

May 14, 1999

EXHIBITION PLACE

TO: The Board of Governors of Exhibition Place

FROM: Dianne Young
Interim General Manager

SUBJECT: Grants to Community Events in Wards 19 and 20

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- 1) The Board adopt the direction outlined in this report and request that staff report to the Board on any request for funding/waiver of costs or rents received from not-for-profit community groups in Wards 19 and 20;
- 2) The Board waive the payment by the Parkdale Then and Now Festival of the 1998 and 1999 labour costs associated with this event as outlined in the report and the funding to cover this cost be reflected in the General Manager's Office Budget for 1999; and
- 3) Staff report during the 2000 Operating Budget process on the experience in 1999 of this proposal, possible funding requirements in the 2000 budget and a policy for distribution of funds.

Background:

This report is in response to the attached request made by Councillor David Miller dated April 13, 1999.

Discussion:

In the attached letter Councillor Miller has requested consideration by the Board of providing funding for local community events. At present the Board has a policy that allows for the provision of services and space to City departments and charitable groups at discounted rates. For example, if the City or its agencies, boards or commissions book building space, the rental for the space and equipment is waived and the Board only charges the City/ABC for the actual cost of services provided (cleaning, technical services, labour, carpentry etc.) with an minimum

administration fee of 12%. Certainly, this policy has been adopted in clear recognition by the Board of its agency and financial connection to the City.

The Board also has a special discount for charitable groups. Such groups receive a 15% discount on the rental rate for buildings and are charged the cost of services with Exhibition Place standard mark-ups applied. If a charitable group requires use of the site rather than use of the building (i.e. YMCA Fun Run for Charity), there is no cost for the grounds although the charitable organization is charged for the cost of services, including clean up and the parking rates, etc.

At present, if local community groups approach Exhibition Place for assistance either for rental space or equipment, staff applies the policies outlined above. For example, for the last few years the South Parkdale Community has sponsored "Parkdale Then and Now Festival". Each year the organizers have requested use of some Exhibition Place equipment that has been supplied at no rent. However, the Board has requested that the organization reimburse it for the labour costs associated with transporting the equipment to the community event. The issue raised by Councillor Miller in his letter is whether there should be a new policy adopted by the Board to deal with local community events that would allow staff to waive the minimum costs presently charged to the community.

Certainly, the Board recognizes the impact events at Exhibition Place have had on the immediate neighbourhood (High Park and Trinity-Niagara). Exhibition Place has also recognized the need to support the neighbourhood. Indeed, in recent years the Board has through the construction of basketball courts, the children's playground and landscaping improvements supported the local community.

My two concerns with the direction suggested by Councillor Miller is policy and financial. For example, these local community groups may already be receiving a "grant" from the City for their events. Therefore by waiving its fees or actual costs, the Board may be giving a second "grant" from Exhibition Place funds that at the end of the year return to the City as a surplus. My financial concern simply relates to the fact that no funds have been included in the 1999 operating budget for this activity.

However, if the Board would like to proceed in the direction proposed by Councillor Miller, I would suggest that it be implemented in 1999 on a limited case-by-case basis with staff bringing to the Board any requests received for funding for community events in Wards 19 and 20. This would allow the Board to consider each request in light of my concerns above and establish some parameters for implementing a policy and including funding in the 2000 Operating Budget.

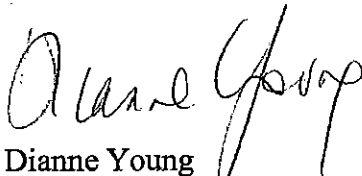
Request for Funding

On the basis of this suggested approach noted above, I have through Councillor Miller's office received a request to waive the cost of labour services provided in 1998 for the transportation of picnic tables to the "Parkdale Then and Now Festival" in the South Parkdale Community and to provide funding not to exceed \$700 for the same services for the 1999 Festival. This Festival is a community not-for profit event sponsored by the Parkdale BIA and is an event across the South

Parkdale area. The amount of the services provided in 1998 was \$681.68 and generally, this has been the range of cost for services provided over the last 3 years and which is expected in 1999.

Conclusion:

This report responds to a written request received from Councillor Miller with respect to financial support for local community groups and suggests a possible direction that could be implemented in 1999.



Dianne Young
Interim General Manager



Toronto Councillor

David Miller

High Park - Parkdale



April 13, 1999


Ms. Diane Young
Interim General Manager
Exhibition Place
Toronto, Ontario
M6K 3C3

Dear Ms. Young:

I am writing to request that a policy be developed to provide assistance in the planning of events by local community organizations, such as Parkdale Then and Now, who might wish to use the facilities or services of Exhibition Place.

Could you please ensure that this item appears on the next agenda for discussion.

Yours truly,

 David Miller
City Councillor
Toronto (High Park - Parkdale)

cc: Mr. Scott Dobson, Parkdale Then and Now
Mr. Mark Crowe, Parkdale BIA