
CITY OF KELOWNA

MEMORANDUM

Date: January 2, 2003
File No.: 6240-20

To: City Manager

From: Director of Parks & Leisure Services

Subject: Future Aquatic Centre

RECOMMENDATIONS:

THAT City Council authorize staff to conduct a preliminary investigation into the design options, capital cost estimates, operating cost estimates, timing and financing options for the development of a new aquatic centre to be located in Mission District Park;

AND THAT the investigation include consideration of the current levels of utilization of pools and the impact of a new aquatic centre on the existing operations of the YM-YWCA at the Athans Aquatic Centre and the Parkinson Recreation Centre pool;

AND THAT the Mission District Park Development Committee review and provide input into the results of the preliminary investigation;

AND THAT staff report to Council prior to consideration of its Final Budget in May, 2003;

AND THAT City Council consider an allocation of \$30,000 in its 2003 Financial Plan as funds to conduct the preliminary investigation.

BACKGROUND:

The approved Master Plan for Mission District Park includes an aquatic centre as the next phase after completion of the facilities currently being developed. The Master Plan did not, however, determine the timing or features to be included. During the public discussion surrounding the counter petition process for the current facilities, the Central Okanagan Aquatic Committee made a presentation to the City's Parks and Facilities Committee urging the City to build a 50 meter pool. The Central Okanagan Aquatics Committee is a group formed to represent the interests of the various swim clubs in the region. The recommendations contained in this report were also presented to the Parks and Facilities Committee and a resolution of support was passed.

There are several factors that will have a major impact on the long-term function and costs resulting from an aquatic centre. These need careful research and consideration prior to committing to the design or timing of development. Aquatic centres are the most costly of all of our recreation facilities and there are many complex design options to consider. Different design features have a major impact on both the operating and capital costs.

The designs also dictate the type of aquatic activities that are likely to take place in the facility. Competitively oriented facilities (such as 50 meter, 8 lane rectangular tanks) provide venues for

training, athletic development, swimming competitions (many age groups and levels), synchronized swimming, possibly springboard and platform diving, and water polo. Facilities designed for these purposes are also useful for community recreational activities; however, they are of limited appeal for recreational users. The original Athans Aquatic Centre design was oriented toward competitive sport and has been recently retrofitted to enhance its recreational uses. Competitive programs generate a small percentage of overall pool usage. Leisure aquatic centres include a wider variety of pool shapes, play features, and activities that are more likely to attract recreational users but are not very useful for competitive programs. Major aquatic centres combine both types of designs but are very large and, therefore, costly to build.

The purpose of the recommended preliminary investigation is to consider optional design configurations; the optimal timing for constructing a new pool; the order of magnitude of operational and capital costs of the design options; the capital cost financing options; and the impact on the operation of existing facilities. Once this preliminary information is available, Council will then be asked to set target dates for the development of a new aquatic centre and to approve a process for developing and approving the appropriate design option.

We are recommending a budget of \$30,000 to cover costs associated with the preliminary investigation.

David Graham
Director of Parks & Leisure Services

DG/dhk

cc: Parks Manager
Recreation Manager