

July 10, 2012

To: Members,
Youth Advisory Committee

Re: 2012 Youth Forum – Extreme Youth on the Move Evaluation Report

RECOMMENDATION

That this report be forwarded to the Community and Protective Services Committee and City Council for information.

CONCLUSION

The Youth Advisory Committee's (YAC) first annual forum was held on May 5, 2012. The forum "Extreme Youth on the Move" focussed on sport and recreation and promoted positive lifestyle choices for children and youth over age six. The event attracted 122 children and youth from across Regina. The results of the evaluation indicate that the forum was a success. The YAC will use their learning from the forum to provide advice on youth issues to Council and to plan for next year's forum.

BACKGROUND

The YAC Terms of Reference require the YAC and Administration to hold a minimum of one youth forum per year to discuss policies, programs and services related to youth. This report provides an overview and evaluation of the 2012 forum.

DISCUSSION

The first annual YAC forum "Extreme Youth on the Move" was a highly popular and successful event. There was a lot of energy and excitement as 122 children and youth attended the YAC's forum on May 5 at the North West Leisure Centre. The forum offered 30 minute sport and recreation "try it" sessions for participants age six and up. Activities included a special visit with Saskatchewan Roughrider Chris McKenzie, lacrosse, spin, swimming, basketball, yoga, Zumba, kite-making and soccer.

Prior to the event date, a great deal of time and energy was spent on promoting the 2012 forum. YAC members attended school presentations and circulated event posters within their communities to promote the YAC and the event. The Administration followed up with youth serving organizations and schools to engage and encourage children and youth to take advantage of this opportunity. Posters and brochures were posted in City leisure facilities, on the City's website, Facebook and Twitter account.

The YAC played a key role at this event as group leaders and positive role models exhibiting positive behaviour and attitudes. The formal component of this event was emceed by a YAC committee member who did a spectacular job of engaging the youth and introducing speakers, including Councillor Sharon Bryce and Chris McKenzie.

Numerous organizations supported this event by promoting and registering children and youth.

These included: Rainbow Youth, Regina Open Door Society, Regina Special Olympics, Community School Coordinators, Ranch Ehrlo, and the Al Ritchie Community Association. A combination of external and internal partners assisted in making this forum a success by providing sponsorship.

The City's internal working committee assisted the YAC with developing the evaluation tool to capture the general impressions and thoughts of participants within each age category. Among the results were:

- 85% of participants gauged this event as "awesome"
- 90% reported that they would like to do this again. In fact, a few participants requested the event be offered again the following week!
- Although there was a difference in opinion between which activity was the most and least popular, there is resounding evidence that indeed this event was unique, appealing and something that participants would like to do again.
- The City's internal working committee was so impressed with the YAC's forum and the response of the participants that they are committed to hosting a similar event for International Youth Week in 2013.

The YAC met in early June to evaluate the forum based upon their personal experience and participant feedback. There was consensus that the event was a lot more work than what they had originally thought but that it was a very rewarding experience. The YAC was pleased with the representation of a diverse group of children and youth and with the sheer number in attendance. A few of the members expressed an interest in gaining some additional training in behaviour management and child and youth leadership so that they could be better prepared to lead their next forum in 2013. Overall, the YAC believes the Extreme Youth on the Move was a great success and members are excited to plan the 2013 forum. The theme of the 2013 forum has not yet been determined, but the YAC will be seeking a different topic so that they can broaden their knowledge and experience.

The enthusiasm and commitment of the YAC made the 2012 forum a success. One parent noted that he had expected this to be a good event, but after observation and discussion with his child, the event exceeded all expectations! Other comments included:

"My daughter and her friend had a wonderful time on Saturday. Thank you very much for organizing this event."

"I just wanted to thank you for Saturday's event. My daughter had a fantastic time and was showing us all her yoga moves and telling us about Zumba. We will definitely be watching for this event next year (including my older daughter)."

"I just wanted to drop you all a quick note and say how much my daughter and her friends enjoyed the afternoon on Saturday. I got calls from two moms thanking me for letting them know about the event as they too had great feedback from their kids. I can't image how much work it took to pull the event off, but please know that it was a lot of fun for the kids and that the parents were very grateful for a healthy, fun opportunity for their kids. Kudos to all of you."

In summary, the forum provided awareness around the importance of making healthy lifestyle choices by providing accessible and barrier-free sport and recreation activities. The YAC was able to accomplish this as well as provide an event appealing to a diverse age and stage of children and youth. The event was representative of the rich diversity within Regina's community.

RECOMMENDATION IMPLICATIONS

There are no implications associated with this report.

Environmental Implications

There are no environmental implications associated with this report.

Strategic Implications

The work of the YAC assists the City of Regina in achieving its vision. The YAC through the forum modelled and celebrated positive lifestyle choices that children and youth can make to be healthier, more active youth citizens of Regina.

Other Implications

There are no other implications associated with this report.

Accessibility Implications

Forum activities are accessible and provide for diversity in interest, skill, ability, age, gender, culture and financial status.

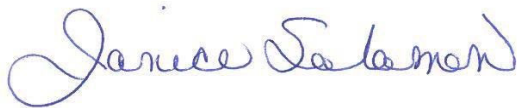
COMMUNICATIONS

There are no communication implications associated with this report.

DELEGATED AUTHORITY

The YAC reports to the Community and Protective Services Committee.

Respectfully submitted,



Janice Solomon
Coordinator, Social development

Respectfully submitted,



Chris Holden,
Director, Community Services