

COMMISSION REPORT

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE COMMISSION

FROM: DIRECTOR PARKS, RECREATION &
CULTURAL SERVICES

SUBJECT: DYNAMO SWIM CLUB

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** Commission receive this report for information.
2. **THAT** a copy of the report be forwarded to Mr. Menzies, president of Dynamo Swim Club.

REPORT

At the Community Commission meeting of 2015 May 20, Mr. Steve Menzies, president of Dynamo Swim Club, spoke to Commission regarding club concerns with pool allocations for the upcoming 2015-2016 season ([Attachment#1](#)). Arising from discussion of this topic, Commission referred matter to staff for review and report. This report provides information on the results of the review and a meeting with the swim club.

Burnaby Aquatic Clubs

The Dynamo Swim Club is one of four competitive aquatic clubs that primarily train in the fall, winter and spring and are allocated space in Burnaby. The others are Hyacks Swim Club, Burnaby Water Polo Club, and Burnaby Caprice Synchronized Swim Club. In addition to these clubs, Burnaby's summer swim clubs are the Burnaby Barracudas Swim Club and Burnaby Mountain Mantas Swim Club. Summer swim clubs train on a limited program year round and primarily in the summer. In addition to club allocations, the City also allocates pool space to school teams. The pool allocation process is challenging as the pool inventory is unable to meet all requested allocations of the aquatic clubs and teams.

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Burnaby Aquatic Facilities

While the City of Burnaby has 4 indoor pools, Eileen Dailly Pool is not suited for aquatic clubs due to its leisure design. Fred Randal Pool is currently too busy with general public programming to have time allocated for club use, other than early morning. Bonsor Recreation Complex pool has a lesson program that is 3 times the size of CG Brown Memorial Pool and this reduces the amount of available space at this facility for club allocations during prime time. The Bonsor lesson program has suffered when more time was allocated to allotment groups in this facility. CG Brown is the facility in which the best quality pool time can be offered with the least impact on public swimming and lessons programs, both of which are priorities over allotments.

Dynamo Swim Club

Currently Dynamo Swim Club is requesting more pool space than they have been allotted on a regular and consistent basis in the past. The club would like this space at three locations with the primary locations being Bonsor pool and Fred Randal Pool. In addition to requesting more time, the club expressed concerns about the quality of pool time. The Dynamos requested that the City allot them two hour time slots required for the more advanced swimmers to be competitive and that practices start no earlier than 4:00pm as their participants had difficulty arriving on site earlier.

For the 2003-2009 winter aquatic seasons (September to May) the Dynamos typically were allocated on average 9-10 lane hours per week. This allocation increased to 14 hours in 2010, 19 hours in 2011, 25 hours in 2012, and 28 hours in the 2013-2014 season.

To accommodate a loss of hours at CG Brown in the fall of 2014 due to the roof repairs, additional space was found for Dynamo Swim Club at Bonsor pool and Fred Randal Pool. As a result of the hours added to accommodate the missed time, the club was allocated on average 50 lane hours per week between three pools.

Since the last Commission meeting, staff met with Dynamo Swim Club to review needs for their 2015-2016 aquatic schedule. During this meeting an agreement was reached on a schedule which provides the Dynamos with a consistent schedule (including some 2 hour blocks for training), primarily at CG Brown on a daily basis. Some lane space is also provided at Bonsor on Mondays and Wednesdays. This schedule allows the club to continue their program at Bonsor and have a strong training schedule at CG Brown Pool. The agreement maintains an allotment average of 50 lane hours per week. Three new starting blocks will also be installed at CG Brown to enhance the training experience for the club and the public, when available.

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The Dynamo Swim Club recognizes that their pool time for the 2015-2016 season is quality pool time and space although not at their preferred location.

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

Dave Ellenwood
DIRECTOR PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES

EB:mg
Attachment



27-10340-156 STREET, SURREY, BC, V3R4L8, CANADA, TEL: 778-866-6604, www.dynamoswimclub.net

Dear Burnaby Parks Commission

We are writing to ask you to reconsider your decision to reduce pool access for Dynamo Swim Club and consolidate practices at CG Brown pool. Currently the Dynamos practice at several different pools including CG Brown, Bonsor and Edmonds. We understand and appreciate the desire to streamline schedules, allow multiple users and provide longer practice blocks for the team. However moving the entire program to CG Brown pool will have a devastating effect on the Dynamo Swim Club and the swim community as a whole. Competitive swimming is an international sport. Burnaby Dynamos is home to several nationally ranked athletes. We are concerned that the elimination of practices at Bonsor and Edmonds will severely disadvantage these young athletes. Unfortunately the facilities at CG Brown pool (with no starting blocks) are not adequate for serious competitive swimmers. And rather than spending thousands of dollars to retrofit a pool which is expected to be replaced, it would seem more cost effective to use pools that already have the facilities in place. Also, by removing access to Edmonds and Bonsor pools, access to competitive and pre-competitive swimming will be severely limited in the community. Many families are not able to attend practices at CG Brown - in fact most of the club practices at the other pools. Given that swimming is an important, affordable, popular and potentially life-saving sport, it seems short-sighted to make a decision that will reduce the opportunity for so many families to participate in it.

We understand that the scheduling of pool time is very complex, particularly when trying to meet the needs of various user groups. The process in Burnaby is even more complex due to the inability to schedule the whole season at once. For most user groups, it is important to have a consistent schedule. The need to renegotiate multiple schedules quarterly takes a great deal of manpower and time and results in significant expense and anxiety. For that reason, it might be helpful for the Parks department and the user groups to be able to schedule from Sept - Jun all at once, even if it requires separate contracts to be signed at the same time. This allows the facilities and the user groups to have consistent schedules and plan in advance.

We are asking the Burnaby Parks Commission to please reconsider the decision to eliminate Dynamos practice time at Bonsor and Edmonds pools. This decision will adversely affect many local families and the community as a whole. We would like to ask that the decision makers instead consider engaging in meaningful discussion with the Dynamos Board of Directors to problem solve towards a solution that will benefit the entire community.

Thank you for your consideration and assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Dynamo Swim Club Board of Directors