

From: **"Levitt, Karen"**

To: **"Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"**

Date: 2024-07-19 4:35:44 PM

Subject: Reimagining and Replacing Kitsilano Outdoor Pool - Report Back, RTS 16472

Attachments: **2024-07-19 Memo to Mayor and Council - Kits Pool Motion.pdf**

Dear Mayor and Council,

This memo is a report back concerning the motion Council passed on June 26, 2024, " Reimagining and Replacing Kitsilano Outdoor Pool," providing a status update on the work directed in this motion (RTS no. 16472).

- Short-term repairs to Kits Pool are anticipated to be completed by July 24, 2024, and the pool is anticipated to reopen to the public shortly thereafter.
- Staff will be developing an integrated Kits Pool capital fundraising strategy encompassing corporate sponsorship, philanthropic donations, and senior government funding, with the support of TTG (the marketing firm recently engaged by the City to support our corporate sponsorship work) and a philanthropic donations strategist (yet to be hired).
- In parallel to the development of the fundraising strategy, Armin Amrolia, GM, Real Estate, Environment and Facilities Management/Deputy City Manager and Steve Jackson, General Manager, Board of Parks and Recreation are leading work to develop a set of design concept options for the replacement of Kits Pool, for Council and Park Board consideration.
- The City Manager's Office has established a single cross-departmental executive Steering Committee to oversee both the development of design concept options and the development of a fundraising strategy as a single program.

Staff will keep Council apprised as this work advances.

All the best,

Karen

Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager (she/her)

The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm/Musqueam, Sḵwəx̱wú7mesh/Squamish and səliwətaʔ/Tsleil-Waututh nations

MEMORANDUM

July 19, 2024

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Paul Mochrie, City Manager
Armin Amrolia, Deputy City Manager
Sandra Singh, Deputy City Manager
Steve Jackson, GM, Board of Parks and Recreation
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk
Maria Pontikis, Chief Communications Officer, CEC
Teresa Jong, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office
Mellisa Morphy, Director of Policy, Mayor's Office
Trevor Ford, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office

FROM: Karen Levitt
Deputy City Manager

SUBJECT: Reimagining and Replacing Kitsilano Outdoor Pool

RTS #: 16472

This memo is a report back concerning the motion Council passed on June 26, 2024, "Reimagining and Replacing Kitsilano Outdoor Pool," providing a status update on the work directed in this motion. The full motion as passed by Council is included in Attachment 1 of this memo.

1. Short-term interim repairs (Recommendation A)

Work on Kitsilano Outdoor Pool ("Kits Pool") is currently underway to address the current leakage issues. The sources of a number of the leaks have now been identified, and the City's Director, Facilities Maintenance and Operational Excellence is working with a contractor – Scott Special Projects – to complete these repairs. Barring any unforeseen issues, it is anticipated that these repairs will be finalised by July 24, 2024, and the pool will reopen to the public shortly thereafter.

2. Fundraising strategy (Recommendations C, D and E)

While the City is currently able to accept and receipt charitable donations, it is staff's view that in advance of actively soliciting for either corporate sponsorships or philanthropic

donations, it is essential that a well thought out Kits Pool Capital Campaign strategy must be developed.

Corporate sponsorship

As part of the larger Sponsorships, Advertising, Naming Rights and Donation (SAND) project that is currently underway, the City has recently signed a contract with [TTG Canada](#), the marketing agency that will play a key role in supporting the City and the Board of Parks and Recreation in advancing the corporate sponsorship program across a wide range of City and Park Board assets.

The SAND team has identified a number of highest-priority projects for TTG to start with, including the Vancouver Aquatic Centre and certain components of the Queen Elizabeth Theatre; the Kits Pool replacement project will be added to this list.

Philanthropic donations

In parallel with the corporate sponsorship strategy for the Kits Pool replacement led by TTG, staff will develop a philanthropic donations strategy, to be supported by an external consultant, yet to be engaged.

Senior government funding

There are currently no existing dedicated provincial or federal funding programs in place for this type of infrastructure. The City Manager's Office will work with the Mayor's Office to explore potential opportunities to attract senior government funding for the replacement of Kits Pool, from the provincial Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and/or the federal Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada.

Integration with development of Kits Pool replacement options

In order to ensure the new Kits Pool concept is designed in such a way as to maximally leverage potential donations, corporate sponsorships and/or senior government funding, the fundraising strategy work described above will need to be closely integrated with the development of Kits Pool replacement options.

To this end, staff have created a single executive oversight team being led by the City Manager's Office to drive both aspects of this work – the design of replacement options, and the development of a fundraising strategy. Further, staff will be involving both TTG and a philanthropic donation consultant early in this work.

3. Kits Pool replacement options (Recommendation B)

Armin Amrolia, GM, Real Estate, Environment and Facilities Management/Deputy City Manager and Steve Jackson, General Manager, Board of Parks and Recreation are leading work to develop a set of design concept options for the replacement of Kits Pool, for Council and Park Board consideration. This work will include consideration of alternative nearby

sites for the pool facility, the possibility of developing a year-round facility, and options for the siting of the Showboat Theatre.

This work is being done on a timeline to ensure this project is included in the City's 2027-2030 Capital Plan, and, as discussed above, this work is being done in close alignment with the development of a fundraising strategy.

Staff will keep Council apprised as this work advances.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen R. Levitt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent flourish at the end.

Karen Levitt
Deputy City Manager

ATTACHMENT 1.
COUNCIL MOTION, REIMAGINING AND REPLACING KITSILANO OUTDOOR POOL
APPROVED BY COUNCIL JUNE 26, 2024

WHEREAS

1. The Kitsilano Outdoor Pool (Kits Pool) is one of Vancouver's most unique pools and has been a cherished and beloved community asset in the city for 50 years, providing residents and visitors alike with recreational and instructional swimming opportunities;
2. Kits Pool is Vancouver's only saltwater swimming pool and the longest of its kind in North America at 137 metres in length, with approximately the same capacity as fifteen regular sized 25-metre six-lane pools;
3. Kits Pool is heated, has a water park, two slides, is wheelchair accessible, and located in an unbeatable oceanside location;
4. At about 50 years old, and having sustained storm damage to the structure, Kits Pool is now at the end of its service life, with many components failing, deteriorating, and in need of significant repairs and/or complete replacement;
5. Despite investments, membrane renovation work completed in 2018 in response to sustained damage, and further repair work over the past year during the off-season, Kits Pool continues to leak millions of gallons of water daily, and therefore pool chemicals cannot be kept in proper balance to meet established public health standards. As a result, a disappointing decision was made to close the pool entirely for the Summer of 2024;
6. It is expected that the extended closure of Kits Pool in 2024 will allow staff to fully investigate the ongoing water loss and make the needed repairs to the underground piping and basin to extend the facility's useful life on an interim basis through measures such as by installing a cost-effective custom liner, while planning for next steps;
7. An opportunity exists to reimagine and replace Kits Pool to better serve the needs of Vancouverites and the City's growing population, while enhancing accessibility and incorporating sustainable, climate resilient design principles;
8. The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation approved the Vancouver Aquatics Strategy (VanSplash) on October 28, 2019, laying out a 25-year vision for the future of aquatics in the City, and made the case for significant capital investment to deliver new pools for residents.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council affirm the value of the iconic Kitsilano Outdoor Pool by committing to an urgent process to reimagine and replace the pool as a priority action for this Council;

FURTHER THAT staff be directed to work in partnership with the Vancouver Park Board to provide a report on an urgent basis regarding all measures that can be taken to sustain the ongoing use of the existing Kits Pool in the interim short-term horizon before a new, reimagined Kits Pool can be constructed and operational, including identifying various costing and funding options.

- B. THAT Council direct staff to expedite the Kits Pool replacement feasibility study work recommended in the mid-term Capital Plan update, in partnership with the Vancouver Park Board, in order to plan for and fund the replacement of Kits Pool with a new, modernized outdoor aquatics facility that is more resilient to climate change, storm, and storm impacts, and report back to Council with recommendations and options to prioritize the pool replacement project in the upcoming 2026-2030 capital plan;

FURTHER THAT this direction to staff include exploration of additional aquatics amenities in association with a replacement Kitsilano Outdoor Pool to provide for the health and wellness needs of residents and pool users, such as whirlpools, steam baths, and greater levels of accessibility, in addition to Kits Pool's primary function for leisure swimming.

- C. THAT Council direct staff to seek relevant funding opportunities for major community infrastructure projects and climate adaptation and resilience projects through senior governments to support the capital costs of a new, modernized, and more resilient Kits Pool.
- D. THAT in recognition of the significant public affection for Kits Pool, staff be directed to engage with Park Board staff and report back by the end of July 2024 with a plan for consideration by Council and Park Board to establish a dedicated fund for the public, corporate and philanthropic sectors to contribute and donate to the capital costs of a new, modernized replacement pool, including plans for a communications campaign to support the efforts to raise funds.
- E. THAT Council encourage Park Board to include Kits Pool in the civic asset sponsorship work currently underway and identify Kitsilano Outdoor Pool as a prime, priority sponsorship opportunity.