

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, MAY 6TH, 2002

NIKKEN POLAR BEAR PROJECT

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Community Services recommends:

That the following report be received.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide information concerning the Nikken "Polar Bear Project".

Background - Analysis and Options

At the Committee of the Whole meeting dated November 26, 2001, Ms. Judy Sterling, a Nikken Wellness Consultant made a deputation in order to gain support to work with the City of Vaughan on various projects. Through Nikken, the Polar Bear Group acts as a volunteer organization, which participates in various activities in communities all across Canada. This group is not looking for recognition or advertising but purely a company incentive to do something good for the community they live in. Their primary focus is to participate in events cleaning up the environment. Staff was directed to prepare a report on this matter.

Staff has met with Ms. Sterling to discuss the Nikken "Polar Bear Project" activities as well as to determine how the City of Vaughan could work together with them. It was determined at this meeting, that the Polar Bear Project may be able to help the Parks Department with some projects. The group would be contacted in order to solicit their participation throughout the year.

Since the Polar Bear Project mandate is to help with cleaning up the environment, staff discussed the possibility of the group participating in Earth Day events. It was agreed that the group would participate in park debris clean up as well as lending some assistance on Earth day. At this time, staff is awaiting a response from the group in order to include them in this event.

Conclusion

Community Services staff has met with the Nikken "Polar Bear Project" to determine projects that would fulfill their mandate in the City of Vaughan. At this time, staff is awaiting a response from the Polar Bear Project to participate in Earth Day. Staff will keep the group's objectives in mind for future projects in the City of Vaughan.

Attachments

None

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Respectfully submitted,

G. Doris Haas
Commissioner of Community Services