

CORPORATE REPORT

To: Recreation, Culture & Airpark Services Commission
From: Christina Vugteveen, Manager of Parks and Recreation

Date: 2020-05-19
File No: 7710-01

Subject: Recreation, Culture and Airpark Services Facilities Update

INTENT

This report is intended to advise the Recreation, Culture & Airpark Services Commission of important maintenance and improvement activities occurring at its various facilities while dealing with the impacts of COVID-19. Staff is not looking for a recommendation and has forwarded this information should members want clarification or to discuss the item further.

STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Foster a Strong & Diverse Economy
Support Healthy & Sustainable Community
Provide Responsive & Effective Public Services

BACKGROUND

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Hope and Area Recreation Center was closed to the public effective March 16, 2020. Since the closure, staff have been busy and working effectively tending to annual maintenance activities and various projects to ensure that everything is in order when the facilities have permission to re-open.

DISCUSSION

Depending on the scope of work required, the Dan Sharrers Aquatic Centre (DSAC) pool maintenance shutdown occurs each year for approximately four weeks commencing mid-August. Due to COVID-19 and the facility closure, the annual shutdown instead began in March to ensure that there would not need to be a future disruption of service when the facility reopens. The ice in the area was also removed approximately one month early to facilitate annual shutdown and save on energy costs. The typical shutdowns have been expanded to incorporate a complete maintenance program for both buildings, while undertaking some projects that under normal conditions would be more challenging to complete.

Some of the maintenance items include badly needed improvements to the customer service station, the first aid room, and the lifeguard station and well as improvements to behind the scenes storage areas which will create efficiencies to enhanced customer service. Much painting has been taking place including finishing some of the transitional painting to complete the new colour scheme. An extensive deep clean of the building has also occurred and planned capital upgrades are underway. Some other highlights include:

Completed

- Phase II of the Keyless Entry System
- Lane rope replacement
- DSAC speakers replacement
- Removal of the ice and transition to dry floor

In Progress

- Replacement of the arena hockey scoreboard with a new LED board
- Mezzanine lift
- Fitness Equipment lifecycle and efficiency review
- Mezzanine lifecycle replacement of the roof top air handling unit
- Arena High Bay lighting upgrade to LED
- DSAC gutter grate replacement
- Annual shutdown maintenance
- Annual maintenance for the Almer Carlson Pool

Staff are also working with the District of Hope, who has recently completed an anticipated corrosion assessment of DSAC structural beams (to be shared and discussed at a later meeting). Expected projects for completion also include exterior façade remedial maintenance and upgrades to the chlorine pipes (chemical feed system) which is past its lifecycle.

The opening of both the Almer Carlson Pool and the Hope and Area Recreation Centre remains unknown, but further guidelines for outdoor pools and recreation facilities are anticipated within the next couple of months. Fortunately, on May 7, 2020, the Province of British Columbia announced its Restart Plan which includes the restoring of some services under enhanced protocols. Ultimately, opening of these facilities is dependent on the direction from various health authorities including the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control, Fraser Health and WorkSafeBC, as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve. The British Columbia Recreation & Parks Association, various aquatics and sports associations and governing bodies, and municipal liaisons are all working together to propose structured guidelines to the Province for re-opening and lifting restrictions. This phased approach to re-opening recreation facilities will continue to develop as more information and direction is obtained from government leaders.

It is expected that requirements will include increased health messaging signage, enhanced cleaning procedures, plexiglass barriers at customer service counters, and public usage protocols to incorporate physical distancing. Supplies will have to be secured, which is challenging in this pandemic as they are in short supply. WorkSafeBC has not yet released the new Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and safe work procedure requirements for staff. Once in place, PPE will need to be secured and staff will need to be trained. In addition, staff will need to be hired to fill current vacancies. Some staff have not been able to have their certifications renewed due to the pandemic which also needs to be addressed before certain services can be offered. Given current information and expected requirements, it is possible that the Almer Carlson Pool and the Dan Sharrers Aquatic Center could remain closed for the summer of 2020, but staff will continue working towards the best possible outcome.

COST

Capital and maintenance costs are a part of the annual operating budget.

CONCLUSION

The use of recreation facilities is an important part of the Hope, Area A, and Area B communities. With release of the Restart Plan from the provincial government on May 7, 2020, guidelines are anticipated to be in place over the next couple of months to bring more certainty to the future of recreation facilities amid the COVID-19 pandemic. In the meantime, maintenance and capital work continues on various projects at the closed facilities to enhance customer service when they are able to open to the public.

COMMENTS BY:

Stacey Barker, Director of Regional Services: Reviewed and supported.

Kristy Hodson, Acting Director of Financial Services: Reviewed and supported.

Jennifer Kinneman, Chief Administrative Officer: Reviewed and supported.