

Commission Agenda

Date..... 2016 Apr 20

Delegations (a)

April 12, 2016

Burnaby Barracudas

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SUBJECT: DELEGATION TO THE BURNABY PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL COMMISSION

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of the Burnaby Barracudas Summer Aquatics Club I would like to thank you for reviewing our fee structure and possible assistance and for your continued support of our Grand Prix Swim Meet. Our Club has been in existence for over 57 years providing grass roots aquatics sports to approximately 90% Burnaby based residents. Our club alone has helped produce National Athletes, Olympians and many NCAA athletes in Water Polo and Speed Swimming over the years. We hope to soon add our Divers to this list. Once upon a time the City of Burnaby supported our club with free pool time which helped us grow to over 600 members. We swam out of all 4 outdoor pools. We were able to purchase and maintain equipment to host events and to run quality programs with experienced coaches. We are fully aware that those were the good old days and we cannot return to that amount of support but with some support from the City I am confident that we can grow our club again to well over 400 members and continue to keep our fees reasonable for the families in our community and to purchase some new much needed equipment for our athletes. Without some financial support I am afraid we will not be able to sustain our membership as we will be forced to increase our fees significantly. Last season we had 307 registered athletes. We turned away interested families as we cannot afford to pay the fees for another pool (Robert Burnaby) and/or the coaches salaries to accommodate them. For the last two years we ran our club at capacity turning away families. We will be experimenting this year with a one lane rental during public swim to help with accommodating the demand for our programs.

Last year we paid the full non-profit hourly rate running our fees well over \$55,000 for the season. We have found that the other clubs in our region that offer the varied aquatics sports do not pay these high fees. We are hoping our fee structure can be reduced as well as the fact that we host multiple events during our season that involve owning, maintaining and purchasing new equipment for the club. We are hoping you would consider waiving the fees to our Water Polo hosted events and possibly another swim Meet. In the past we hosted multiple swim meets in a season but today the cost of moving the bulk head prohibits us from running more than one swim meet. Today we are unable to run a diving meet in Burnaby and have run them in the North Shore and in Coquitlam as we do not have a 3 Meter Board in our community. We are hoping that in the near future we will receive some support to purchase a 3 meter board so we can properly train and host events in our own community.

Much of our equipment was purchased before I was part of this board and is at a point where it cannot be maintained but must be replaced. We are in desperate need of purchasing a Water Polo Timing System at a cost of \$12,000.00 and new water polo caps that are \$1200.00 per set. Last year we had over 90 athletes registered in our water polo program and we are the only Burnaby club in our community introducing and offering the sport. Our touch pads and plungers all need replacing and these are also very expensive. One of our greatest needs for purchase this season is a made to order canopy to be placed on the bulk head to protect our volunteers from the sun during our Meets. Running Meets and tournaments gives good exposure to our club and to the community but the equipment needed to run these events is very expensive to purchase and maintain. Our club yearly has donated the use of our equipment to the special Olympics in our community as well as the Senior games and other hosted events. It is important to note that our club utilizes the outdoor facilities rain or shine twice a day 5 days a week as well as some weekends.

Which brings me to another topic for discussion. The New Pool facility in Burnaby. In the summer time we are pretty happy with the hours of pool time that we are given and our programs are successful because of their convenience. On the other hand in the winter our winter maintenance program has been a challenge to grow because of the hours we are given to run our programs are less than ideal. We need more water in the winter. We do not have the infrastructure to properly run our programs from September to end of April. Would it be possible to update Central Park Pool making it a true 8 lane pool full deep water and putting a dome over it in the winter making it a facility which could be used year round? There are so many aquatic programs that would be interested in using that pool. I recognize the dressing room facilities would need updating as well. It has been brought to our attention that a \$350,000 feasibility study will be conducted for the new pool project. We are hoping that the needs of all the stake holders will be taken into account and that the proper facility will be built and fully utilized. In the past year two new beautiful pools have been built in the city of Surrey and unfortunately some very big mistakes have been made in the construction of the pools so they cannot be used for the intention they were built. I am hoping that together with the stake holders we learn from others mistakes and build the right facility in our Community to best service our population.

Thank you for your kind consideration,

Laura Marquez, President
Burnaby Barracudas Summer Aquatics Club