Council Direction:

That Staff bring forward a report to the Community Services Committee an update as to the effectiveness of the restructuring.

Information:

At the April 12, 2005, Community Services Committee meeting, staff made a presentation outlining the restructuring of the Recreation Section of the Culture and Recreation Division. At that meeting, staff were directed to bring forward a report to the Community Services Committee no later than June 1, 2006, to update committee as to the effectiveness of the proposed structure.

The intent of restructuring within the Recreation Section of the Culture and Recreation Division was to:

- improve the linkages with the community and community associations,
- improve communication between staff and the Ward Councillors,
- reduce the size of the recreation districts to make them more manageable, create city-wide teams to address operational issues,
- combine the programming and maintenance responsibilities in each district to better serve the public and better understand the roles and responsibilities of staff in each district,
- provide better working conditions within the facilities,
- better distribute the workload amongst the District Managers across the city,
- better respond to the recommendations outlined in the Culture and Recreation Master Plan,
- have better control in the planning and monitoring of the district budgets.
The restructuring occurred at two distinct times in 2005. On July 1, 2005, the restructuring within the programming area was implemented. On September 1, 2005, the restructuring in the facility maintenance area was implemented. In both areas, it has been less than a year since the implementation.

The restructuring appears to be working well but different forms of evaluation need to be conducted to provide documented feedback from the community, community associations, ward councillors and staff. Such evaluations could include targeted surveys, focus groups or interviews with the various stakeholders. The intent is to conduct these evaluations and to provide the results to the committee and council by the second quarter of 2007.

Joe-Anne Priel  
General Manager  
Community Services