

After-School Pool Use in TDSB Pools

Date:	March 31, 2014
To:	Community Development and Recreation Committee
From:	Acting General Manager: Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	P:\2014\Cluster A\PFR\CD28-041714-AFS#18240

SUMMARY

This report responds to City Council's direction from its meeting of July 16, 2013 to report back to the Community Development and Recreation Committee regarding the expanded use of school pools during the 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. "after-school" period by Parks, Forestry and Recreation.

The Agreement between the City of Toronto (The City) and the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) For Use of School Pools was approved by Council at its meeting of May 8 and 9, 2012. The Agreement outlines the designated hours of exclusive use by each party, as well as the financial commitments required from the City to access 33 TDSB pools for the purpose of delivering Parks, Forestry and Recreation (PFR) programs to the public. In 2013, the City's financial commitment under the terms of the agreement was \$5.96M. Although the Agreement does not include a formal process to request additional times should the pool be available, in 2013 the City was able to informally negotiate access to pools between 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in 26 of the 33 TDSB pools included in the Agreement.

Financial Impact

This report is for information purposes only and has no direct financial impact. There are no additional TDSB rental costs to the City for the use of pools between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Further, there would be no net financial impact as a result of running instructional programs during these times, as instructional programs are run on a cost recovery basis.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting on July 16, 2013, City Council approved the Recreation Service Plan's Implementation Plan with a recommendation to report back to the Community Development and Recreation Committee regarding the expanded use of school pools during the 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. "after-school" period by Parks, Forestry and Recreation. <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2013.CD22.1>

At its meeting of November 27, 28, and 29, 2012, City Council approved the Recreation Service Plan. <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2012.CD17.2>

At its meeting of May 8 and 9, 2012, City Council approved the Agreement Between the City of Toronto and the Toronto District School Board For Use of School Pools for the term of June 1, 2012 through June 30, 2017 and requested the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation to undertake discussions with the Toronto District School Board to facilitate access for City of Toronto programs before 6:00 p.m. by mutual agreement. <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2012.CD12.1>

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Parks, Forestry and Recreation operates aquatic programs in 33 Toronto District School Board (TDSB) pools. The Agreement between the City of Toronto and the Toronto District School Board for Use of School Pools (the Agreement) outlines the roles of both parties, identifies usage fees, and outlines access to pool time.

Under the Agreement, the City pays annual fees to the TDSB for use of these pools and is responsible for the operating costs of delivering aquatic programs to the public. Fees are based on annual operating costs (excluding capital costs) and fund the full operation of the 33 TDSB pools covered under the Agreement. The fees are static and invoiced quarterly. In 2013, as per the terms of the Agreement, the City paid \$5.96 million to the TDSB for pool use.

TDSB programming includes a variety of daytime learn-to-swim opportunities for students as well as intramural and special interest programs for students in the 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. period. As the City is investing funds to operate both daytime and evening usage, it is in the City's best interest to maximize community access to the pools when not in use by the TDSB for TDSB programs, and to ensure access is provided when community use is in demand and the pool is available. There is regular demand for after-school community lessons between 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. when the City does not have exclusive access to these pools.

As outlined in the Agreement, the TDSB has access for student use of the pools from 7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., September through to the end of June. The City has exclusive access to the pools during the following times:

Period	Days	Time
January 1 – June 30	Monday – Friday	6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
January 1 – June 30	Saturday and Sunday	8:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.
July 2 – August 31	Monday – Sunday	8:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.
September 2 – December 31	Monday – Friday	6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
September 2 – December 31	Saturday and Sunday	8:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Table 1 - City Access to TDSB Pools

The Agreement does not include a formal process for requesting additional time outside of these hours. The school Principal is the manager of the school facility under the Agreement and, as such, is responsible for ensuring the City has access to the pool facility. As the manager of the school, the Principal has the authority to approve any additional time requests outside of the City's exclusive use times.

COMMENTS

Early Access in 26 TDSB Pools

As both a financial and program partner, the City is committed to delivering quality aquatic programs at TDSB locations. Although not formally documented, PFR requests for additional time are generally received positively by the school Principal if the pool is not in use by the school on a consistent basis for the time period requested. Presently, the City has swimming lessons and aquatic programming that begins before the "exclusive use" start time of 6:00 p.m. in 26 of the 33 pools covered by the TDSB Agreement. These "early" programs are offered throughout the academic year. The most common start time for pools with early access is 5:00 p.m. and the program operates until a closing time before 10:00 pm. A list of TDSB school pool locations as well as those with early access is attached as Appendix A.

The City's primary use of school pools in the 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. period is for swimming lessons. There are no additional TDSB rental costs to the City for the use of pools between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Further, there would be no net financial impact as a result of running instructional programs during these times, as instructional programs are run on a cost recovery basis.

CONCLUSION

The City of Toronto and the Toronto District School Board are partners in the operation of 33 TDSB pools across the City. The City has exclusive use of the TDSB pools starting at 6:00 p.m. during the academic year, and in 2013 paid a fee of \$5.96M to access these pools. Although outside of the formal agreement, PFR has been able to successfully negotiate early access to 26 of the 33 pools covered under the Agreement and, as a result, offer additional programs to the public. Community interest suggests an increasing demand for earlier programming in these locations. Parks, Forestry and Recreation will continue to work directly with the TDSB to gain access where possible between 4:00

p.m. and 6:00 p.m. As instructional programs during these times are offered on cost recovery basis, additional instructional programming could be offered with no net financial impact. Parks, Forestry and Recreation will also consider negotiating a formal mechanism to allocate additional use during this time period when the Agreement is open for renewal in 2017.

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SIGNATURE

Richard Ubbens,
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ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A – TDSB School Pool Locations