



January 24, 2019

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

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

SUBJECT : **Whirlpools at Dunbar, Kitsilano, & Marpole Community Centres – Update**

Dear Commissioners,

The purpose of this memo is to inform you that the plan to decommission the whirlpools located at the Dunbar, Kitsilano, and Marpole community centres has been put on hold until a longer term strategy can be developed. Staff will be meeting with user groups this evening to share this information.

Background

On May 29, 2018, Commissioners were sent a briefing memo that outlined the challenges associated with operating the stand-alone whirlpools (not associated with other aquatic facilities) at the Dunbar, Kitsilano, and Marpole community centres. All three are considered aging facilities with physical plant limitations, which make it difficult and costly to bring these spaces up to code and to meet best practices in maintenance and operation, supervision, and accessibility.

The memo advised that staff would be starting a process to decommission all three whirlpools, with two of the spaces repurposed to better address demands of current patrons, such as providing spin, stretch, and functional training areas. Plans included engaging the community and continuing to work with the respective CCAs to determine how to best repurpose each space.

When this plan was shared with the community, the Park Board heard from several regular users that they opposed decommissioning the whirlpools because they provide a highly valued service that contributes to their physical well-being.

Next Steps

In response to the community feedback received, the initial plan to decommission the whirlpools has been put on hold:

Dunbar – whirlpool to remain operational while staff continue to monitor the infrastructure and manage risk at acceptable levels;

Kitsilano – whirlpool will be returned to service over the next few months;

Marpole – whirlpool to remain operational until the renewal of the Marpole Community Centre.



Park Board staff will continue to work with Vancouver Coastal Health to ensure that the whirlpools meet an acceptable level of compliance with the BC Public Health Act Pool Regulation.

A long-term plan to manage these aging facilities will be established through ongoing discussions and engagement with the broader community.

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

/lt/clc

Copy to: PB Senior Leadership Team
PB Communications