

VanSplash Advisory Group Meeting One

January 16, 2019, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Vancouver City Hall

Members in attendance: Anthony Abrams, Jean Campbell, Kaye Chapman, Cliff Cheng, Michael DiPietro, Dale Edwards, Abby Ferris, Igor Kopecky, Carol Martin, Bronwen Mears, Anthony Mehnert, Barry Morris, Stevie Nguyen, Charles Tai, Arthur Tsai, Jarrett Vaughan, Marianne Wieland de Alvarez, Peter Wong

Regrets: Samantha Garrett, Catherine Rose

Park Board staff in attendance: Leila Todd, Dave Hutch, Doug Shearer, Michelle Larigakis

Facilitator and notetaker: Jennifer Miller, Abbey-Jane McGrath

Action Items/Follow-Up Items:

1. Terms of Reference (TOR) will be updated to add language addressing possibility that the advisory group's work may not be wrapped up by end of July 2019

Decisions Made:

1. List of Operating Values (code of conduct) created
2. Process framework adopted
3. City Hall will be location for meetings
4. Regular meetings will run from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
5. Any email received for the advisory group from the public will be summarized by staff and summary brought forward at each meeting; members can then request complete emails to be shared
6. Members will be sent meeting notes by email for review before they are posted on the VanSplash project webpage
7. The upcoming aquatics facilities tour will include a mix of Vancouver public pools and neighbouring municipalities' facilities

Summary of Meeting

- Facilitator went over purpose of meeting and agenda
- Members introduced themselves sharing their name, interest in the VanSplash project, and a positive memory or experience at a Vancouver public aquatics facility
- Park Board staff introduced themselves and shared their role on the VanSplash project
- External facilitator and notetaker introduced themselves and shared their role

Presentation and Discussion: Overview and Jan. 14 Board Motion

- Dave Hutch, Director, Park Planning and Development (Acting), gave a brief presentation thanking members for their commitment to the project and providing an overview of the advisory group's role.
 - First half of the advisory group journey is focused on learning – Leila will start this off and different people will bring us through the numbers and other aspects
 - Second half will focus on reviewing the DRAFT VanSplash Strategy and the recommendations and the input that we heard during that process

- From that, you will be forming opinions and sharing that with us to inform final strategy
- Swimming pools are some of the most complex and costly facilities to build and operate, so we need to be strategic about how we invest in the future. Need to invest – many facilities are from the 1970s and don't comply with accessibility and other codes.
- You all committed to taking a City-wide lens on our work because equity is an important principle for the Park Board: accessibility and geographical location
- This work will inform the capital planning process. Has to be done wisely with strategic data
- Projections for growth are mostly attached forms of housing with little or no access to outdoor space, so will be relying on public parks and recreation system for their access to nature, wellness and fitness. Demographic changes: aging city. Large cohort of younger people. Many people raising families find it challenging to stay in the city.
- Dave provided an overview of the motion passed on Monday night (Jan. 14) by the Board: the preamble and the resolution that the advisory group will only consider possible future expansion and improvement of Vancouver's aquatic facilities.
- Facilitator opened the floor for questions and discussion:
 - Question: Does that mean that we are not talking about closure of facilities and only expansion of facilities? And who was Commissioner who brought this forward?
 - Answer: Commissioner Irwin brought the motion forward. We need to get through the learning phase to really understand implications of this motion. This is an iterative process where we will learn along the way.
 - Question: Does this mean beaches and water parks are now out of scope for the advisory group?
 - Answer: Beaches and water parks are within scope of advisory group; the draft VanSplash strategy that we are here to talk about includes beaches and splash parks, etc.
 - Question: How can we talk about facilities without talking about programming? Its important to talk about pools in context of more than just the pool itself.
 - Answer: We are going to take in all your information. Not going to fetter the conversation
 - Question: Have the staff already concluded what is needed for the city, or are you able to have an open mind to what is recommended here?
 - Answer: We are here to listen to see how the thoughts of your group could make changes to the strategy document. We wouldn't be striking such a complex, diverse process if we were not genuine on receiving your input. That being said, we will learn some of the constraints of what is possible and what is not. Any municipal project comes with constraints: land, financial capacity etc. Important to understand that.
 - Question: New motion was the result of all the activity from these communities that went to the Park Board and did all of this work. Are there possibilities to look at other areas in the City that might need a destination pool, are we able to impact those decisions?
 - Answer: Yes.
 - How does the commission define the words "expansion" and "improvement"? Is it development or upgrading? Is it correct to assume that aquatic facility means existing aquatic facilities
 - Answer: Staff believes the intention of the motion is renewal of existing and expansion of new. Board has made a motion and it is partly up to you folks to interpret what is there and how those words are borne out in your work. Whenever staff takes recommendations to our board, the

final decision is always the Board's when it comes to the end of the process – whether to go forward with the decision. The Board takes the engagement process very seriously

Development of Operating Values

- Facilitator introduced concept of “operating values” or “ground rules” for meetings – i.e. procedures for how the group will work together through its process. Can also be considered a code of conduct.
- Facilitator explained the group will work together to co-create these operating values / code of conduct
- Members first brainstormed ideas in pairs and then brought suggestions to the group
- The group discussed the suggestions and the facilitator wrote them on flip charts
- The group agreed to adopt the following code of conduct for meetings:
 - Respect is our guiding light
 - We will take a City-wide view for a City-wide strategy
 - We will work together in a spirit of collaboration and compromise
 - Balance air time
 - Raise hand to speak and wait until you're called upon
 - One person speaks at a time (no side conversations)
 - Monitor ourselves for time management
 - Challenge ideas, not people
 - Listen to understand, and learn from each other
 - All questions are welcome
 - We value diversity and inclusion
 - We will not attribute comments or input to individuals, and we respect confidentiality of personal information

Discuss and Finalize Terms of Reference

- Facilitator outlined changes to draft Terms of Reference (TOR) since the document shared with members in advance of meeting:
 - Under Mandate: have added motion as it was approved
 - Removed a section on confidentiality – we do not expect project information shared will be confidential. Can share as widely as you like.
 - Added that meeting notes and presentations will be posted on the project webpage
- Facilitator opened floor for questions and discussion of Terms of Reference
- Participant asked if she can blog about the advisory group experience – staff said yes, as long as not attributing comments to any specific individuals or sharing personal information
- Participant asked if firm decisions have been made about a new destination pool being built – staff clarified that VanSplash is still a draft strategy and nothing that is proposed as a recommendation or a strategy has been approved.
- Participant asked about TOR specifying July 31, 2019 as end date – if there are delays on the meeting schedule, etc., what will happen? Staff replied we are confident that the timeline outlined is achievable and we have a commitment to go back to board in fall 2019, but can be flexible should the Advisory Group see it required. Facilitator said we can add a sentence to TOR that the end date could be changed as necessary.

- Participant asked what staff will participate in meetings – staff said certain people with particular training will be present to explain certain things. For example, the architect consultants who developed the draft VanSplash strategy will be present at some meetings to provide information and answer questions.
- Facilitator asked the group to identify any concerns with the TOR, and none were raised. TOR will be adjusted re: end date and then finalized.

Discuss and Finalize Advisory Group Process Framework

- Facilitator provided an overview of the framework and explained it's a roadmap for the group's process
- Facilitator opened the floor for questions and discussion
- No questions, no changes suggested
- The group agreed to adopt the draft framework with no changes

Location for Meetings and Black-Out Dates

- City Hall will be location of all meetings
- The group discussed start and end times for meetings and agreed to 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Participants completed a calendar worksheet identifying dates when they are not available to attend meetings
- The completed worksheets will be used to schedule meetings through May 2019

Presentation: VanSplash Project Background

- The Park Board's VanSplash Project Manager, Leila Todd, gave a short presentation about the VanSplash process to date:
 - Phase 1: Public Engagement
 - Goals: Feedback, Awareness and Shared Understanding
 - Engagement approach: public outreach, stakeholder workshops, senior and older adults specific work
 - Promotional materials and survey were translated into Traditional Chinese
 - Phase 2:
 - Objective: to return to public with Phase 1 results and get feedback on draft recommendations
 - Phase 3:
 - Adjustment of Final Recommendations based on Phase 2 engagement input
 - Revised recommendations concerning future of Lord Byng and Templeton pools
 - Presentation to Board of Draft VanSplash Aquatics strategy
 - Commissioners referred the draft strategy back to staff for additional consideration

Discussion of Communications Processes, Preferences and Strategies

- Facilitator outlined proposed approach for sharing the advisory group's work with the public, and how the group will receive any correspondence from the public:
 - Meeting notes and presentations posted on the VanSplash project webpage
 - Meeting notes sent by email to VanSplash subscribers (currently 3,050+ email addresses)

- Any correspondence for group to go to vansplash@vancouver.ca email address and staff to bring a summary forward at each meeting
- Participant asked if complete email submissions could be provided on request – staff said yes
- The group agreed to the proposed approach
- Facilitator asked the group to consider – with the understanding that two phases of broad, public engagement have taken place for VanSplash, and we are not looking to expand the advisory group membership – what voices / stakeholder groups may be underrepresented or missing from the advisory group discussion
- The group brainstormed the following perspectives that may be missing:
 - Youth (it was noted that several members have children of various ages)
 - School Board
 - Community Centre Associations
 - Homeless
 - Vulnerable
 - Indigenous and Metis (First Nations and Urban Indigenous)
 - People of Colour
 - Water polo
 - Visibly queer or visibly trans
 - Clothing-optional swimmers
 - Non-swimmers (i.e. waders, those using facilities for cooling or warming only)
 - Non-English speakers
- Facilitator asked the group to discuss how they can use their contacts and networks to help bring these voices into the conversation. Participants worked in pairs to discuss two questions:
 - How can you leverage your personal contacts to help bring these voices into the conversation?
 - How will you share information with your networks about the group's progress and bring back their feedback to the group?

Discussion of Measures of Success

- Facilitator asked participants to split into four groups of 4-5 people each and first discuss what would make them personally proud of their participation in the advisory group. Then, groups worked to agree on an answer to the following two questions:
 - What does success look like for the VanSplash Advisory Group?
 - How will we know we were successful?
- Groups recorded the following answers:
 - #1: Increased and better managed / planned budget for more aquatic facilities. More facilities with varied options. #2: Public sees new facilities. High usage / higher numbers
 - Being able to provide concrete and actionable direction back to the Park Board staff, with satisfactory implementation.
 - Develop a strategy to create more inclusive and accessible aquatics experiences and gathering places that foster community.
 - Success: Strong, actionable, achievable recommendations. Know: When the board adopts some or all of the recommendations.

Next Steps and Wrap Up

- Facilitator explained meeting notes will be sent by email and members asked to review and provide feedback by email by the deadline specified. If we don't receive a response by the deadline we will move forward with the notes as-is
- Meeting schedule through May 2019 will be sent ASAP
- Staff provided a reminder about the upcoming facilities tour and asked the group to discuss whether they prefer visiting Vancouver public facilities or other municipality facilities
- After discussion, the majority of participants identified they would prefer to see a mix of Vancouver and neighbouring municipality facilities