

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO
DISTRICT 69 RECREATION COMMISSION
ADDENDUM

Thursday, May 17, 2018

2:00 P.M.

Oceanside Place

This meeting will be recorded

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Delegation: Tom Manson , Ravensong Masters Swim Club, re: Ravensong Pool Facilities Expansion

Summary:

Ravensong Masters Swim Club is a long-standing user group at Ravensong Pool. Members range in age from late teens to over 80.

Our members, and potential members, state that the existing limited pool times and late day pool times are inhibiting participation in our club. Increased pool space that would allow the club to rent the pool at earlier hours would result in more people deriving the benefits of Masters swimming.

We are aware of a significant number of ex-members and potential members who swim during public swimming hours rather than our late weeknight sessions available to Masters. With more pool space and better rental times, the club could attract these people as members.

We believe that merely expanding the current pool by a few lanes would not result in any significant opportunities to expand and improve our club.

An extended closure of the pool for renovations would be detrimental to the club and members in both short and long terms. During the last extended closure for repairs, some members commuted to Nanaimo to keep swimming. Many members did not return to the club after that closure.

Many of our members use our club workouts as training for BC 55+ games, triathlons, open swims, etc. An extended closure would force them to commute to another pool at significant expense and time expenditure, or give up their swimming goals.

We should be encouraging and making available swimming for as many residents as possible. The health and well ness benefits are a great payoff for the investment.

Action Requested:

Request that:

- expansion plans address the need for an additional pool for lane swimming and other uses, with associated change room expansion;
- planning include consultation with user groups;
- proposals that involve increasing the size of the existing pool not be acted on.

To: Harvey, Ann-Marie
Subject: FW: Aquafit Cancellations
Date: Monday, May 14, 2018 3:19:59 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: Ann Jessey [<mailto:ajessey>]
Sent: Friday, May 11, 2018 2:45 PM
To: corpsrv
Subject: Aquafit Cancellations

We were told this morning that our 10 a.m. aquafit class at Ravensong Pool is one of several aquafit classes to be cancelled effective next Monday because there's no instructor available! This is a totally unacceptable situation given that this is the only pool for miles around and so many people (especially seniors) depend on it in order to maintain their health & mobility. Many aquafit participants suffer from degenerative/chronic diseases like MS, Parkinson's or just plain old arthritis and this form of exercise is often the only thing that keeps them out of the clinics, hospitals and physio departments.

There's no way the 40+ participants in our class can join the 40+ participants in the 9 a.m. class because there just isn't enough room in the pool (but that's what we're being told to do on Monday so we'll see how that works out!) Those 40+ admissions per class add up to some \$240 for that one hour alone so the RDN could finish up losing that revenue every hour these classes are cancelled if people opt to stay away. I can guarantee there are qualified fitness instructors in QB and Parksville who could teach these classes (since they're taught from the pool deck and involve the same exercises as those done on land) and I've been told that this has happened at least once in the past.

The pool and dressing-rooms at Ravensong are already overcrowded and now we're facing a reduction of service in addition to the ongoing threat of closure for "expansion & renovation" (which is very frightening to those of us who depend on it and have no alternatives). No self-respecting prairie town with the population of Parksville would be without a swimming pool and it's high time there was second pool to serve this area (with a waterslide/wave pool) especially since it touts itself as a "vacation destination". It's happy to take the taxes of the many retirees it attracts but they quickly find out their swimming options are severely limited by the seasons, by the fact the tide is a long way out half the day and by the ocean/beaches being inaccessible if they suffer from mobility issues! I'm in pretty good shape for my age but prior to my knee replacement surgeries, I was unable to walk across the rocks to get to the water without suffering extreme pain and it's only because of the pool that I was able to keep my knees working for as long as I did and recover from my surgeries as well as I did.

Ann Jessey
Qualicum Beach

From: [Harvey, Ann-Marie](#)
To: [Harvey, Ann-Marie](#)
Subject: Ravensong Aquatic Centre critical staffing shortage
Date: Wednesday, May 16, 2018 8:59:08 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: Sandra Dye [[\]](#)
Sent: Friday, May 11, 2018 3:20 PM
To: corpsrv
Subject: District 69 Recreation Commission

Attn: Julian Fell Chairman

Re: Ravensong Aquatic Centre critical staffing shortage

I am part of the aging population of Parksville/Qualicum who participate in the Aqua Fit Classes at the Ravensong Pool.

We arrived to our class this morning only to be presented with an alternate schedule eliminating our classes for the foreseeable future "Due to Instructor Availability the following Aqua fit classes have been cancelled All the 10-11 AM Morning Moves as well as Some deep water and evening Aqua fit(see brochure from the Ravensong pool for complete details.)

This is not acceptable.

At the present time our class (the 10 to 11Am) has a very full complement of participants - as does the early 9 to 10AM both shallow and deep water programs.

It will be totally impossible to join these three classes into one. it will not only be unmanageable, but will break the law governing the number of participants in one facility at any given time.. This should be a very serious concern to you...

I have in my possession, a report from Dr Michael Pariser from the Nanaimo Pain Clinic stating "I have advised Sandra to continue with her deep water aqua fit and I feel that this helps to maintain her range of motion and certainly is one of the reasons she continues to do well"

Mr Fell, the Aqua fit classes are not a game to most of us, it is part of our survival as functioning members of society.

No other form of exercise is as beneficial to Seniors facing hip and knee replacement surgeries. The buoyancy of the water is vital, most of us are unable to participate in land based exercise programs We need these classes.

I don't know what needs to be done to ratify this situation perhaps better pay, improved working conditions. Whatever it takes.

It is not up to me That is your job.

The participants of the Aqua Fit classes represent a very substantial income source to the RDN. Our needs are certainly being not only ignored , we are being short changed as well.

Please do the right thing and properly address this situation. Put things right.
This situation has been on the horizon for far, far too long.

Sincerely
Sandra Dye

To: Harvey, Ann-Marie
Subject: FW: letter tocorpsrv@rdn.bc.ca Subject line District 69 Recreation Commission
Date: Monday, May 14, 2018 3:15:22 PM

From: d clift [<mailto:daclift>]
Sent: Friday, May 11, 2018 4:10 PM
To: corpsrv
Subject: Fwd: letter tocorpsrv@rdn.bc.ca Subject line District 69 Recreation Commission

ATTN. JULIAN FELL CHAIRMAN.

This letter that was sent for your attention from Sandra Dye echoes the feelings of all the Ladies and Gentlemen who regularly attend the Aquafit Classes.

I personally attend all three 10am classes every week. We as senior citizens rely on the pool to help keep us fit and healthy.

I feel that it is our right to be able to access the pool regularly without excessive overcrowding.

The Ravensong changing rooms are overcrowded already, and will be impossible with 3 classes in one

Please do your best for us, we rely on you to Speak Up on our behalf.

**Sincerely
Daphne Clift**

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From: Maureen Fowles <fowlesroost>

Subject: Ravensong

Date: May 11, 2018 at 8:40:48 PM PDT

To: Bill Veenhof <Bill.Veenhof>

Hi Bill,

My husband Doug & I built on Mackenzie Road in 2004. I have attended Aquafit classes @ Ravensong 3 times a week since then. It has been evident over the years that the facility is seriously understaffed and overused. These problems came to a predictable head in late 2017 & early 2018. The women's change room has been ridiculously overcrowded. Just finding a locker to keep one's belongings secure is a challenge some days. Instruction offered in Aquafit classes has always been excellent, but the personnel providing same are clearly being challenged to meet expectations. There are BIG problems. Those of us who have supported the facility and in turn relied on the programs to keep us well are VERY ANGRY!! As of today, our options to strive for wellness by doing Aquafit have been severely reduced.

Classes have been cancelled across the board putting even more pressure on an over taxed facility to accommodate unmanageable demand for service. Something has to be done.

For my part, I have written many letters over the years describing staffing deficiencies.

Today's situation has been entirely predictable. The expenditure of energy & enthusiasm required of so few instructors is not reasonable. At one time, there were back-up instructors to provide relief for vacations or illness among regular staff. This has not been the case for some time.

We are all aware that increased physical activity is one of the most beneficial things that we can do for ourselves and for society as a whole. Those of us who are capable of and can afford the cost of driving, could go to Nanaimo or Courtenay, but should we have to do this when a potentially adequate facility is so much closer? Many of us have spent thousands of dollars in pool fees over the years to keep ourselves fit and support our local facility. We are feeling seriously disenfranchised at the moment.

I would be very happy to sit down with you and provide you with a grass roots perspective on the implications of Ravensong over subscription and under staffing. Please be in touch with me to explore ways to facilitate the community's access to vital programming that our tax dollars should make available to us all.

Sincerely

Maureen Fowles

483 Mackenzie Road

The Fowles'Roost Five