

Mount Pleasant Pool Committee
Mount Pleasant Community Centre Association
1 Kingsway Vancouver BC V5T 3H7

16 March 2016

Vancouver Park Board Commissioners
% Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
2099 Beach Avenue Vancouver BC V6G 1Z4

RE: Replace Mount Pleasant Pool

Attention Park Board Commissioners;

This Park Board named outdoor swimming pools as a priority for their term both before and after they were elected.¹ As representatives of the Mount Pleasant Community Centre Association, we are concerned that the upcoming aquatic study will be a distraction from the resolution to replace Mount Pleasant Pool per the Mount Pleasant Park master plan. This distraction and delay could result in *no* outdoor swimming pools being built in this Park Board term. In addition, as past and future pool users, we have some concerns about the type of pool to be built in our community.

We strongly support the upcoming pool study, which will help determine types and locations of outdoor pools built in Vancouver in the future, but we believe that it should not delay the construction of Mount Pleasant Pool now. A replacement pool in Mount Pleasant has been promised, space has been allocated in the Master Plan for the park (Attachment 1), and fundraising is underway. Already, without an official fundraising campaign, the Mount Pleasant community has raised \$101K. It's now time to explore provincial and federal funding opportunities, especially since a pool at Mount Pleasant can be "shovel ready" in a short space of time.

Vancouver has lost four outdoor swimming pools since 1993 (Attachment 2), and too much time has already passed without a plan to replace them. We have already deprived a generation of children the experience of a community outdoor pool.

With a modern pump and heating system², solar panels, solar panel/heat pump systems, and outdoor showers, a traditional rectangular outdoor swimming pool can be environmentally sustainable as well as cost effective. Other municipal pools in BC are already using this efficient technology. Using this *currently available* green technology for a pool at Mount Pleasant Park would prevent even more lost swimming years for so many of Vancouver's children and families. (Attachment 3)

¹ YouTube link to Coupar's inaugural Park Board speech, December 1, 2014. See minute 5:00 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bEijWV29c84>

² Hudson's Hope Community Pool <http://www.northerndevelopment.bc.ca/explore-our-region/success-stories/hudsons-hope-makes-use-of-summer-sun-with-solar-heated-pool/>
Ashcroft Pool, Village of Ashcroft <http://www.northerndevelopment.bc.ca/explore-our-region/success-stories/village-of-ashcroft-goes-solar-and-turns-up-the-heat/>
Armstrong Pool, Armstrong BC 2009 budget \$2.1 million with solar panels
Southarm Pool, Richmond BC, Lytton Public Pool, Lytton BC, Cache Creek Pool Cache Creek BC: <http://www.powerstripsolar.com/municipal.html>
Courtenay BC <http://www.comoxvalleyrecord.com/news/122904788.html> <http://www.courtenay.ca/EN/meta/news/news-archives/2015-archives/courtenay-outdoor-pool-now-open.html>

Park Board has raised the idea of building a bio pool in Vancouver. Our overall opinion is that a bio pool could be a possible addition to the outdoor pool inventory in Vancouver, but would not in itself be a replacement facility for the four lost outdoor swimming pools and the needs they served (Attachment 4). At an estimated cost differential of approximately \$4 million³, the Mount Pleasant Community Centre Association Pool Committee, with the support of the Vancouver Society for Promotion of Outdoor Pools, strongly favour the replacement of a traditional style outdoor swimming pool as a priority for this Park Board term that should not be delayed any further.

At least one outdoor pool is needed immediately. This could be built while Park Board ponders all the other options and reviews the outcome of the aquatic study. Mount Pleasant Pool can and should be built now. (Attachment 5)

Sincerely,

Mount Pleasant Community Centre Association Pool Committee

Attachment 1 - Mount Pleasant Park Master Plan

Attachment 2 - Outdoor Pool Closures in Vancouver

Attachment 3 - Prominent catchment area of Mount Pleasant Pool users

Attachment 4 - Bio pool comments

Attachment 5 - Photos of community members asking for pool replacement now

Cc: Malcolm Bromley, General Manager, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

Cc: Vancouver Mayor and City Council

Cc: Vancouver Fraserview MLA Suzanne Anton

Cc: Vancouver Kensington MLA Mable Elmore

Cc: Vancouver Fairview MLA George Heyman

Cc: Vancouver Mount Pleasant MLA Melanie Mark

Cc: Vancouver Hastings MLA Shane Simpson

Cc: Vancouver Langara MLA Moira Stilwell

Cc: Vancouver False Creek MLA Sam Sullivan

Cc: Vancouver Kingsway MP Don Davies

Cc: Vancouver Centre MP Hedy Fry

Cc: Vancouver East MP Jenny Kwan

Cc: Vancouver Granville MP Jody Wilson-Reybould

Cc: Mount Pleasant Community Centre Association

Cc: Vancouver Society for Promotion of Outdoor Pools

³ A bio pool large enough to swim in \$7 million USD/\$9.5 million CAD vs. \$4.5 million CAD for conventional pool

http://former.vancouver.ca/parks/board/2014/140929/minutes_pb20140929.pdf

Excerpt from Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Parks and Recreation Planning & Environment Committee Meeting Held at the Vancouver Park Board Office on Thursday, June 2nd, 2011

'A member of the Committee asked if the consultants (HCMA) can provide feedback on the cost of a basic pool. The consultants answered that the new pool in New Westminster cost \$5 million, where \$3.5 million is actual cost of construction. An outdoor pool in Abbotsford was \$1.2 million, though it was much more basic and had no change rooms; if you add soft costs to the project the cost increases to nearly \$2 million.'