



June 20, 2024

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Steve Kellock, Director, Recreation Services

SUBJECT : **Repurposing of Space at Dunbar Community Centre– Board Briefing Memo**

Dear Commissioners,

The purpose of this memo is to brief you on the plan to repurpose an area within the fitness area located at the Dunbar Community Centre. The area currently contains a stand-alone whirlpool that is not in use.

Background

The Dunbar whirlpool has been closed since 2019. At that time an underground leak was suspected due to high water consumption. The whirlpool was drained, further investigation located the source of the leak, and the leak was repaired. Due to the pandemic the hot tub remained closed. When the pandemic restrictions were lifted to allow for it to reopen it was filled and tested, and the water levels continue to show water loss. The whirlpool has remained closed and prior to its closure, was underutilized with an average of 20 users per day.

Service Impacts and Opportunities

With the whirlpool closure, it provided the opportunity to engage with the community on the how this space might be better used. Ideally this space can be renovated and repurposed to expand and enhance health and fitness programming.

The Park Board fitness centre at Dunbar is well utilized, seeing on average 200 visits per day. Repurposing the whirlpool space would substantially benefit the Community Centre by increasing area for fitness equipment and programming. This would address regular patron complaints related to lack of access to equipment and space. It would also allow for the relocation of equipment, that due to the pandemic, was placed in a racquet court and allow the return the court back to use for racquet sports.

To ensure a successful implementation of this change, engagement was conducted for one month to engage facility users. All feedback received supported the proposed change from whirlpool to health and fitness programming. This decision has also been reviewed with the Dunbar Community Centre Association (CCA), and they are supportive of this recommended approach. The CCA welcomed the opportunity to have input into the repurposing of the space for other fitness purposes. Nearby whirlpools that are available at other Park Board locations include Kitsilano Community Centre and Lord Byng pool.

An estimate has been provided for the scope of this work and there is funding available in the 2024 budget.



Next steps

Staff will begin the process of confirming the scope of the renovation over the coming weeks. They have completed public engagement with community users and the CCA and in response to the feedback received, the existing location of the whirlpool will be repurposed to expand the free weights and stretching area of the fitness centre.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'S' followed by a horizontal line that ends in a small hook.

Steve Kellock (*he/him*)
Director, Recreation Services – Vancouver Parks and Recreation

Copy to: PB Leadership Team
PB Communications
Susan Mele, Associate Director, Recreation Services
Dylan Myers, Manager of Portfolio Operations, Recreation Services
Kate Perkins, Partner Relationship Manager, Recreation Services