

CORPORATE REPORT

To: CAO for the Recreation, Culture & Airpark Services Commission Date: 2019-01-22

From: Jody Castle, Manager of Recreation, Culture & Airpark Services

Subject: RiverMonsters Swim Meet Facility Use Request

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Recreation, Culture and Airpark Services Commission authorize a grant in the amount of \$2,756.00 to the RiverMonsters Swim Club, funded from the community facility use grant program, for the purposes of renting the Dan Sharrers Aquatic Centre pool and conference centre to host a two day swim meet on June 8 and 9, 2019;

AND THAT the Recreation, Culture and Airpark Services Commission support the District of Hope special event application for the use of the 6th Avenue Park field to enable overnight camping for the swim meet.

STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Support Healthy & Sustainable Community

Provide Responsive & Effective Public Services

BACKGROUND

Catherine Freimark, President of the RiverMonsters swim club, presented to the Recreation Commission on November 22, 2018. After receiving verbal support from the RCAS Commission, the RiverMonsters submitted an application to host the regional meet in August of 2019. They were not selected as the winning bid. There were several factors in this decision including cost, lack of or condition of equipment (clock and aging dive blocks), and a lack of available seating space. The swim club has secured grant funding and donations for a clock, and is looking for the support of the RCAS Commission to assist with lowering costs and potentially obtaining additional seating to improve the bid for 2020.

As the provincial meet will not be held in Hope, the RiverMonsters hope to host a swim meet in the summer, however, support is required to keep costs at a minimum. The third annual RiverMonsters swim meet is currently scheduled to take place June 8 and 9, 2019. This is a sanctioned meet by the BC Summer Swim Association that requires exclusive use of the pool facilities including the 25m length pool, the leisure pool and the hot tub.

DISCUSSION

In 2017, the club had eight swimmers participate in WinterFit. In 2019, the RiverMonsters currently have thirty swimmers participating, including eight swimmers in the mini monster program (age 4-6). Swimmers train in the winter and participate in swim meets throughout the summer. In 2017, 205 competitors came to the RiverMonsters swim meet, and in 2018 255 attended. Similar attendance is expected for the upcoming meet.

With the increased number of swimmers, the RiverMonsters have increased the number of lane rentals and the length of time in the pool. A request was received to move the training time back fifteen minutes to accommodate an additional coach. This request was received just before the winter break, and was not operationally possible due to the current scheduled programs. An agreement was reached that the RiverMonsters would be scheduled until 6 p.m., however the swimmers must vacate the lanes by 5:50 p.m. in order to prepare the pool for aquafit. The club has demonstrated a willingness to work together to discuss options for this season and next season regarding the expansion of practice times with minimal impact to public programs.

After a request in 2017, funding was approved by the RCAS Commission and improvements were made to the lane ropes in the pool. The RiverMonsters have recently secured grant funding and donations for a score clock, as well as a display case that will reside just outside the entrance to the viewing area. This will provide the club the opportunity to advertise, as well as display trophies and medals from both past and present. Staff is working with the swim club to determine a suitable location for the clock and display case. Remaining wish list items include new dive blocks that are estimated at \$35,000, as well as the opportunity to secure and display sponsor signage in the pool area to increase revenues for the club.

COST

Dan Sharrers Aquatic Centre would be closed to the public during swim meet times, but may reopen in the evening after the conclusion of the day's activities. The set up for the swim meet would remain in the pool on Saturday night, however it may be possible to open a portion of the pool to the public on Saturday evening after the conclusion of the meet. Access to the gym and arena facilities will not be impacted. Set-up for the event will begin the day before the swim meet, and includes the installation of additional seating, lane ropes, starting blocks and the drainage of the leisure pool. Lifeguarding costs are estimated at \$170 per eight hour shift, and two extra guards are required per day. The RiverMonsters have historically covered the costs of the additional lifeguards for the swim meet.

Item	Rate	Total Cost
Pool rental	\$143.50/hour for 7 hours per day	\$2009
Conference Centre	\$323.50 per day	\$647
Conference Centre Kitchen	\$50.00 per day	\$100
		Total Grant Requested: \$2756

COMMENTS BY:

Mike Veenbaas, Director of Financial Services

Reviewed and supported. Sufficient funding exists in this grant program.

Paul Gipps, Chief Administrative Officer

Reviewed and supported