



MEETING SUMMARY

AWG March 1, 2012

Over 30 people participated in the March 1st, 2012 AWG meeting at the Metro Central YMCA. This summary was written by Kate Green, part of the SWERHUN facilitation team, and is intended to reflect the key points raised at the meeting. If you have any questions about the AWG, please contact Karen Pitre or Nicole Swerhun (see contact information in the margin).

1. Overview of Presentations

The following presentations were delivered:

- **David Crombie, Chair, AWG** - Briefing and update on the process followed by the AWG with highlights of progress to date
 - **Jim Hart and Janie Romoff, City of Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation** - Update on the 2011 City Budget and the path ahead
 - **Karen Pitre, Chair, Toronto Sports Council** - Proposed work plan for the AWG from now until September
 - **Paula Fletcher, City Councillor** - Briefing on success of Franklin Pool
- PowerPoint presentations from this meeting can be found online at http://torontosportscouncil.ca/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=35&Itemid=23

2. Discussion

During a full room facilitated discussion, participants were asked to provide some feedback on the following three questions.

1. Do you have any feedback on the proposed approach and/or work plan for 2012? If so, what suggestions do you have on how it could be improved?
 2. Do you have enough direction to get the information needed by early May? Is there any additional support that would help you collect this information?
 3. What are alternative revenue options we should be exploring?
- Key messages from this discussion are summarized below.

3. Key Messages

a. Connecting the City and the AWG

- The City budget has allocated reserve funds to keep all pools open for one year, but a long-term solution is still needed
- The City of Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation staff are interested in working with the AWG to share information and develop a long-term solution, highlighting the importance of getting good information from community members, pool staff, and pool captains

b. Local level planning is extremely important

- Community members and pool staff are the best resource for collecting information about individual pools including who uses the pool and when, as well as identifying maintenance and permitting issues
- People working with local pools should also collect and share information about what makes their pool successful
- Sharing local success stories will help to build a framework of what works and things other pools could try to increase permit revenues

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Karen Pitre
chair@torontosportscouncil.ca
(416) 729-2186

Nicole Swerhun
nswerhun@swerhun.com
(416) 572-4365

Linda Pietrangelo
Swim Toronto
Community Coordinator
LPietrangelo.TLC@tdsb.on.ca
(416) 894-1880

- Pools can capitalize on their unique attributes. For example, one small pool with fewer windows (more privacy) has been very successful for a women's only swim program
- Involve City Councilors and Trustees in local pool issues and invite them to attend local meetings to keep pool issues on their radar

c. Streamline the permitting process

- The process of getting a permit for pool use is still highly confused
- The City and the TDSB need to streamline the permitting process by creating a "one stop shop" for people who want to book pool time
- Local level planning can also help to streamline the permit process by identifying scheduling barriers. For example, during a small community meeting at the Franklin pool, pool users suggested combining a one hour family swim on Saturdays with the one hour family swim on Sundays, to make one two-hour swim on Sundays. This gave families more time to get to the pool and swim and also freed up the pool for the day on Saturdays to be used by other permit holders.

d. Alternative revenue options

- The City should explore sponsorship opportunities for pools
- The cost of pools to the city should not be directly transferred to pool users through user fees. It should be supplemented by the City because pools have a broad community benefit
- The Toronto Sport Council has a list of sport and recreation organizations that provide grant money for aquatic programs but it is incumbent on the sport group to apply for these grants

e. Impact of Pan Am Games on pool permits

- There will be more competitive size pools opening in the GTA for the Pan/Parapan Am Games
- The Ontario Summer Games, Pan Am Games and summer Olympics will create more enthusiasm for swimming and likely have an effect on swimming program registration in the fall

4. Next Steps

- There will be a joint recommendation from the City and the AWG by the fall of 2012, with AWG meetings in May, June, and September
- Franklin Pool Template will be used as the sample to collect information. As soon as this is developed, we will forward to the pool captains and aquatic staff.
- Pool captains to be connected with aquatic supervisors
- AWG will be meeting again in May to review data and draft a coordination plan
- The City of Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation division has been directed by City Council to use the consultation information from meeting with the AWG to develop an aquatics plan and request TLC to conduct an audit of TDSB pools the city uses

