



AQUATIC WORKING GROUP (AWG)

Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Metro Central YMCA, 20 Grosvenor St.

12:00-1:30 pm

MEETING SUMMARY

This summary was written by Alex McDonough, part of the meeting facilitation team. Questions, comments should be directed to either Nicole Swerhun, Facilitator, (Nicole@swerhun.com or 416-999-2665) or Karen Pitre (kpitre@thelonsdalegroup.ca or 416-691-7438).

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS & AGENDA REVIEW. Nicole Swerhun, Facilitator, welcomed participants to the meeting and introduced the purpose of today's meeting as a conversation about local governance issues and local management structure. She reviewed the agenda and asked participants to introduce themselves.

2. UPDATES TO AWG (Karen Pitre)

a. Construction Schedule

- The TDSB is keeping Karen updated on the construction schedule. As of now things are moving along and the schedule is intact.
- The Province has agreed to extend the deadline for completion of all capital repairs so they can be completed during the summer of 2011, which will mean minimal construction during the school year.
- Three pools have been metered (Riverdale, Leacock, Northern). Costs directly related to pools will be tracked, but this is very difficult. The metering is still a work in progress.

b. Signage

- New pool signage is included as part of the capital repairs. They include TDSB information and the name, website and phone number of permit holder(s) at each pool. Signs are going/will go up at the same time as construction happens.

ACTION: If Karen does not have your group's contact information please give it to her.

c. Permitting

- Paulette was on holidays for a month and Val is retiring. A new staff person has been hired. This creates an opportunity to train the new person on how to best meet the needs of permit holders.
- We need to identify all issues related to permits so that we can develop coherent strategy to address them.

d. Summer Caretaking Hours

- Karen will try to learn more about issues related to caretaking costs and explore ways to address it. This is a good topic to incorporate into the governance discussion.

ACTION: If caretaking costs become an issue in the summer, please let Karen know.

3. WORKING SESSION

David emphasized that the first principle of organizing good governance is that form follows function. Therefore, we need a structure to solve problems. This must be a community-based conversation. Nicole and Karen explained the emerging, transitional two-tiered governance model brainstormed by the TLC Governance Committee. Participants discussed the local governance issues in small groups for 15 minutes, then reported back to the group. The following is a list of issues discussed as well as governance structures and players suggested to solve the issues.

Issues

- What happens when 2 groups request permits to use the pool at the same time (one large; one small) – need a way to resolve the issue (we need a Karen-like person to help parents, permit holders and principals)
- Pools must be advertised; awareness of neighbourhood asset must be increased
- Need a mechanism to make decisions about water temperatures
- Pool and pool area maintenance – need a way to solve problems when the showers aren't working, lights are off, pool and change rooms are not clean
- High caretaking fees outside school hours
- Safety-Who's responsible? Need someone internal to be responsible for checking into certifications and ensuring roles followed (e.g. ratios of swimmers and staff)

Structure

- At each school pool there needs to be a “go to” body/centralizing hub for pools-related maintenance, programming, and other management issues. This body (and/or people who participate on it) would help do things like: make decisions about pool temperatures, notify permit holders of pool closures, resolve permit conflicts, ensure protocols are in place to ensure pool use regulations are followed, etc.
- The local governance structure needs to be flexible enough to respond to the unique needs/circumstances of the local community. For example, at the Jarvis pool a local, existing non-profit community group (Community Matters) takes a leadership role at the pool. They get the community together to discuss the issues (caretaker, parents, principal, etc.). At other schools this is done by the School Council. The system needs to recognize that different schools have different capacities, and be able to accommodate and support these (and other) options.
- When implementing a new governance model, try to have a “trial-run” to test how the model responds to a complex issue. Run it through the governance model to see how it is resolved.

People to involve

- Full-time facilitator with knowledge of pools
- Pool Captain (could report to School Council or sit on Parent Council)
- Caretakers or Head Caretaker
- Head of Permit Department
- Swim Companies
- Principal (needs more education about pools from TDSB)
- School Council (could oversee school team; Pool Captain could report to it; could advise Principal)
- Individual representatives for pools (now it is Principals)
- TDSB (should educate Principals on community value of pools and how they're part of their administration)

Other suggestions to incorporate

- Must have a website that provides all information in one spot - there should be a database that allows users to search according to their needs rather than only by school name
- Seek funding assistance from CUPE
- Need a roadmap and master schedule

4. WRAP UP & NEXT STEPS

Karen and Nicole will distill the issues and suggestions discussed into a draft governance/management approach at the local level (to supplement the system-wide governance model being developed by the Governance Sub-Committee. The AWG will meet again to discuss the draft emerging governance model. We will also send out a summary of today's meeting.

*See www.torontolandscorp.ca or www.torontosportscouncil.ca for more information.