



CITY OF
ST. CATHARINES

Corporate Report

Report from Recreation and Community Services, Programs and Cultural Services

Date of Report: April 4, 2013

Date of Meeting: April 29, 2013

Report Number: RCS-118-2013

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Subject: Garden City Aquatic Club Swim Team Programming

Recommendation

That Council support the Garden City Aquatic Club to continue to offer swim team programming; and

That Council support the Garden City Aquatic Club to continue to offer a summer swim league in which recreational swimmers are not affiliated with Swim Ontario to ensure continued participation of swimmers in the Niagara Regional Summer Swim League (NRSSL); and

That Council authorize a two year agreement with the Garden City Aquatic Club including, but not limited to, the terms proposed in this report to provide the maximum benefit to children and youth utilizing the Swim Ontario non-competitive and competitive programs; and

Further, that the City Solicitor be directed to prepare the necessary agreement and by-law(s); and

Further, that Council approve the recommended operational model be evaluated in two years by staff to be followed by a report to Council in June 2015. FORTHWITH.

Summary

Garden City Aquatic Club (GCAC) has been operating a Swim Ontario competitive provincial swim team out of the Kiwanis Aquatics Centre since September 2012; and a Recreational Swim Team out of Port Dalhousie Pool during July and August 2012. These GCAC programs were offered in place of the City provided recreational swim team programming. Staff have worked with this club to develop a mutually beneficial operating model that has been well received by the community.

Background

The City of St. Catharines was approached in the fall of 2009 by the GCAC to establish an independent competitive swim team. A series of meetings between Staff and the GCAC took place to discuss the feasibility of such a proposal. On March 26, 2012,

Council approved GCAC to operate a Swim Ontario Swim Team and a Summer Swim Team. The agreement was to be reviewed by June 2013. In order to ensure the continuation of services, this report is being presented ahead of schedule given the success of the program. The intent of this report is to recommend to Council that the current agreement with GCAC be extended for two years.

Garden City Aquatic Club

The GCAC was established and incorporated in 2007. In May 2011, GCAC received approval from Swim Ontario to operate as a Swim Ontario swim team. GCAC began operation as a Swim Ontario swim team at the St. Catharines Kiwanis Aquatics Centre in September 2012.

GCAC has seen tremendous success in its inaugural 2012-2013 season. The fall, winter and spring sessions have been sold out with 219 participants. A swimming competition (mini-meet) that was held December 23, 2012 was a huge success with over 60 swimmers participating and over 250 people watching. The new scoreboard and GCAC Meet Program software were successfully tested.

GCAC ran a very successful summer program in 2012 called the Garden City Piranhas (GCP). The program was sold out with 105 participants. GCP is a member of the NRSSL league which consists of swim teams from twelve other regional municipalities. GCP hosts two swimming competitions at the Port Pool that attracts hundreds of swimmers and parents giving St. Catharines exposure and visibility. GCP won the NRSSL League Championship in the summer of 2012.

GCAC provides a valuable service by teaching children ages 5 to 18 the four swimming strokes and prepares some of them for competitions. Currently the team composition is 65% recreational swimmers and 35% competitive swimmers. The club's sold out situation demonstrates a significant community demand. Community participation in the swim team increases utilization of the St. Catharines Kiwanis Aquatics Centre and Port Dalhousie pool.

Report

Proposed terms of new two year agreement

GCAC will continue to operate a Recreation Swim Team in which the swimmers are not affiliated with Swim Ontario to allow participants to compete within the NRSSL. If GCAC is unable to meet the community needs by operating this model in July and August the rental agreement will be considered to be null and void.

Pool rental will include common items such as kick boards and noodles. Specialty equipment such as fins and pull-buoys is to be provided by GCAC with the understanding that the facility has limited storage.

Floor space to sell swim related goods and concessions during swim competitions will be provided for any items that are not being sold within the St. Catharines Kiwanis Aquatics Centre on a daily basis, which includes, but is not limited to goggles, ear plugs, swim caps, nose clips, water shed chamois or quick dry towel, and swim bag. It is the

responsibility of GCAC to follow guidelines and receive written permission from the Niagara Regional Public Health Department and abide by any contracts the City has entered into.

GCAC cannot operate or develop any programming that competes with any City of St. Catharines operated program. Current examples include but are not limited to, Masters, Tri Kids, Forever Fit, Aquatic Endurance and Stroke Improvement.

GCAC will utilize the aquatic facilities only under the rental contract. The conducting of personal business within the facility during public programs such as leisure swims and lengths will be prohibited.

Children participating in GCAC's program must be able to swim one length of the pool in a recognized front crawl without feet touching the bottom at any time.

GCAC will abide by all rules and sanctions as required by Swim Ontario.

The CGAC will be charged the affiliate rate, as approved in the 2013 rates and fees.

This agreement is contingent on the continuation of a mutual positive working relationship between the GCAC, Swim Ontario and the City. To ensure this operational model meets the community's needs it will be evaluated in June 2015.

Pool allocation

Using the same format as the approved Ice Allocation Policy, the City maintains the priority to schedule or book the pools. Priority will be given to those programs being offered by the City of St. Catharines. These programs are being offered to ensure that opportunities exist for all residents to utilize the public facility. The same pool allocation that existed in 2012/2013 for GCAC may not be possible to replicate for the new term, as it will be dependent on availability as a result of user demand.

Financial Implications

Rental of the St. Catharines Kiwanis Aquatics Centre and Port Dalhousie Pools to the GCAC has provided the City with a consistent source of revenue. The GCAC rental is subsidized as compared to other user groups that may have booked these times. GCAC has generated \$16,000 in rental revenue for the City via the booking of Port Dalhousie Pool and the St. Catharines Kiwanis Aquatics Centre from July 2012 – March 2013. The rental rates being charged are the rates identified and approved in the 2013 rates and fees.

Conclusion

The approval of the Garden City Aquatic Club to continue to operate a Swim Ontario swim team out of the St. Catharines Kiwanis Aquatics Centre from September through June; and a summer league out of an outdoor pool in which recreational swimmers are not affiliated with Swim Ontario will ensure continued participation and maximize swim opportunities for the community.

Notification

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