

**Notes of the Aquatic Working Group Meeting
Thursday, October 30, 2008, Noon
YMCA Downtown Location**

In attendance: D. Crombie (Chair)
See Appendix A for meeting participants
Others: H. Kirshenbaum (Superior Pools), K. Pitre (TLC Consultant), M. Riley (TLC Staff), N. Swerhun (Facilitator)

1. Update

TDSB AND TLC websites

- K. Pitre reported that the TDSB website now provides a link to the TLC website.
- The TDSB website and the TLC website also provide direct access to an on-line system for users interested in booking pool time in the 23 decommissioned TDSB pools.
- At this time, all 'pool-related' information for the Aquatic Working Group is uploaded to the Toronto Sports Council website. Please go to www.torontosportscouncil.com for up-to-date information.

Pools Open

- In accordance with the direction provided by Chair David Crombie, Toronto Lands Corporation, TDSB aquatic instructors were called back to begin their work in the 23 pools during the week of October 14, 2008.
- We have since learned that all staff was unable to return to work during that week. Some staff have moved on and found other permanent work, leading to the TDSB needing to hire for these vacancies.
- As of today's date, it appears some school pools continue to be non-operational because of this staffing challenge.
- K. Pitre will follow up with P. Mustin, Associate Director at the TDSB, to clarify the status of staffing in these 23 school pools.

2. Individual Pools

Feedback on template

- The final copy of the 'pool template' form is now posted to the Toronto Sports Council site. Although some additional edits may be required, the general information required is identified and some pool captains have already completed the information and returned it to the Toronto Lands Corporation.

- It was noted that best efforts are still required to identify operating costs in association with utility costs for the pools.
- Utility costs will be further analyzed by Superior Pools based on the size of the pool, required temperature of the water, and number of bathers in the pool, per day, on average. This formula vs. existing costs will allow us to identify variances that must be clarified.
- We will continue to provide support to pool captains were possible and await as much information gathering per pool as is possible

Pool Captains - Requirements

We continue to seek pool captains for the following pools:

Central Commerce
 Central Tech
 Downsview
 Forest Hill
 George Harvey – Colin (Laura to check if Colin covering George Harvey)
 Jarvis
 Keele – Laura Pereverzoff-Ong,
 Kensington
 Parkdale
 Queen Alexandra – Janet Dalmers
 Rosedale Heights – Andrea Demchuk
 Satec@Porter – Chris Smelt
 Winona

Clarification re Pool Template

Square footage calculations:

- When measuring the size of the pool, we are measuring tank area only
- Pool Captains can measure in Metric or Imperial – we will then standardize all to metric.

Pool Use

- In question 8, is the pool being used for recreational and/or competitive programs? – this question is referring to the usage in the pool by the community (not the school).

Pool Usage

- Are pool captains responsible for reporting pool use during school hours? In some cases, school principals are inserting pool usage information during school hours into the Pools Template through the TLC. This will be very beneficial where possible – so that all information is pulled together for our review.

Suggested improvements/edits to the pool template

We need more detail on accessibility. Specifically consider asking if the pool is wheelchair accessible? Is there a lift? Is there an in-pool ramp?

- In question 9, be more specific by asking people to identify if diving is off the end wall, from a diving board or from diving blocks (or for one or more, please specify)

Andrea Demchuk volunteered to provide support in relation to post-survey follow-up, in order to standardize the information collation and summation.

3. Pool Audits

David Wells of the Altus group continues to audit 20 pool sites. Reports completed thus far by the Altus group will be posted to the Toronto Sports Council website. It should be noted that D. Wells is gathering information pertaining to requirements to bring the pools to a state of good repair. We will continue to inform Pool Captains as to when their pool audit is scheduled by David. Should pool captains be in attendance when D. Wells arrives at the pool, please allow D. Wells to move through his audit quickly and expeditiously.

Leslie Carter indicated her intent to share information with K. Pitre in relation to the University of Toronto and the various analysis/audits conducted on its pools. This will provide a good benchmark to view vis-à-vis some of the 23 TDSB pools.

4. Sub-Committee Discussions

Program / Financing / Governance / Communications

D. Crombie noted that earlier discussions of the AWG resulted in four proposed sub-committees to research and provide expertise to better position the recommendations around the pools.

In the area of *Communications*, we must tell the story of the pools, their significance to the community, etc.

In the area of *Finance*, we must identify future financing and efficiencies and effectiveness around pool operations. Can we access support for capital repairs through philanthropic sources?

In the area of *Governance*, we will need to identify who will be in charge, for each of the pools, in the future. We will need to identify how their oversight will be administered? What opportunities and different models should we consider? Karen Pitre will provide examples of existing lease agreements that have been developed between Boards and private clubs/organizations to support work in this regard.

In the area of *Program*, what are the best programs to offer? What programs will have the greatest impact, in the best way possible, on the most number of students and community members?

Barb Byers of the Royal Lifesaving Society (RLS) provided an overview of a program that is provided by the RLS. It has been fully implemented by the Toronto Catholic School Board and has been partially implemented by the Toronto District School Board.

- Swim to Survive program – was developed in 2005 and has standardized key skills in regard to saving a life. Three skills are taught over 3 lessons in 3 hours.
- One-third of total funding is provided by the Ministry of Education. Two-thirds of the full funding comes from grants that have been provided since Fall 2006. The full cost is \$15/student for the 3 hour program.
- In the first two years, 1005 students have successfully completed the program. It is anticipated another 30 – 40,000 students will move through the program this year (2008-2009).
- This program requires School Boards and Cities to work together to coordinate pool time for all students to learn.
- In Toronto, the program has been developed for Grade 4 students. At this time, 40% of Grade 4 students in the TDSB participate, while 100% of Grade 4 students in the TCDSB participate.
- Parents and teachers involved with the program have been very supportive and found the program very beneficial.

Following the above overview, participants broke into four work groups as noted above. The following reflects the thinking/planning produced by each of these four groups.

Communications

- Engage all swim groups in preparing communications and delivering key messages.
- Messages to focus on pools as a key asset to communities.
- Come up with a political action campaign – to seek support of City Councillors, community, etc.
- Utilize email and other technology where possible.
- Work to keep all stakeholders engaged as allies in communicating and working to achieve one common goal.

Finance

- Presented by Leslie Carter leslie_carter@rogers.com
- It was noted that no matter what funding source we find for pools, pool usage will never generate a lot of dollars.
- Consider going to a series of stakeholders to collectively contribute to the cost of pools (ie Ministry of Health Promotion, fitness and sports clubs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Infrastructure, PanAm bid organizing committee, etc.).
- Corporate sponsors should be sought and welcomed – preferably those with products that are good and healthy for children and youth.
- Consider treating pools like a membership club of sorts.
- Seek user fees for specific programs.

- Consider a TDSB tax levy through the City of Toronto to give long term support to school pools.
- Consider lotteries to raise money for school pools.

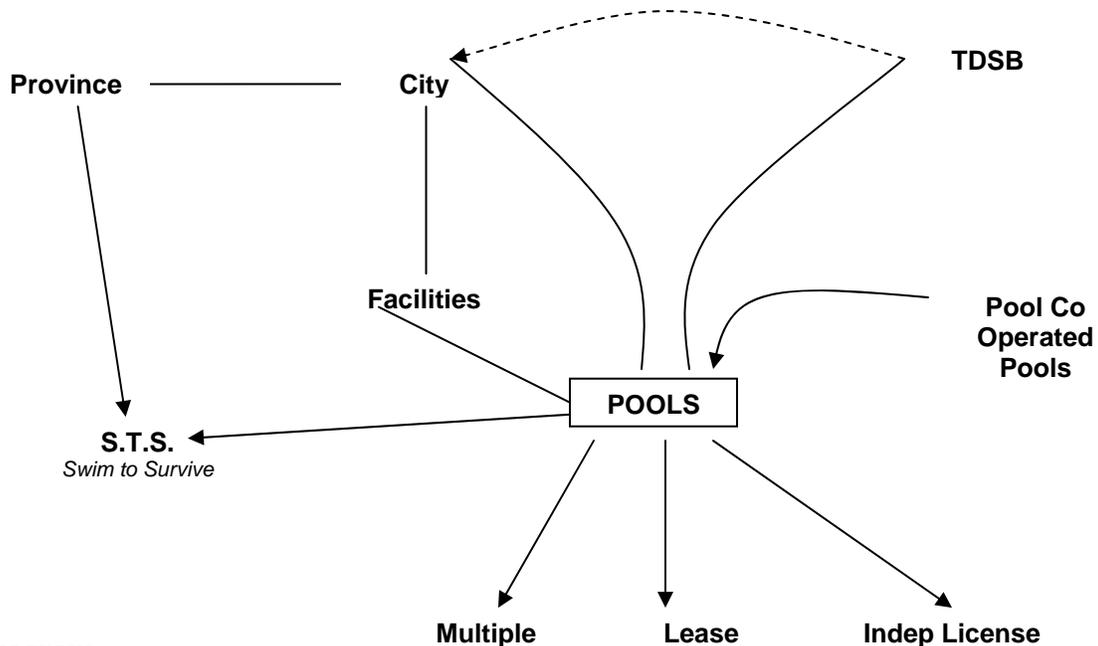
Governance

- Presented by Linda Phillips-Smith LSmith@sbglegal.com and Chris Smelt csmelt@gmail.com
- We must ensure that access is fair to all.
- Consider having the City take over responsibility for all school properties, fields, pools, etc.
- City would be responsible for all physical plant for all TDSB schools.
- This approach would provide for community assets to be overseen by City and available to all.
- It would take several years to transition to such a model – therefore, would require some bridge financing to guarantee deficits around operating costs.
- City might consider setting up a Pool Co. to preserve integrity around this resource.
- TDSB would still have access to pools as a stakeholder but would fund program costs only for the hours specific to the school day

Key Challenges

- staff contracts
- who has “say” over individual school pool
- liability/insurance
- 24/7 costs for schools, but they shut down at 4:30 pm

Proposed Model



Program

- presented by chris.prendergost@sympatico.ca

Challenges

- under-utilization and over-utilization of pools – no balance
- usage of pools not necessarily appropriate usage to pool type
- in certain areas of the City, pools are fully in use by the school during school hours, therefore new programs cannot be introduced
- TDSB does not have one key contact for pools
- Program specific needs (query the specific program groups)
- Not all programs are represented in the survey (ie. Scuba, synchro, etc.)

Options

- Consider central management for permitting/availability of pools/program suitability
- introduce survival swim program in school curriculum

Action Items

- survey to program associations to determine needs
- map program suitability to facility

5. Next Steps

The next meeting of the Aquatic Working Group is scheduled for Thursday, November 20, 2008, from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.

Subsequent to this meeting, the above meeting was postponed and has been rescheduled to:

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

Noon to 2:00 pm

Location to be determined

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.

Aquatics Working Group: Sub-Committees

14 Oct 2008

Program <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Jeff Carmichael2. Janet Dabrus3. Chris Prendergost4. Debbie Gobson5. Gail Gould6. Rob McCombe7. Laura Pereverzoff-Ong8. Laura Pratt9. Sarah Rier10. Nick Rowe11. Cori Skuffham12. Perry Smith13. Jane Wright	Communications <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Nancy Campbell2. Derby Crewe3. Debbie Gordon4. Dr. Livia Hunter5. Lynn Simerson
Financing <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Andrea Demchuk2. Robert Earp3. Julian Heller4. Gail Jacobs5. Sarah Rier6. Annette Wilde	Governance <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Nancy Campbell2. Andrea Demchuk3. Robert Earp4. Dr. Livia Hunter5. Gail Jacobs6. Chris Smelt7. Annette Wilde8. Linda Phillips-Smith

AWG Attendees
Sept. 25th/Oct 31st Meetings

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AWG Attendees
Sept. 25th/Oct 31st Meetings

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