

January 24, 2011

Belinda Cole

Sent via e-mail: Belinda11.cole@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Cole:

Thank you for your email of January 14, 2011, which was forwarded to me by the Clerk's Administration for the Community Development and Recreation Committee. The City Clerk's office received your email from the 311 information team.

The Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division has been under my direction since late 2008 and is undertaking two very comprehensive initiatives – the Recreation Service Plan and the Parks Plan. Both Plans will encompass a review of all of the Division's programs, services and assets, including ice programs and facilities.

We are currently undertaking this work. There will be public and stakeholder consultations on these plans which will be promoted and posted on the City of Toronto's website. Information will also be available at all City recreation centres and public libraries. Following these consultations, reports will be submitted to the appropriate Standing Committees later this year.

With respect to your inquiry about which Standing Committee our staff reports go to, we report to two primary Standing Committees of Council – Community Development and Recreation Committee and Parks and Environment Committee, as well as the Government Management Committee, Budget Committee, and Executive Committee. We also prepare reports on transactional matters to the Community Councils. These Committees all have different mandated roles and responsibilities. For example, the primary focus of the Community Development and Recreation Committee is social cohesion, with a mandate to monitor and make recommendations to strengthen services to communities and neighbourhoods. The primary focus of the Parks and Environment Committee is environmental sustainability, with a mandate to monitor, and make recommendations on reducing the impacts of climate change on the environment and protection of the natural environment, which includes parks, natural areas, and the urban forest.

Outdoor park amenities, including outdoor ice rinks, overlap these two committees in that the City has both indoor arenas and outdoor rinks located in City facilities. Staff in both the Parks Branch and the Community Recreation Branch maintain their respective rinks and instructional

skating programs are run by our Community Recreation staff. Although Council has established mandates for each Standing Committee, discretion is used by senior City staff and the Committee Chairs in determining which staff reports should be directed to which Committee. In cases where more than one Standing Committee is involved, reports often go to the Executive Committee. For more information on this report process, I would refer you to John Elvidge, Director of Secretariat, City Clerk's Office.

As I was not the General Manager in 2007, I cannot answer your question as to why a staff report responding to the CELOS report was not submitted to either the Community Development and Recreation Committee or the Parks and Environment Committee at that time. However, ice rink and arena programming and infrastructure will be reviewed through the Division's comprehensive Recreation Service Plan and Parks Plan, along with all of the other programs, services and assets of this Division.

If you are interested in these matters, and would like to be included in our community engagement process, please advise Aydin Sarrafzadeh at asarra@toronto.ca and you will be added to our growing list of contacts.

Yours truly,



Brenda Patterson
General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

c: John Elvidge, Director Secretariat, City Clerk's Office
Kelly McCarthy, Council-Committee Administrator, City Clerk's Office
Richard Ubbens, Director of Parks, Parks, Forestry & Recreation
Aydin Sarrafzadeh, Supervisor, Community Recreation