

File No.: 04-1000-20-2018-320

July 13, 2018

s.22(1)

Dear s.22(1)

Re: **Request for Access to Records under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (the "Act")**

I am responding to your request of June 6, 2018 for:

Board briefing memo to Park Board Commissioners dated May 29, 2018, entitled and/or on the topic "Whirlpool Decommissioning at Dunbar, Kitsilano, and Marpole Community Centres", by Donnie Rosa, Director, Recreation. Date range: April 1, 2018 to May 31, 2018.

All responsive records are attached.

Under section 52 of the Act, and within 30 business days of receipt of this letter, you may ask the Information & Privacy Commissioner to review any matter related to the City's response to your FOI request by writing to: Office of the Information & Privacy Commissioner, info@oipc.bc.ca or by phoning 250-387-5629.

If you request a review, please provide the Commissioner's office with: 1) the request number (#04-1000-20-2018-320); 2) a copy of this letter; 3) a copy of your original request; and 4) detailed reasons why you are seeking the review.

Yours truly,



Barbara J. Van Fraassen, BA
Director, Access to Information & Privacy

*Barbara.vanfraassen@vancouver.ca
453 W. 12th Avenue Vancouver BC V5Y 1V4*

*If you have any questions, please email us at foi@vancouver.ca and we will respond to you as soon as possible. Or you can call the FOI Case Manager at 604.871.6584.

Encl.

:ma



May 29, 2018

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Donnie Rosa
Director of Recreation, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT : **Whirlpool Decommissioning at Dunbar, Kitsilano, & Marpole Community Centres**

Dear Commissioners,

The purpose of this memo is to brief you on the plan to decommission the three stand-alone whirlpools (not associated with other aquatic facilities) located at the Dunbar, Kitsilano, and Marpole Community Centres.

Over the past few years, staff have been working closely with WorkSafe BC to address safety, risk management and operational issues for each of these sites. As a result, interim measures had been developed to maintain safe working conditions for staff, as well as ensuring that the operating procedures complied with Vancouver Coastal Health regulations. However, these interim measures are not sustainable for mitigating the risks for the long term and decommissioning has become necessary.

Background

Dunbar, Kitsilano, and Marpole community centres are all aging facilities with physical plant limitations, which make it difficult and costly to bring these spaces up to code:

1. The boiler at Dunbar virtually eliminates safe egress, with the acid and bleach handling several steps down;
2. At Kitsilano, there are significant physical challenges with narrow access to the bleach room and a large threshold to the acid room;
3. All three sites require drench showers and separate acid/ammonia and bleach eyewash stations.

The current handling and storage of chemicals, as well as emergency wash procedures, do not meet WorkSafeBC standards and do not provide our staff with a safe work environment. WorkSafeBC has given us notice that these issues must be resolved or we will be receiving orders.

As these facilities are not associated with other aquatic facilities they do not have dedicated pool operators on site full-time. The sites rely on one Utility Maintenance Worker (UMW), building service workers, and a variety of auxiliary recreation staff to maintain water quality. However, if a UMW is absent when the water quality does not meet VCH standards, staff are required to close the facility until a UMW returns and can safely make chemical adjustments. The three locations experience regular shut downs due to water and air quality issues.



In addition to Occupational Health and Safety risks, these facilities are unsupervised bodies of water that pose potential drowning risks. In a letter from the Lifesaving Society they clearly state:

... [in an] audit of an unsupervised public pool, a priority recommendation would be that lifeguard supervision be implemented. There is a high duty of care when a municipal entity invites members of the public into their facilities and that includes ensuring their safety using all means considered prudent. Our rationale for this stance is that, as part of our research into drownings and their prevention, the Lifesaving Society has seen numerous incidents where the presence of lifeguard supervision would have prevented a drowning and a review of the situation recommended that such supervision be initiated.

Given the location and size of the whirlpools, it would not make sense to have dedicated lifeguards at these sites. These facilities are also underutilized, with an average of 25 people per day at Dunbar and Kitsilano, and seven people per day at Marpole.

Location	Dunbar	Kitsilano <i>(prior to shut down)</i>	Marpole
Users/week	167	189	43
Hours of operation	83.5	115	62
Usage/hour	2	1.6	.7

Service Impacts and Opportunities

The decommissioning of the whirlpools at Dunbar and Kitsilano will enable those spaces to be renovated and repurposed to expand and enhance health and fitness programming. As Marpole is anticipating a full renewal, the space will not be repurposed.

The fitness centres at Dunbar and Kitsilano are well utilized, seeing respectively 200 and 500 visits per day, with Kitsilano being one of the busiest centres in our system (next to Hillcrest and Trout Lake). Repurposing the whirlpool space would substantially benefit both centres by increasing square footage for fitness equipment and programming. This would address regular patron complaints related to lack of access to equipment and space.

Although overall usage of the whirlpools is low, staff anticipate there will be some patrons who are not pleased with the closures. We have discussed these concerns with the Community Centre Associations (CCAs) and they are understanding and supportive of the situation and welcome the opportunity to have input into the repurposing of the space for other fitness purposes. Dunbar, Kitsilano, and Marpole whirlpool patrons can continue to access whirlpools at other Park Board locations including, but not limited to, nearby Hillcrest, Kensington, and Lord Byng pools.

Real Estate & Facilities Management (REFM) has conducted preliminary capital cost estimates to decommission all three whirlpools, as well as for the renovating and repurposing of the spaces at Dunbar and Kitsilano. There is funding available in the capital plan for this work.



Conclusion

Staff will begin the process of decommissioning the three whirlpools over the coming weeks, with two of the spaces repurposed to better address demands of current patrons, including spin, stretch, and functional training areas. Staff will be communicating the decommissioning changes to patrons in the coming weeks. Staff will also engage in a community consultation and continue to work with the respective CCAs in determining how to best repurpose each space.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donnie Rosa". The signature is somewhat stylized and scribbled.

Donnie Rosa
Director of Recreation - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

/clc

Copy to: PB Senior Leadership Team
PB Recreation Leadership Team
PB Communications