



July 4, 2019

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Malcolm Bromley
General Manager, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT : **Whirlpool Upgrades at Kitsilano Community Ctr – Board Briefing Memo**

Dear Commissioners,

The purpose of this memo is to inform you about the ongoing operational issues with the whirlpool at Kitsilano Community Centre. Two prior briefing memos that provide more details and background on this topic are also attached for your reference.

Over the past few years, staff have been working closely with WorkSafe BC to address safety, risk management, and operational issues for the Park Board's three stand-alone whirlpools (not associated with an aquatic facility), including the one at Kitsilano Community Centre. The Kitsilano whirlpool has been out of service since 2017, when it was temporarily decommissioned during a heat exchange project at the adjacent arena. The whirlpool was expected to be recommissioned at the end of that work (April 2018), however when staff were reviewing Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) and WorkSafe regulations, several safety issues were identified, including the need to install an eyewash station and shower. At that time, due to the relatively low usage of the facility, the operational challenges, and the high cost to bring the whirlpool into compliance with health and safety standards, staff deemed that it should be permanently decommissioned.

Upon learning of these plans, the community lobbied for the whirlpools to remain open and the Board directed staff to engage with patrons to explore options. In November 2018, staff met with concerned patrons and established that the decommissioning of the three stand-alone whirlpools, including Kitsilano, would be put on hold with the understanding that a long-term plan to manage the aging facilities would still need to be established.

In March of this year, staff met with Vancouver Coast Health (VCH) and reviewed the Kitsilano project. A number of additional upgrades to the pool and safety equipment were identified, along with a new requirement for approval of the whirlpool redesign through a VCH Construction Permit. The design team has completed a schematic design for the whirlpool upgrade, however the expanded project scope and new permitting requirement has impacted the project timeline, shifting the construction start time from mid-summer to late fall. The revised project schedule is as follows:

- Jun-Aug 2019 – design and permitting (3 months)
- Sep-Nov 2019 – procurement and contracting (3 months)
- Dec-May 2020 – construction (6 months)



New signage with the revised project timeline has been installed at the Kitsilano whirlpool. Community centre patrons are anxious to have the whirlpool back to normal operation and staff are expediting the project schedule wherever possible.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Malcolm Bromley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Malcolm Bromley
General Manager - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

/dc/clc

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