

10. PARKLANDS/QUEENSPARK YOUTH WORKING PARTY

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The purpose of this report is to update the Board on the Parklands/Queenspark youth working party project and expenditure.

BACKGROUND

In May 2002 the Board endorsed recommendations arising from the Youth Recreation Needs Survey (April 2000) and the report on the Parklands Youth consultation process (April 2002). The recommendations related to trialling a youth café project at a venue in Parklands over a three-month period, provided there was volunteer support and a feasible proposal was developed.

In February 2003 the Board allocated \$10,000 from its 2003/04 Project funding towards a possible youth café or another youth facility in Parklands.

In June 2003 a youth consultation disco was held, the results of which reiterated the original findings of the youth recreation needs survey and a subsequent report was presented to the Board on 27 August 2003. From this the Board resolved:

- That the 2003/04 Board Project funding of \$10,000 allocated to Parklands/Queenspark community projects be made available to achieve community youth aspirations through:
 - Providing ongoing special events to youth in the Parklands/Queenspark area.
 - Developing regular programmes for youth utilising the Parklands Community Centre and other facilities in Parklands/Queenspark.
 - Establishing a youth committee in Parklands/Queenspark.
- That the Parklands/Queenspark youth working party continue to liaise with the library team in the development of youth programmes and youth-friendly facilities for the new Parklands Library.

PQY SINCE AUGUST 2003

In September 2003 the Parklands/Queenspark youth working party (PQY) was officially formed to further consider youth issues and consult with local youth. PQY is made up of four community representatives, two youth representatives, two staff members and one Board representative.

Following on from the August 2003 report PQY had developed the following objectives in line with the Board recommendations and the youth mandate from consultation:

1. To provide ongoing events to youth in the Parklands/Queenspark area.
2. To support programmes and the development of programmes and projects for youth utilising the Parklands Community Centre and other facilities in Parklands/Queenspark.
3. To continue negotiations with established and recognised community and youth organisations in Parklands/Queenspark with a view to local group(s) assuming the management of the projects.
4. To investigate the establishment of a youth committee or similar in consultation with identified locally interested community youth organisations.
5. To keep the Libraries Unit apprised of youth developments in the area to provide youth information and consultation possibilities and to meet youth needs in terms of the development and use of the Parklands Library.

On 23 October 2003, PQY held a small focus group session with local youth. This focus group was established to discuss identified needs for youth in Parklands/Queenspark and prioritise them. Youth had an opportunity to have their say and give their thoughts on the merits of a youth committee and any other issues they had. The outcome of this focus group session enabled PQY to prepare an events calendar and budget in line with these priorities as follows.

Purpose	Proposed Budget
Dance party for year 7 & 8	\$2,000
Dance party for older youth	\$3,000
Festival/family fun day	\$1,000
Skate party (Top up for Board funded Skate Jam)	\$1,000
Investigating a youth committee and supporting youth organisations/programmes	\$3,000

The events listed below were ranked fourth and fifth respectively but no budget was allocated to them:

- Sports day (also identified in Parklands youth recreation needs study).
- Mobile youth café with air hockey.

PQY PROGRESS ON BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

Providing ongoing special events to youth in the Parklands/Queenspark area.

The Razzle Dazzle Funk party was held on 22 November 2003 at the Parklands Community Centre and targeted year 7 and 8 youth (11-13 years). A DJ provided the entertainment and there were plenty of spot prizes and giveaways. A highlight of the event was seeing the community centre transformed into a shiny Razzle Dazzle venue and the youth 'glowing' with their glow sticks and glow paraphernalia. An estimated 120 youth attended this event.

The dance party for older youth was withdrawn from the event calendar due to the needs of the age group, which it was felt could not be catered for adequately by the collective experiences and budget available. It was also thought that a daytime event for all youth such as a skate jam would cater for this age group.

The festival/family fun day was going to be a collaboration/contribution towards youth events at the Parklands Community Centre user group Sunday Funday. The event was down-sized to an open day by and for user groups. PQY funding was not required.

Parklands/Queenspark Skate Jam was held on 27 March 2004 at the Parklands Baptist Church car park. The event was targeted at all local youth. Portable skate ramps were brought in for 'have a go' skating and a team of professional skaters from Cheapskates provided demonstrations. Arts/crafts, DJ and bands provided the entertainment. A highlight of the event was National Smokefree Rock Quest Winners, Falter, ex Mairehau High School pupils, playing at the event. An estimated 160 youth attended this event.

A sports day was put on hold until further funding became available. With the withdrawal of the older youth dance party and family festival the funding has now been budgeted towards this. Parklands United Sport Club, based at their clubrooms in Queenspark Drive, will be approached to develop a sports day in conjunction with PQY utilising the sports club and facilities.

Attendance at the events has been good with positive feedback from both the youth attending and the community.

Developing regular programmes for youth utilising the Parklands Community Centre and other facilities in Parklands/Queenspark.

PQY has looked at ways to support the regular programmes for youth in Parklands/Queenspark, and ensure they are accessible to the wider Parklands/Queenspark community. Grants have been made to:

- Parklands Residents' Association - towards the Parklands sports equipment hire pool based at the Parklands Community Centre, for an air hockey table and karaoke machine. The community, including Energisers, Parklands Baptist Church and Parklands United Sports Club (all of whom cater for youth), can access this.
- The Store youth programme, based at the Parklands Baptist Church, to purchase equipment for their Friday night Youth drop in programme.

To investigate the establishment of a youth committee or similar.

PQY has sought guidance from the Children's and Youth Advocacy Team of the Council to share their knowledge and experience on establishing a youth committee. The team visited PQY to advise on the proposed youth committee. The further investigation of this will be the focus of the next two PQY meetings along with the planning for the sports day event. The Children's and Youth Advocacy Team is close to completing a database, which will enable staff to search for youth from a chosen geographical area with specific interests. It is hoped to use this database to invite youth to be part of any committee, focus groups and discussion on how they wish to be involved and consulted in Parklands/Queenspark.

The next stage will be for PQY to define expectations from a youth committee and explore the options for the possible development of a youth committee or smaller interest based focus groups.

To keep the Libraries Unit apprised of youth developments in the area to provide youth information and consultation possibilities and to meet youth needs in terms of the development and use of the Parklands Library.

There has been a strong link developed with the Libraries and Information Unit and the Children's and Youth Advocacy Team, who assisted the Unit with the consultation on Parklands Library. The Libraries and Information Unit met with PQY to identify groups in the community who could be approached to be part of the library consultation. The Unit was invited to be part of the Parklands Community Centre Sunday Funday to inform the community on progress to date with the library plans. The Unit has since reported back to PQY on the consultation at Parkview Primary School. It is envisaged the Unit will use PQY in the future to help with the specifics of the library project.

BUDGET

\$10,000 was allocated in 2003/04 to be made available to achieve community youth aspirations. The funding is intended to be expended by the end of the financial year, as outlined below.

Actual spent to date

Purpose	Budget
Parklands Baptist Church (The Store youth drop in)	\$900.00
Parklands Residents Association (Sports equipment library)	\$2,094.00
Razzle Dazzle Funk Party	\$1673.16
TOTAL ALLOCATION	\$4,667.16
Funds remaining	\$5,332.84

Proposed

Purpose	Budget
Parklands/Queenspark Skate Jam *	\$289.00
Parklands/Queenspark Sports Day	\$2,000.00
Mobile youth café event with air hockey	\$2,000.00
Youth committee investigation/establishment cost	\$1,000.00
TOTAL ALLOCATION	\$5,289.00
Funds remaining	\$43.84

* Originally \$1,000 was budgeted towards the Skate Jam event that happened on 27 March; actual cost is \$289, which still requires sign off.

Funding is expended under the joint discretion of the Community Recreation Adviser, Community Development Adviser, Community Advocate and Carmen Hammond.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Since August 2003 the community representatives have invested at least 117 voluntary hours into PQY and subsequent projects. From time to time other youth, youth workers and community members have been part of PQY particularly for various events.

Regular participants are:

Debbie Gillam	Parklands United Sports Club, Parklands Youth Trust
Kay Addei	Parklands Youth Trust, Parklands Residents Association
Kieran O'Hagan	Parklands Baptist Church
Wayne Elcock	Parklands Baptist Church
Carmen Hammond	Burwood/Pegasus Community Board
Catherine and Raven	Youth representatives

BENEFITS

The PQY Board funded events have brought youth in the area together in a safe environment for a free, enjoyable experience. This is creating a sense of belonging to and celebration of the local community, and some youth have developed a sense of pride in the community.

"Kids are coming to my neighbourhood for something cool". Quote from local youth attending Parklands/Queenspark Skate Jam.

The local community have had an opportunity to promote themselves, get involved, and local residents who attend these events learn more about their local community.

By continuing networking with established and recognised community and youth organisations in Parklands/Queenspark, local groups have participated in the management of the projects.

PQY is assisting the Board to achieve the aims of the Christchurch City Council Youth Strategy which is to develop a City where:

- Young people's views and contributions to their families and their communities are valued.
- Young people are cherished and their diversity is recognised, acknowledged and celebrated.
- The views of young people are sought and taken into account in the development of the Council's policies and activities.
- Young people have access to the information and resources required to meet their needs in the areas of:
 - Health, safety and wellbeing
 - Physical environment and design
 - Entertainment and recreation
 - Education and training
 - Employment
 - Family.

The Youth Strategy also highlights the importance of providing recreation, leisure and entertainment facilities, programmes and activities for youth.

The Board provided \$10,000 towards this project from the 2003/04 Project funds. Without this funding these events would not have been delivered.

PQY is hoping to maintain momentum in 2004/05 with the \$5,000 allocated by the Board to the Parklands/Queenspark Youth Project.

Staff

Recommendation: That the information be received.

Chairperson's

- Recommendations:**
1. That the information be received.
 2. That the Board commend the efforts of the Parklands/Queenspark youth working party in achieving positive outcomes for youth.