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To: City Manager

From: General Manager Civic Lands and Facilities
General Manager Parks, Recreation and Culture Services

Subject: **Spani Outdoor Pool Renewal**

For: **Council-in-Committee**

Recommendation:

That the Committee receive the report of the General Manager Civic Lands and Facilities and the General Manager Parks, Recreation and Culture Services dated May 14, 2020 and entitled “Spani Outdoor Pool Renewal” for information.

Report Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to describe the purpose and scope of a study to renew and enhance the existing Spani Outdoor Pool located in Mundy Park consistent with the Aquatic Services and Infrastructure Strategy.

Strategic Goal:

The Spani Outdoor Pool Renewal Study is included in the City’s 2020 Business Plan as a “C” Priority within the “Healthy Community and Active Citizens” category.

Background:

The Spani Outdoor Pool is located in Mundy Park in central Coquitlam and currently consists of a 25m pool with dive tank along with washrooms, change rooms and concession. The pool is entering its 50th year of service and the City has identified the renewal of the pool as a priority project in the Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan and the Aquatic Services and Infrastructure Strategy (2015-2040) (“ASIS”). The ASIS calls for the expansion of aquatic services and experience delivered at Spani Outdoor Pool by adding a leisure pool and enhanced spray deck to the existing facility, enhancing this location as a City-wide recreation destination (Attachment #1). This project also supports the implementation of the Youth and Senior’s strategies by planning for facility elements that encourage increased participation by these age cohorts.

Outdoor pools serve an important role in the community of Coquitlam. They enhance the range of aquatic facilities available in the City, increase opportunities for exercise and sport, provide additional learn-to-swim opportunities, and are popular summer destinations for respite from summer heat, relaxing and socializing. The facility also serves as critical infrastructure for summer swim clubs, and event hosting capacity. Spani Outdoor Pool is particularly well situated as a retreat from the summer heat, due to its location within Mundy Park and its forested back drop. A map showing the location of Spani Outdoor Pool in relation to the rest of Mundy Park is attached to this report as Attachment #2, and a more detailed map of the existing facility in relation to the park access, parking areas and immediate surroundings is shown in Attachment #3.

Discussion/Analysis:

The Spani Outdoor Pool Renewal Study, “the Study”, is intended to provide the City with a comprehensive report that allows the City to consider a range of options and, to allocate necessary capital funding to upgrade and expand aquatic services and experiences associated with the pool. The study will also provide the basis for grant application funding requests from other levels of government, should they become available.

The ASIS specifically identified Spani Outdoor Pool for upgrades and expansion in the 2021-2025 period, with a high-level estimated budget of \$15 million; noting that this was not based on any detailed planning, rather it was presented only for very long term financial facility planning. A detailed budget will be developed once the design process is concluded. The most recent VFA Assessment identified that many of the assets of the pool require upgrading. The most significant upgrades are renewals of the swimming tank, pedestrian paving and concrete finishing.

The Strategy outlines the varied role of Coquitlam’s aquatic facilities and recommended the Spani Outdoor Pool be renovated to become a City/Regional level outdoor pool, to offset pressures on other aging facilities. The Strategy also outlines that Spani Outdoor Pool include a leisure pool component and enhanced spray deck to increase attendance at the facility by providing a broader range of amenities and programming.

The Study will be led by an architecture firm with experience in the planning and design of outdoor aquatic facilities. The consultant’s multi-disciplinary

team will include a Landscape Architect and Qualified Environmental Professional to inform site planning, including protection of the adjacent Mundy Park Urban Forest. Engineering consultants will also be required to identify servicing requirements for upgraded facilities and options for improving traffic flow and parking, including cyclists. A Cost Consultant will be on the team to develop a Class D cost estimate for the study.

The renewal of Spani Outdoor Pool provides an excellent opportunity to improve accessibility and inclusivity at the facility. Improving the City's facilities for accessibility and inclusivity has been identified as a high priority in the Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan along with other important City strategies. An Access and Inclusion Designer is a required consultant team member.

Finally, the consultant team will also require an Engagement Specialist to plan and facilitate stakeholder meetings, public survey(s) and other engagement activities. This specialist is particularly important during the COVID-19 response; as new mechanisms of engagement will be required to maintain physical distancing for the foreseeable future. The Engagement Specialist will work with the City's Marketing and Communications team to determine the appropriate level and optimal tools for engagement based on the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) Spectrum.

In addition to a comprehensive public engagement program for this project, Staff have identified the following existing stakeholder groups:

- Coquitlam Sharks Swim Club (Primary user group);
- Hyack Swim Club;
- Pacific Storm Water Polo Club;
- Coquitlam Lions Water Polo Club;
- BC Aquasonics Synchronized Swim Club;
- Tri-Cities Triathlon Club;
- Special Olympics;
- Friends of Mundy Forest Heritage Society; and
- BC Disc Sports Society.

In addition, the City will be consulting with the Fraser Health Authority and School District #43 to plan the pool upgrades. Staff will also reach out to Kwikwetlem First Nation to discuss engagement opportunities related to this project.

The renewal and expansion of the pool provides an opportunity to update heating and water treatment systems for improved energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reduction. In response to heightened awareness of public health, the study also provides an opportunity to identify best practices for water treatment and to implement those measures during upgrades to the facility.

The final report for the renewal study will include at least the following components:

- Background, precedent, trends in outdoor aquatics, and best practices research;
- Consideration of population growth, demographics, aquatic service needs;
- Access, traffic circulation (including pedestrian and cycling as well as vehicular) and parking study of the areas of Mundy Park in close proximity to Spani Outdoor Pool;
- Results of stakeholder consultation and public engagement;
- Site planning options and preferred location for the upgraded facility within Mundy Park;
- Recommendations to improve the facility for accessibility, inclusivity, gender equity, safety and sustainability;
- Consideration of complimentary adjacent supporting amenities and any upgrades needed (e.g. accessible paths, concession and picnic areas);
- Programs for the upgraded facility including swimming areas, leisure areas, washroom/change rooms and support facilities;
- Conceptual plan options and preferred concept with renderings for the facility upgrades; and
- Class D cost estimates.

The final report is scheduled to be complete and presented to Council in early 2021 for potential inclusion in the 2022 capital budget process. Interim updates will be provided to Council as the project progresses.

Financial Implications:

The Spani Outdoor Pool Renewal Study is estimated to cost \$100,000, funds for which are provided for in the 2020 Capital Plan.

Conclusion:

Spani Outdoor Pool is a popular destination for Coquitlam residents, and the City's Aquatic Services and Infrastructure Strategy identified enhancements that will further enhance its popularity and grow its place as Coquitlam's city/regional level outdoor pool, to reduce pressure on other aquatic facilities. The Spani Outdoor Pool Renewal Study will utilize a collaborative engagement process to lay the foundation for a fun, inclusive and sustainable public outdoor pool for the residents of Coquitlam. The Study will define the facility upgrades and the cost, so the City can allocate adequate resources as the project proceeds to design and development, and be well positioned to apply for future infrastructure grant opportunities.

Don Luymes

Donnie Rosa

Attachments:

1. Aquatic Services and Infrastructure Strategy – Excerpt
2. Spani Pool Site Map (CEDMS #3708208)
3. Spani Pool Existing Site Plan (CEDMS #3729310)

This report was prepared by Ted Uhrich, Project Manager Strategic and Capital Projects and reviewed by Scott Groves, Director, Strategic and Capital Projects, Tiina Mack, Manager of Recreation and Culture Facility Planning, Chris Siddaway, Acting Community Partnerships and Policy Manager, Jennifer Keefe, Manager of Recreation, Lanny Englund, Manager, Park Planning and Forestry, and Gorana Cabral, Financial Planning Manager.