

Commission Agenda  
Date ..... 2016 Jan 20  
Correspondence ..... (a)

## Burnaby Barracudas

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December 30, 2015

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services  
City of Burnaby  
4949 Canada Way  
Burnaby, BC V5G 1M2

Dear City Officials,

On behalf of the Burnaby Barracudas Summer Aquatics Club, I would like to thank-you for working in partnership with us to deliver another successful season of competitive aquatic sports in Burnaby. As you know, together we have provided young athletes in our city the opportunity to participate and compete in aquatic sports for over 50 years.

This tradition continues to thrive in terms of community interest and quality programming. In 2015 we were able to offer development, speed swimming, water polo and diving programs for 307 athletes ranging in ages from 3-20. We are currently operating at capacity and have a waiting list. In terms of performance our club had an impressive showing at the BCSSA Summer Provincial Championships last August with our speed swim team placing 8th overall in the province, our water polo teams winning two gold medals, one silver and one bronze and all members of our dive team reaching the podium.

It is our hope and expectation to continue to provide these quality services and opportunities to as many Burnaby families as possible, but operational costs seriously challenge our ability to keep membership prices affordable and accessible. In order to keep our fees low, and to grow the club without decreasing our offerings, we require some financial support. It has come to our attention that other municipalities give grants their local swim clubs and we are asking the City of Burnaby to do the same or to provide some degree of financial assistance.

In 2015, our club paid nearly \$55,000 in pool rental costs. These high rental costs are preventing our club from purchasing much needed equipment such as a time keeping system for our water polo teams. If the City were able and willing to offer our club some free pool time, or waive some guarding costs or cover extra bulkhead placement costs, this would be tremendously helpful. Any financial assistance provided by the City will allow us to return the money to our program to purchase necessary equipment and to keep our program accessible to wide range of families.

### Note

Representatives of the Barracudas Summer Aquatics Club will be contacted to further discuss this request. Staff will then investigate the request and prepare a report for Commission consideration.

Other swim clubs in the greater Vancouver area that operate without municipal grants have had to increase their membership fees substantially. Given our very diverse demographics in Burnaby, we strongly believe that our club must keep fees low; otherwise, we face a serious possibility of losing a significant portion of our membership.

We look forward to working in partnership with you again in 2016 to keep our fine tradition of competitive aquatic sports alive and thriving in Burnaby. Please contact our club President, Laura Marquez, at the above noted email address or at [lmarquez@snaptech.com](mailto:lmarquez@snaptech.com) to discuss further.

Yours truly,

Angela Battiston  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Burnaby Barracudas  
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