

立法會
Legislative Council

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LC Paper No. CB(2)2760/11-12
(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Panel on Home Affairs

Minutes of meeting
held on Friday, 10 February 2012, at 8:30 am
in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex

- Members present** : Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon KAM Nai-wai, MH (Deputy Chairman)
Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong
Hon WONG Yung-kan, SBS, JP
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, GBS, JP
Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP
Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai, BBS, JP
Hon CHAN Hak-kan
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che
Hon WONG Sing-chi
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP
Hon Tanya CHAN
- Members absent** : Hon Mrs Sophie LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, GBS, JP
Dr Hon Philip WONG Yu-hong, GBS
Hon Miriam LAU Kin-yee, GBS, JP
Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, GBS, JP
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan
- Public Officers attending** : Agenda item III
Home Affairs Bureau
Mr TSANG Tak-sing, GBS, JP
Secretary for Home Affairs

Mr Benjamin MOK
Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (2)
(Acting)

Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Mrs Betty FUNG, JP
Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Miss Margrit LI
Assistant Director (Leisure Services)1

Agenda item IV

Home Affairs Bureau

Mr TSANG Tak-sing, GBS, JP
Secretary for Home Affairs

Miss WONG Yuet-wah
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs
(Culture)2

Commerce and Economic Development Bureau

Mrs Miranda YIM
Assistant Commissioner for Tourism 3

Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Mrs Betty FUNG, JP
Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Dr Louis NG
Assistant Director of Leisure and Cultural
Services (Heritage & Museums)

Ms Belinda WONG
Chief Curator (Heritage Museum)

Clerk in attendance : Mr Thomas WONG
Chief Council Secretary (2)2

Staff in attendance : Mr Raymond LAM
Senior Council Secretary (2)2

Miss Jasmine TAM
Council Secretary (2)2

Miss Emma CHEUNG
Legislative Assistant (2)2

Action

I. Information papers issued since the last meeting

Members noted that no information papers had been issued since the last meeting.

II. Items for discussion at the next meeting

[Appendices I and II to LC Paper No. CB(2)962/11-12]

2. The Chairman suggested and Members agreed that the next regular meeting originally scheduled for 16 March 2012 at 8:30 am be re-scheduled to Thursday, 15 March 2012, at 4:30 pm to discuss the following items -

- (a) Gambling policy and gambling-related issues; and
- (b) Intangible cultural heritage.

3. Members noted the letter dated 9 February 2012 from the Deputy Chairman suggesting the discussion of the safety arrangements for the 2012 Hong Kong Marathon at a Panel meeting. Members agreed that the item be discussed at a Panel meeting and the Chairman would liaise with the Administration in this regard.

(Post-meeting note: With the Chairman's concurrence, the item "Safety arrangements of the 2012 Hong Kong Marathon" would be discussed at the next regular meeting scheduled for 15 March 2012.)

Action

III. Monthly tickets for use of public swimming pools

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)962/11-12(01) and (02)]

4. At the Chairman's invitation, Secretary for Home Affairs ("SHA") briefed members on the Administration's proposal for the introduction of a public swimming pool monthly ticket ("the proposed monthly ticket") in July 2012.

Price for the proposed monthly ticket

5. Mr CHEUNG Hok-ming noted from paragraph 9 of the Administration's paper that the majority of the chairmen and vice-chairmen of District Councils ("DC") had suggested lowering the proposed price of \$350 for the proposed monthly ticket to \$300. He sought information on the impact of such a lower price level on the Government's income. Professor Patrick LAU and Dr Lam Tai-fai expressed support for lowering the proposed price to \$300.

6. The Deputy Chairman said that the Democratic Party supported the proposed monthly ticket. He pointed out that the price for a monthly ticket for the use of facilities at a public fitness room was less than 50% of the monthly total admission fee for an adult who visited the fitness room every day. If the same principle was applied, the price for the proposed monthly ticket should be about \$285. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che said that the price level of a public fitness room monthly ticket represented a discount of 64.7% for a person who used the facilities at a public fitness room once a day. However, the proposed \$350 for the proposed monthly ticket represented a discount of only 38.6% for a person who visited a public swimming pool once a day. He considered that there was much room for setting the price for the proposed monthly ticket at a lower level.

7. SHA advised that the Administration was open to the price-lowering suggestion and was reviewing its viability, taking into account a series of factors, such as the potential impact of this lower price level on the utilisation of public swimming pools and the promotion of swimming, as well as the Administration's policy on cost recovery and subsidy rates. He added that public swimming pools and public fitness rooms were not directly comparable, as their utilisation rates were different.

Action

Non-peak swimming pool monthly ticket

8. Mr CHEUNG Hok-ming asked whether a non-peak swimming pool monthly ticket would be introduced to encourage swimmers to swim in public swimming pools on non-peak days. SHA and Director of Leisure and Cultural Services ("DLCS") advised that a number of logistical issues had to be addressed when managing two types of monthly tickets with different validity periods. The Administration would need to ascertain the actual impact of the proposed monthly ticket on the utilisation and operation of public swimming pools. The Administration would study the suggestion and assess its viability after the implementation of the proposed monthly ticket scheme.

9. Professor Patrick LAU asked whether schools would be allowed to use public swimming pools during non-peak hours. DLCS advised that under the existing arrangements, a school might reserve a public swimming pool one school year in advance for holding a swimming gala or part of a swimming pool for group training during normal school hours.

Coverage of the proposed monthly ticket

10. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che asked whether there would be any restriction on the public swimming pools to which holders of the proposed monthly tickets would be allowed to access. DLCS advised that monthly ticket holders would be allowed to access all LCSD-managed swimming pools, except for the Wan Chai Swimming Pool which was designated for group training.

Monitoring of the use of monthly tickets

11. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che asked whether safeguards, such as verification of the identity of the monthly ticket holders, would be adopted to prevent possible abuse, such as the sharing of a monthly ticket among different persons. Mr WONG Yung-kan sought information on whether there would be any penalty for a person using another person's monthly ticket.

12. DLCS advised that monthly ticket holders would be requested to have their identity verified before being allowed to enter public swimming pools. In the longer term, a monthly ticket in the form of a smart card bearing the photograph of the ticket holder would be used to facilitate identity verification. Cases involving suspected illegal use of the monthly tickets would be referred to the Police for necessary action.

Action

13. Mr WONG Yung-kan sought information on whether there would be any charge for re-issue of a lost monthly ticket. DLCS responded in the negative but advised that there might be a charge to recover the production cost of the smart card when it would be used in future.

Timing for introducing the proposed monthly ticket

14. Mr WONG Yung-kan sought information on whether the proposed monthly ticket could be introduced earlier than scheduled, i.e. July 2012. DLCS advised that the Administration hoped to introduce the proposed monthly ticket as soon as possible. However, time would be needed for the introduction of the subsidiary legislation to prescribe the fee levels for the proposed monthly tickets, the modification of admission turnstiles and the launch of the relevant publicity for the introduction of the proposed monthly ticket scheme.

Adequacy of lifeguard manpower

15. Dr LAM Tai-fai and Mr WONG Yung-kan sought information on whether the lifeguard manpower of public swimming pools would be increased to cope with the anticipated increase in the number of swimmers (especially elderly swimmers) after the introduction of the proposed monthly ticket.

16. DLCS advised that at present there was a maximum capacity on the number of swimmers that could be allowed in a swimming pool at any one time. The existing manpower of lifeguards should be adequate to cater for the above maximum capacity in the respective swimming pool. Elderly swimmers usually used swimming pools during non-peak hours. The Administration would closely monitor the situation and consider increasing the manpower of lifeguards when necessary.

Admission fees

17. The Deputy Chairman expressed concern about the long-standing difference between the admission fees of public swimming pools on Hong Kong Island and in Kowloon and those in the New Territories. He considered that the same admission fee should be applied to all public swimming pools throughout Hong Kong. The Deputy Chairman, Professor Patrick LAU and Mr CHUENG Kwok-che considered that the Administration should take the opportunity of introducing the proposed monthly ticket to align the admission fees for public swimming in Hong Kong.

Action

18. SHA advised that the difference in admission fees had existed since municipal services in the urban areas and the New Territories were managed by the Urban Council and Regional Council respectively before their dissolution and the establishment of LCSD. The Administration was reviewing the issue.

Promotion of sports

19. Dr LAM Tai-fai considered that the Administration should designate more "Sport for All Day" in a year so that more members of the public could use public leisure facilities for free. DLCS advised that this suggestion might reduce government revenue. Moreover, during the three-month free use scheme implemented in 2008, there were cases where people who succeeded in securing free use of public leisure activities did not use the facilities eventually and thus resulted in wastage.

Motion

20. Mr KAM Nai-wai moved the following motion, which was seconded by Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong, on the proposed monthly ticket -

"本委員會要求政府盡快推出公眾游泳池月票計劃，並應將月票收費定為每月不多於300元正。"

(Translation)

"That this Panel calls on the Government to introduce a public swimming-pool monthly ticket scheme as soon as possible and set the price of the monthly ticket at a level of no more than \$300 per month."

21. Members unanimously supported the motion. The Chairman declared that the motion was carried.

IV. Exhibition on Bruce Lee at the Hong Kong Heritage Museum
[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)951/11-12(01) and CB(2)962/11-12 (03)]

22. At the Chairman's invitation, SHA briefed members on the Administration's proposal to organise an exhibition on Bruce Lee by LCSD at the Hong Kong Heritage Museum ("HKHM"). The exhibition was planned to launch in the first half of 2013 and last five years.

Action

23. Members expressed support for the proposed exhibition. The Chairman said that Bruce Lee had contributed a lot to the promotion of Chinese martial arts. Miss Tanya CHAN added that Bruce Lee was not only a martial arts actor but also renowned for his philosophy, creativity and professionalism in martial arts.

Exhibition venue

24. Miss Tanya CHAN was concerned about whether the proposed exhibition venue, with an area of 650 square metres, would be large enough to accommodate the anticipated large number of visitors. DLCS advised that as the proposed venue would be situated at HKHM, which had ample open space, there should be enough space to accommodate a large number of visitors.

25. Mr WONG Yung-kan and Mr Paul TSE asked why the proposed exhibition was not to be held at Bruce Lee's former residence at Kowloon Tong. The Chairman said that the former residence of Bruce Lee was an ideal venue for the proposed exhibition. Dr LAM Tai-fai however considered that Bruce Lee's former residence at Kowloon Tong was not an appropriate place to hold the proposed exhibition, as there were many love hotels nearby.

26. SHA explained that since 2008, the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau had been exchanging views with the owner of Bruce Lee's former residence in the hope of converting the premises into a Bruce Lee memorial hall open to local and overseas visitors. However, no consensus had been reached with the owner regarding the scale of the restoration works involved.

27. The Chairman, the Deputy Chairman and Mr CHAN Hak-kan considered that the Administration should identify a venue for holding exhibition on Bruce Lee on a permanent basis. The Chairman and Mr WONG Yung-kan also suggested that a permanent martial arts exhibition hall should be established by the side of the permanent exhibition hall on Bruce Lee, if any. The Chairman added that consideration should be given to identifying some land in the West Kowloon Cultural District for the establishment of an exhibition hall on Bruce Lee and exhibition halls on Chinese martial arts and Chinese martial arts films. SHA undertook to consider members' suggestions.

Action

28. Noting that HKHM was located far away from other tourist spots, Mr Paul TSE expressed concern about whether sufficient ancillary facilities, such as parking space for coaches, would be provided at the exhibition venue. Assistant Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Heritage and Museums) ("ADLCS") advised that the adequacy of parking space as well as areas for loading and unloading passengers would be taken into consideration in the detailed planning of the proposed exhibition. He added that the public open space at HKHM had been found adequate for handling more than 400 000 local and overseas visitors during a three-month exhibition held in the previous year.

Promotional activities

29. Miss Tanya CHAN sought information on whether the Administration would organise a martial arts competition at the exhibition venue to attract more visitors from different parts of the world.

30. DLCS advised that the proposed exhibition was expected to attract about 1.6 million local and overseas visitors in the first year. It would examine with the Tourism Commission (TC) the possibility of launching promotional activities to attract tourists. Assistant Commissioner for Tourism 3 added that the TC, in collaboration with the Hong Kong Tourism Board, would coordinate with LCSD, the travel trade and other related parties such as the Bruce Lee Club, the Bruce Lee Foundation, etc. to draw up a suitable promotion and publicity plan for the exhibition, so as to attract visitors from the Mainland and overseas to come to see the exhibition in Hong Kong.

31. DLCS advised that preparatory work for the proposed exhibition had already commenced and it was expected that the exhibition would be open to the public around May or June 2013. The Administration had commissioned the Federation of Hong Kong Filmmakers to produce a documentary entitled "The Brilliant Life of Bruce Lee" to enhance the public's understanding of Bruce Lee.

32. Mr Paul TSE considered that the exhibition would be unattractive if it was too academic. The Administration should consider grouping the proposed exhibition of Bruce Lee and other tourist attractions under a one-day programme for visitors. Consideration should also be given to the establishment of a memorial trail on the life of Bruce Lee, which had been proposed by the Bruce Lee Club for a long time. DLCS undertook to consider the suggestions.

Action

33. Dr LAM Tai-fai sought information on whether souvenirs would be sold at the exhibition venue and the admission fee for the exhibition. DLCS advised that the Administration would explore the viability of production and sale of souvenirs with the Bruce Lee Foundation. The admission fee for HKHM was \$10 per adult and there was no additional admission fee for the proposed exhibition on Bruce Lee inside HKHM.

Items to be displayed at the proposed exhibition

34. Mr CHAN Hak-kan sought information on the number of exhibits to be displayed at the proposed exhibition. Chief Curator (Heritage Museum) ("CC(HM)) advised that the TC had identified more than a hundred exhibit items related to Bruce Lee, and the Administration had provided a wish list of exhibits to the Bruce Lee Foundation for consideration.

35. Mr Paul TSE called on the Administration to include in its proposal to Finance Committee ("FC") a list of exhibit items to be displayed at the proposed exhibition on Bruce Lee. DLCS advised that as the Administration's discussion with the parties concerned on the loan of exhibits were still ongoing, the list would not be available when the proposal was submitted to FC in April 2012. The Chairman requested the Administration to provide the Panel with the list of exhibits when available.

Admin

36. Mr CHAN Hak-kan sought information on whether interactive elements would be incorporated into the proposed exhibition. CC(HM) advised that interactive exhibits, audio-visual programmes, talks and workshops would be produced or organized to enhance visitors' understanding of the life story and contribution of Bruce Lee.

37. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong considered that while Bruce Lee had contributed to the Chinese martial arts and Chinese martial arts films significantly, the Administration should avoid any exaggeration of Bruce Lee's image and story in the proposed exhibition.

38. Noting that there was an exhibition hall on Bruce Lee in Foshan on the Mainland, Mr WONG Yung-kan asked whether the Administration would communicate with the relevant authorities of Foshan and had the expertise to distinguish between genuine and counterfeit exhibits relating to Bruce Lee.

Action

39. SHA advised that the Administration had the necessary expertise to distinguish between genuine and counterfeit exhibits. DLCS advised that the Administration would seek to borrow genuine exhibits from the parties concerned, including the daughter of Bruce Lee and the Bruce Lee Foundation. If a genuine exhibit was unavailable and a replica was exhibited, there would be a clear explanation. ADLCS added that the Administration would maintain communication with the authority responsible for managing the exhibition hall on Bruce Lee in Foshan.

40. Dr LAM Tai-fai queried why the duration of the proposed exhibition was only five years. DLCS advised that the initial loan period of exhibits as agreed with the parties concerned covered a period of five years. Should the parties concerned agree, the loan period and the exhibition period would be extended.

41. The Chairman concluded that members generally supported the Administration's submission of the proposed exhibition to FC for consideration.

V. Any other business

42. Members agreed that a visit would be conducted to the Yau Ma Tei Theatre and Red Brick Building.

(Post-meeting note: The Panel's visit to the Yau Ma Tei Theatre and Red Brick Building was conducted on 27 April 2012.)

43. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10:25 am.