

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

January 17, 2006

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Schmidt, Acting Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Joint Use Agreement Review Consultation

ORIGINATOR: C. McCabe, Executive Director

RESOURCE
STAFF: Jenise Bidulock, Michael Ediger, John Nicoll

INFORMATION

BACKGROUND

The Joint Use Agreement (JUA) is a legal agreement among the City of Edmonton, Edmonton Public Schools and Edmonton Catholic Schools that describes how the partners work together to plan, develop, and share school and City facilities. It outlines how schools and sports fields are made available to community groups during after-school hours, and how arenas, pools, sports fields and other City facilities are made available to school children during school hours.

The agreement timeframe expires early in 2006 and the current Joint Use Agreement remains in effect until a new one is in place.

The Joint Use Agreement Review Team, struck by the Joint Use Steering Committee in late fall of 2004, is comprised of three representatives from each partner group and is responsible for collaborating on the 2005/2006 Review. The members are:

- Edmonton Catholic Schools represented by Garnett McKee, Rick Mooney, Mike Pieters
- City of Edmonton represented by Linda Cochrane, Tim McCargar, Rob Smyth, Ann McCluskey
- Edmonton Public Schools represented by Jenise Bidulock, Michael Ediger, John Nicoll

The Facilitators are:

- Charmaine Hammond from Hammond Mediation Consulting Group
- Sharon Wilson from Resources International

Each partner has provided historical data, clarification of their individual mandates and values, internal operations information, current situations, and their hopes for and expectations of the agreement. The review team has provided regular communiqués regarding the status and outcomes of discussions. The most recent communiqué is attached (Appendix I). The partners also identified that they need information from stakeholders, experts, and the general public to create a sustainable inclusive agreement to serve the present and future needs of the partners and their communities.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION GOAL

The goal of the public consultation process is to revisit the agreement through an effective public input process, so that the revised agreement better reflects present realities, current needs, and enables the partners to successfully resolve tomorrow's challenges. The Review

Team partners are interested in seeking stakeholder and general public input into current shared use issues, and potential solutions, as part of this ten-year review.

CONDUCT OF CONSULTATION

The Joint Use Agreement Review Team identified principles for consultation, a consultation process, key stakeholders, and a proposed timeline.

Principles for Consultation

- Each member organization of the JUA Review Team will undertake a meaningful consultation process appropriate to their organization, involving both internal consultation and joint consultation through the JUA Review Team
- The process will be open and transparent to all those participating.
- All information gathered will be for input *or* recommendations to the Review Team. The Review Team will finalize recommendations for the renewed agreement and present them to City Council and School Boards of Trustees for approval.
- It is understood that public consultation is integral to effective policy development and service to the public.

Two Phase Consultation Process

A. Internal Edmonton Public Schools Consultation Process

Phase One includes internal consultation within each partner's organization. Partners will manage their own internal consultations. The same discussion guide will be used with internal stakeholders in order to gather similar data (Attachment I).

Four meetings will be held in four quadrants of the city (Appendix II). Invitations will be sent to the following to attend from each quadrant:

- One member from each school council
- One member from each community league
- One member from each major sports group using EPS schools in the quadrant
- One member from selected non-sport user groups using EPS schools
- One member from each school staff
- One principal from each school

Facilitated discussions will occur using the discussion guide as a basis. Each quadrant group will select a group to present the findings of their quadrant consultation at a meeting of the Board of Trustees.

B. Joint Public Consultation Process

Phase Two will be broad-based consultation with external stakeholders and the general public. Public meetings will be held in each quadrant of the City. Key Stakeholders will receive personal invitations to participate in these meetings. The meetings will be advertised in the media to reach as many citizens as possible. The agenda for the meetings will include a presentation and an opportunity to provide feedback using the discussion guide. The opportunity to provide feedback will also be available through an online survey.

Information gathered during the joint public consultation process will be reviewed and analyzed along with input from internal organizational reviews, joint use best practices, and other research. All of this information will be synthesized by the Review Team Partners to develop collective recommendations for Shared Use of Facilities in the new Joint Use Agreement.

The public meetings in the four quadrants of the city will be planned, organized, conducted, and facilitated by an external consultant. A web survey will be initiated at the same time. Data from both the public meetings and web survey will be synthesized by the consultant, who will also provide a written summary of the process and of the key themes from the consultation to the Joint Use Review Team.

The key stakeholders identified to receive individual invitations to attend the joint public consultation meetings are:

- All users of facilities under the Agreement
- Chairs of governing bodies of major user groups
- Partner staff as identified by their Review Team Representatives
- Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues
- Edmonton Sport Council
- Conseil Scolaire Centre-Nord (Greater North Central Francophone Education Region no. 2)
- YMCA/YWCA
- Area Councils

Edmonton City Councillors, Edmonton Public School Board Trustees, Edmonton Catholic School Board Trustees, and senior staff of appropriate Provincial Ministries will be invited to observe and listen.

C. Schedule for Internal and Joint Consultation

The JUA Review Team's proposed timeline for joint public consultation is outlined below:

Dec. 2005– Jan. 2006	Finalized process, timelines and discussion guide
Jan. – Feb. 2006	Hire external facilitator for public consultation process
Feb. – March 2006	Implement internal consultation and joint consultation processes
March – April 2006	Presentation to Board of Trustees of findings from internal consultation
	Receive external consultant's final data analysis report
April – May 2006	Review Team to prepare a progress report for council and trustees
May – June 2006	Implement operational improvements that can occur within the context of the existing agreement

JB:pn

APPENDIX I	Communiqué #14, December 8, 2005
APPENDIX II	Edmonton Public Schools JUA Review Consultation Quadrants and Trustee Wards
ATTACHMENT I	Draft Discussion Guide

**Joint Use Agreement Review
Communiqué #14
December 8, 2005**

The Joint Use Agreement (JUA) partners (City of Edmonton, Edmonton Catholic School Board and Edmonton Public School Board) JUA Review Team held its fourteenth meeting on December 8, 2005 to continue discussions and designing of the new Joint Use Agreement.

The JUA Review Team finalized the plans and framework for the Public Consultation Process to commence in February 2006. The Discussion Guide will be finalized based on feedback from the sub-committee meetings held during November and December. The JUA Review Team also developed a list of stakeholders to be invited to participate in the Public Consultation processes. A Public Consultation Framework document will be developed before December 25/05, which outlines the key elements of the Public Consultation process (framework, timelines, approach, etc.) to be provided to each JUA Review Team partner's respective organization. The Review Team agreed that they will document the agreements they make based on the input gathered and analyzed from the Public Consultation Process for their respective organizations to review, these will then become part of the new JUA document.

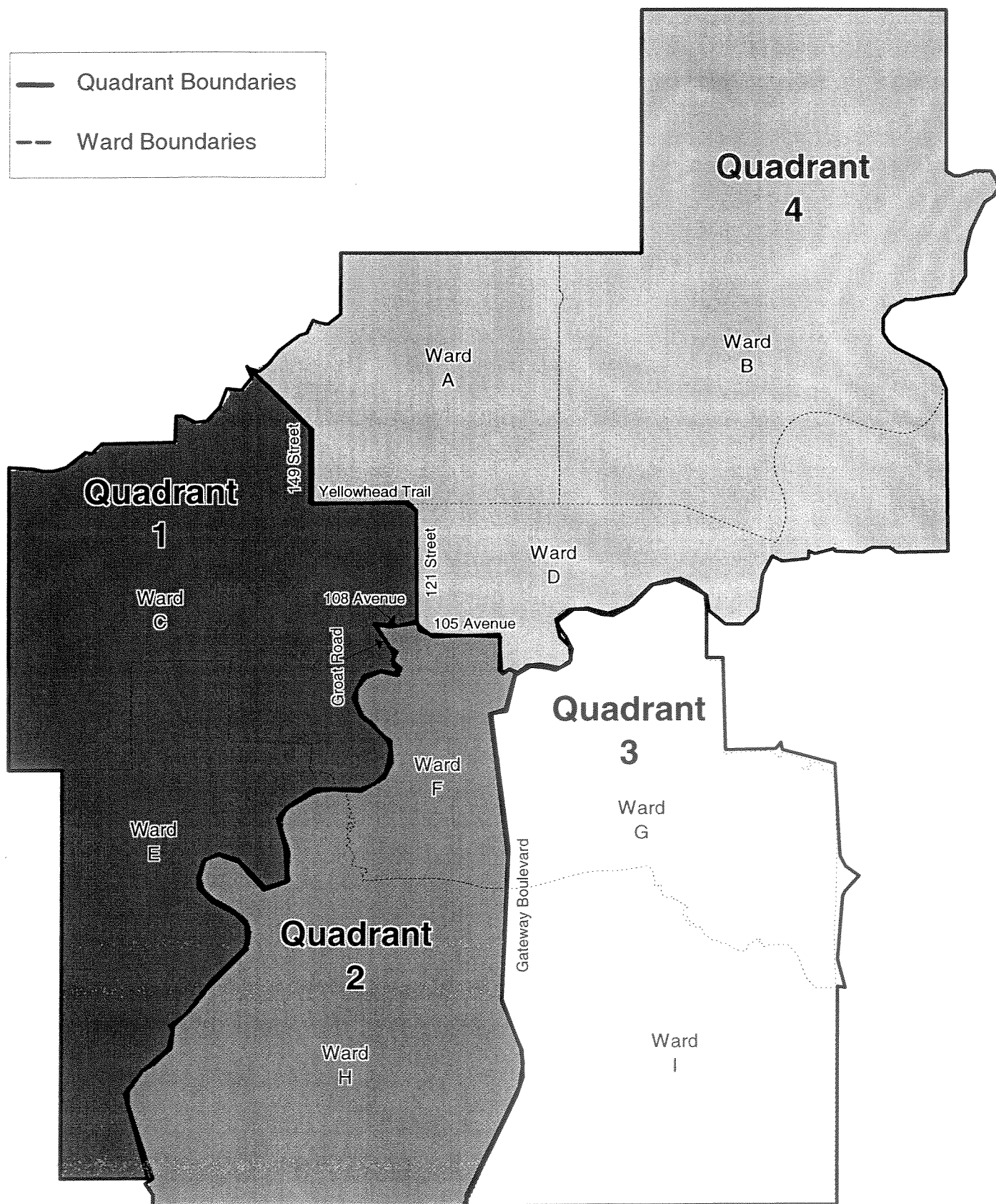
During this meeting, the JUA Review Team also agreed that while the Public Consultation process is underway, the Review Team will in parallel be working through the issues related to the themes of Governance and Land.

Meetings have been scheduled until spring 2006 to complete the review and the new JUA document.

Collectively the Review Team will continue to provide regular updates on progress as the Partnering Organizations work through the review process to create a new JUA that is reflective of current needs for all partnering organizations.

3 December 2005

**Edmonton Public Schools J.U.A Review Consultation Quadrants and Trustee Wards
December, 2005**





JOINT USE AGREEMENT

DRAFT

Public Consultation Discussion Guide

JUA Sub-Committees





Joint Use Agreement

Background

The Joint Use Agreement (JUA) is a legal agreement between the City of Edmonton, Edmonton Public Schools and Edmonton Catholic Schools, that supports how the partners work together to plan, develop and share school and park facilities. It outlines how schools are made available to community groups during after-school hours and how arenas & pools are made available to school children during school hours. The current Joint Use Agreement term ends in 2006.

The Joint Use Review Committee (struck by the Joint Use Steering Committee) is interested to seek stakeholder and general public input into current issues and potential solutions. The Committee is only consulting on the "Shared Use" portion of the agreement during this process.

As a result of the last Joint Use Agreement review process (1996) three subcommittees were struck to focus on operational issues. Members of the subcommittees include both administrative staff and user group representatives. The public consultation process will be two phased: the first phase with the appropriate subcommittees and that information will be analyzed and sorted. Then a second phase of broad consultation that will include both user organizations and members of the general public.



This Discussion Guide

This discussion guide has been developed to assist in the consultation process regarding shared use of facilities.

You are invited to provide input on the issues and current state as well as providing suggestions on how enhancements in these areas might be addressed. This information will be considered by the Joint Use Review Committee members when developing the new recommendations for the Joint Use Agreement.

Please use the space that has been provided throughout this document to record your comments and suggestions. The back of each page has also been left blank to provide additional space for your input.

Use

Under the terms of the Joint Use Agreement, the City provides subsidized access to swimming pools, arenas, tennis courts & picnic sites to the School Districts and the School Districts provide subsidized access to school gymnasiums and other parts of school buildings to City sponsored groups from many communities.



Issue # 1 – Community Access to Schools

CURRENT SITUATION:

Community user groups are indicating they want more and/or improved access to schools after hours and on weekends.

School time made available to community groups depends on curriculum requirements of the individual school and on the cost of providing access and appropriate supervision and operation of the facility. In the current operating model, hours available for booking are determined on an annual basis. School Districts determine the time available for community use. These hours are then made available to City sponsored community groups. School gyms are provided under the Joint Use Agreement and gym users are more highly subsidized than users of City of Edmonton facilities.

There is currently more demand for community access to some schools than can be accommodated by available time. School Districts are unable to make additional hours available without impacting educational services to children and are constrained from providing more community use hours by funding restrictions.

Questions to consider:

Given the constraints listed above how can we improve community access to schools?



Community Access to Schools, (cont'd):

How can community demands be best met?

How can community use of schools be subsidized and/or paid for?

Any other Suggestions?



Issue #2 - School Access to City Facilities

The School Districts have expressed interest in improving access to recreational facilities for educational purposes.

In the current operating model, hours available for booking City facilities are determined on an annual basis by the City of Edmonton. These facilities are generally available to schools from 8AM to 4PM except where there are prior commitments to historic users.

Schools can book access to City joint use facilities during school hours if necessary City staff is on duty or alternative arrangements have been made to allow school access without City staff present. The City looks after the interests of school access to partner facilities.

City facilities included in the Joint Use Agreement include arenas, community leisure centres (pools), tennis courts & picnic sites.

Questions to consider:

Given the constraints listed above how can we improve school access to City facilities?

How can school demands be best met?



School Access to City Facilities, (cont'd):

How can school use be subsidized and/or paid for?

Issue #3 –Use of Sports Fields

CURRENT SITUATION:

Sports fields on school park sites are shared between school and community groups. All these fields are maintained by the City of Edmonton on behalf of the partners.

Questions to consider:

What is working well with respect to use of sports fields?



Use of Sports Fields, (cont'd):

What are your concerns, if any, related to the use of sports fields?

What suggestions do you have to better meet the needs of field users?

If you anticipate costs to implement your suggestions, how do you see these being subsidized or paid for?

Use of Sports Fields, (cont'd):



Any other suggestions?

Closing Comments

The Joint Use Review Team invite you to provide input on other issues that you feel are important.

Please take a few moments to consider any other areas where the Joint Use Agreement is working well or where things may be improved upon.

Things that are working well



Closing Comments, (cont'd):

Things that may be improved upon

**Thank you for your participation and assistance in
contributing to a new Joint Use Agreement.**

This document can be returned via fax: 496-4929 to the attention of Ann McCluskey. This document is available at the JUA website at www.edmonton.ca/jointuse.

It can also be mailed to: JUA, PO Box 2359, Edmonton, AB, T5J 3A3