d'appuyer ses activités auprès des jeunes à risque.**

**BACKGROUND**

The Ottawa Police Service has established a long and effective working partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa. In support of this partnership many OPS members volunteer each year to help carry out BGCO's programs and many members of OPS have served in leadership roles on its Board to help achieve its strategic goals. To assist with its sustainability, the OPS has annually funded the facility operating costs for the Clubhouse at 1463 Prince of Wales Dr., budgeted at \$50,000 within the Service's Facility accounts.

The financial support arrangement grew out of the decision to amalgamate the Police Youth Centre (PYC) with the BGCO in the 2000 era. Until that time the Police Youth Centre

(PYC), established in 1994 located at 1463 Prince of Wales Drive, was a stand-alone drop-in and activity centre for neighbourhood youth jointly funded and operated by OPS and a community board. It was an important element in the Debra-Dynes area of the City which needed a positive focal point for police-community interaction, especially with youth. OPS rented the facility from the City for \$1 per year and paid to operate and maintain it. Community fundraising (the Awesome Auction, Ringside for Youth) covered the costs of non-police staff and OPS assigned an officer to lead the Centre.

The Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa (BGCO) and the PYC initiated an amalgamation several years later and the PYC became a BGCO Clubhouse. OPS remained a partner by providing the facility (which the City continued to lease to it for \$1 annually) and by covering the facility operating and maintenance costs of approximately \$50,000 annually. The maintenance activities were carried out by City staff and these costs were charged to OPS. PYC board members and fundraisers re-directed their efforts in support of BGCO. The amalgamation has proven to be successful.

In response to increasing demand for youth programming in the Debra-Dynes area, BGCO has developed an exciting expansion plan for the Prince of Wales Clubhouse. It calls for a change in the partnership arrangement between OPS and BGCO but can be achieved with no budget impact. This report outlines the proposed change.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa**

Serving the Ottawa area since 1923, the BGCO is a leader in after-school, weekend and summer programs for children and youth aged 6 to 18 years. Each year, through its seven locations strategically located in vulnerable areas throughout the city, the BGCO offers approximately 4,500 children and youth barrier-free access to a supportive place where they can experience new opportunities, overcome barriers, build positive relationships and develop confidence and skills for life. Membership and programs are free.

According to BGCO, after-school and weekend hours are a critical time for youth. That time can represent either an opportunity to learn and grow through quality after-school programs, or be a time of risk to youth's health and safety. Experts agree that after-school programs offer a healthy and positive alternative. They keep kids safe, improve academic achievement and help relieve the stresses on today's working families. They can serve as important intervention strategies for youth. The variety and quality of the BGCO programs are meant to be engaging, accessible for all, and contribute towards the overall development of good citizens and leaders within the community. Success is achieved through the dedication and commitment of quality staff, community partners and volunteers.

The BGCO operates under the following four programming pillars which are comprehensive and encapsulate the overarching goal of social skills development to build strong and productive community members:

1. Education
2. Physical Activity and Healthy Lifestyle
3. Leadership and Social Skills
4. Creative Arts

Programming in all four pillars is offered at each of the seven Clubhouses. Under each pillar there is a core program that leads and defines all other programming.

#### Re-Development and Expansion of the Prince of Wales Clubhouse

The BGCO has formulated a \$3 million plan to redevelop and expand the clubhouse to meet the demand for at-risk youth programming in the Debra-Dynes area.

The BGCO has indicated that the current facility has far surpassed its useful life. Issues with the current facility include small size, poor sight lines, low ceilings, outdated electrical, HVAC and plumbing, etc. Given the age of the current facility and the issues noted above, the BGCO is limited in services and programs that can be offered at this location. Since the BGCO has seen tremendous membership demand and growth in recent years in the Debra-Dynes area, a need for renovations at this Clubhouse has been identified. BGCO will be undertaking renovations of the Clubhouse estimated to cost \$3 million.

According to the BGCO, redevelopment of this facility is essential to allow them to accommodate more at-risk children and youth and maximize support for the vulnerable demographic in this neighbourhood. The BGCO anticipate that the facility renovation will dramatically expand, modernize and improve this community space, accommodate club growth; and enhance programming, comfort and safety. It will also make the Clubhouse relevant and accessible to the community, and more welcoming to all members. This clubhouse is currently at capacity and is at the point where it will have to start turning children and youth away unless the space is enlarged.

Renovations will include adding a full-sized gym to the clubhouse, as well as reconfiguring the interior to provide better sight lines for supervision, an arts and crafts room, a dance studio and a homework club room with much more space. As well, the size of the kitchen will be increased to accommodate healthy cooking classes for children and youth, teaching the basics of good nutrition and how to prepare nutritious, low-cost meals. This kitchen will also be used to prepare the healthy snacks that are provided to each child and youth after school.

#### Sale of the Property to BGCO

In accordance with BGCO's expansion and re-development plan, on March 8, 2017 Council approved the sale of 1463 Prince of Wales Drive to the Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa (BGCO) for \$1.00. BGCO will assume responsibility for facility operating and maintenance costs under this arrangement as it is now the property owner. OPS is released of its obligation.

## Grant to BGCO

The OPS values its partnership with BGCO and supports the proactive work it does to help at-risk youth in Ottawa. Working with BGCO directly aligns with OPS Business Plan Goal C.1.1 to: *“Build sustainable, strategic and collaborative community partnerships to identify problems, opportunities and solutions that support diverse community needs.”*

The OPS wants to remain in this important partnership by providing a grant of \$50,000. annually to the BGCO to support its programs with at risk youth. This objective would be accomplished by:

- Approving a grant of \$50,000 to the BGCO
- Attaching terms and conditions to the grant to ensure it is used to support programs for at-risk youth
- Requiring an annual report from BGCO outlining the outcomes of the grant support
- Transferring a budget base of \$50,000 to the PSB Grants account from the Police Facilities account; this will have no net impact on the police operations budget
- Reviewing the grant funding annually as part of the budget process

Under the Finance Accountability and Procedures Manual (Section 3.3.6) the Board must approve a grant, if it has not already been identified in the operating budget as such.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

A budget base transfer of \$50,000.00 from the Facilities, Building Operations - Youth Centre account 124301-660201 to the PSB Grants account 125101-507212 is required to support this grant.

## **CONCLUSION**

OPS and the BGCO are working together on an important community partnership that will result in tangible positive outcomes for at-risk youth in Ottawa. The Board can support this work by approving the \$50,000 annual grant recommended by staff. The approach outlined in the report is a financially responsible one and has no net-impact on the OPS operating budget.