



VANSPLASH ADVISORY GROUP

Process and Report

Park Board Special Meeting
July 30, 2019



Purpose

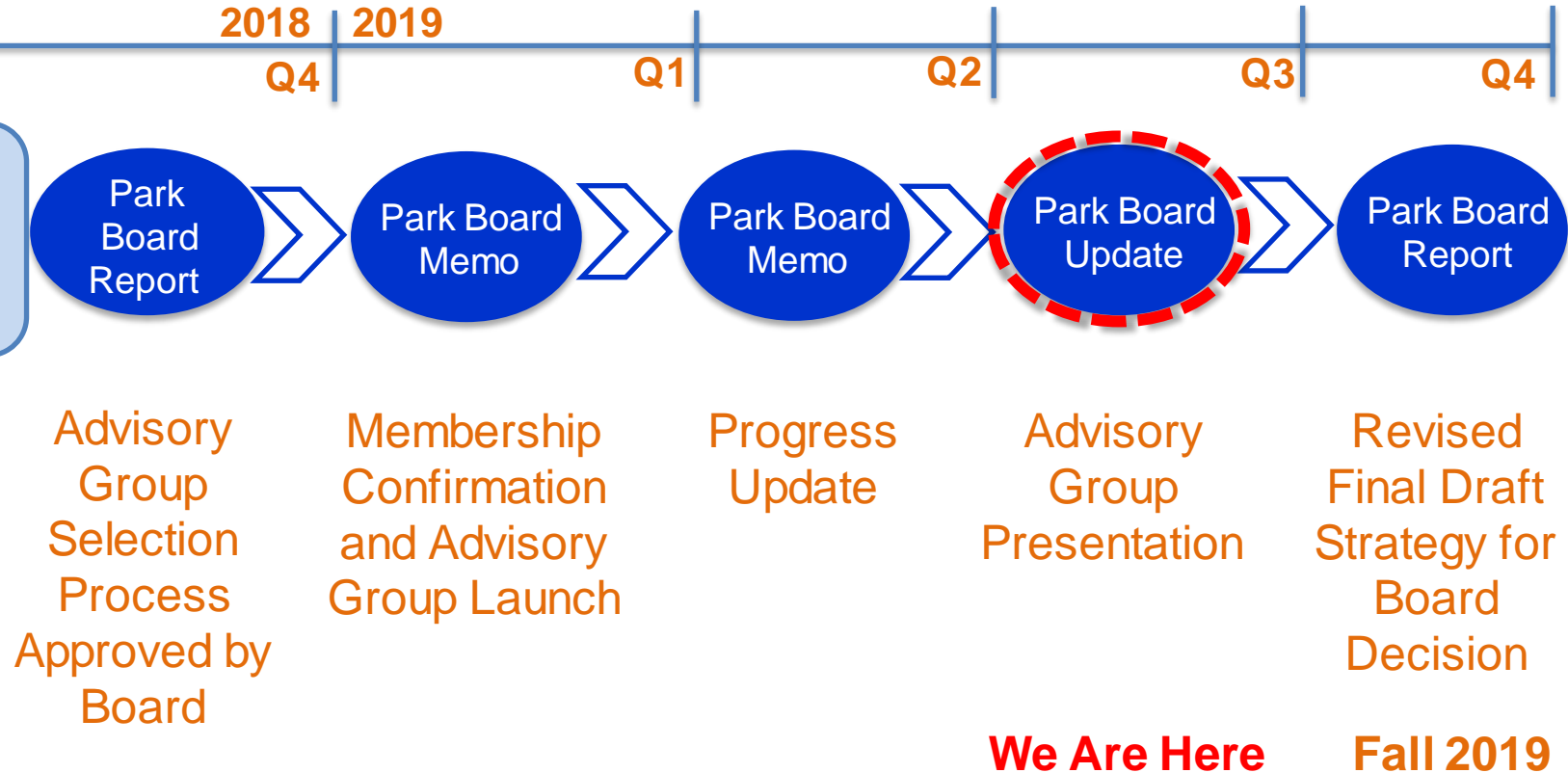


To provide an opportunity for the VanSplash Advisory Group to present its findings to the Vancouver Park Board and to respond to any Commissioner questions about its process.

Presentation Outline

- Process and Board Updates – Staff
- Communication Efforts to the Public – Staff
- Advisory Group Membership – Facilitator
- Process Highlights – Facilitator
- Advisory Group's Input – Facilitator
- AG Member Presentations – AG Members
- Next Steps – Staff
- Questions – AG Members and Facilitator

Process and Board Updates




Communication with Public



- Project webpage and 4 VanSplash e-blast emails (~3,000)
(March, May, June, July)
- May Update:
 - Community Centre Associations Letter
 - Posters at Community Centres and Pools
 - Post Cards and email content for Advisory Group members
 - Facebook (~17,500 residents of Vancouver 18 - 65+)
 - Recreation e-news to subscribers (~100,000)
- July 25: Advisory Group Final Report on project webpage and printed copy at Community Centres and Pools

Van Splash

 DELANEY + ASSOCIATES



ADVISORY GROUP FINAL REPORT

JENNIFER MILLER
DELANEY + ASSOCIATES

JULY 2019



ABOUT THE ADVISORY GROUP



MANDATE

Review and provide insights to staff on:

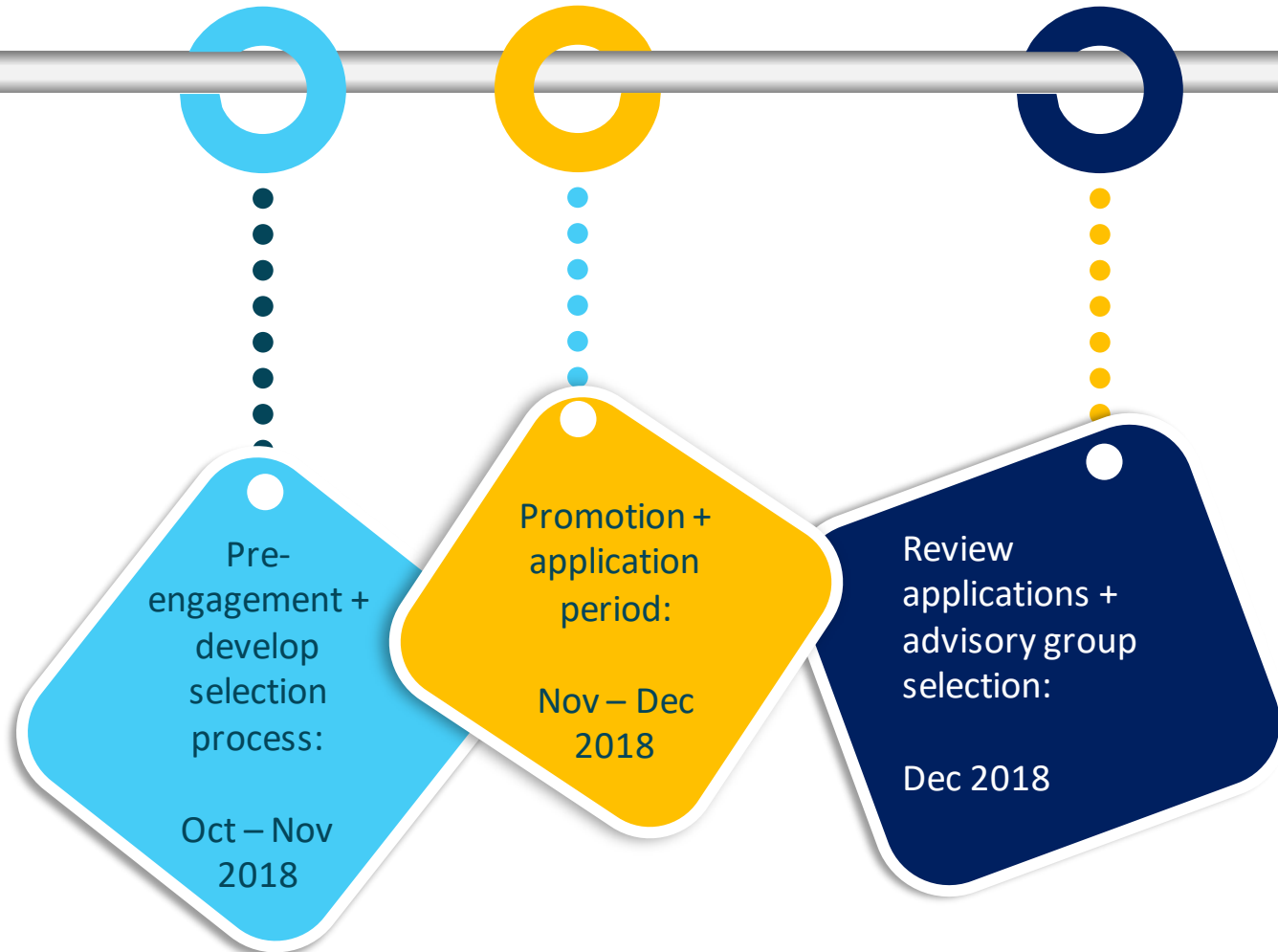
1. the content of the draft VanSplash strategy, with a focus on the strategy's Draft recommendations
2. the amendments proposed by commissioners at the January 29, 2018 Board meeting
3. concerns raised by residents who spoke at the December 11 and 12, 2017 and January 29, 2018 Board meetings



MANDATE

Motion of January 14, 2019: The Vancouver Park Board directs its VanSplash Advisory Group to only consider the possible future expansion and improvement of Vancouver's aquatic facilities.

GROUP SET-UP





GROUP PROCESS

On-boarding:
January 2019

Learning:
February –
March

Discuss
recommendations
and community
concerns:
April – June

Discuss group
ideas:
June

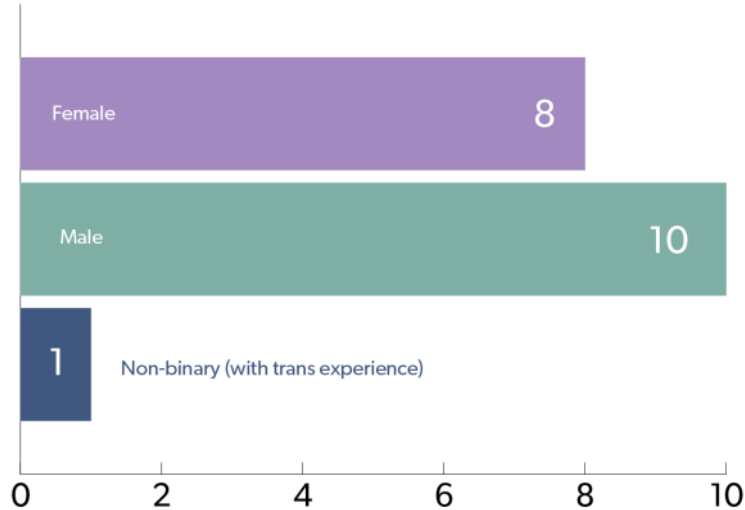
Reporting:
June – July

GROUP COMPOSITION

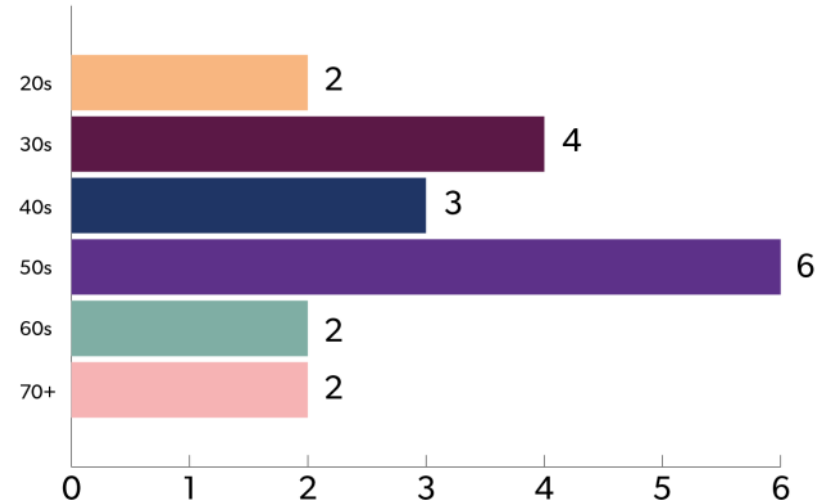


GROUP COMPOSITION

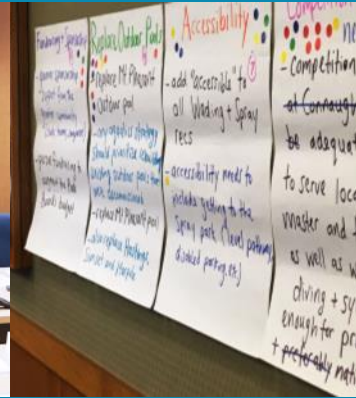
ADVISORY GROUP: GENDER SUMMARY



ADVISORY GROUP: AGE SUMMARY



PROCESS HIGHLIGHTS



Van Splash

BY THE NUMBERS

6

MONTHS



9

MEETINGS



27

HOURS OF MEETING
TIME PER MEMBER



400+

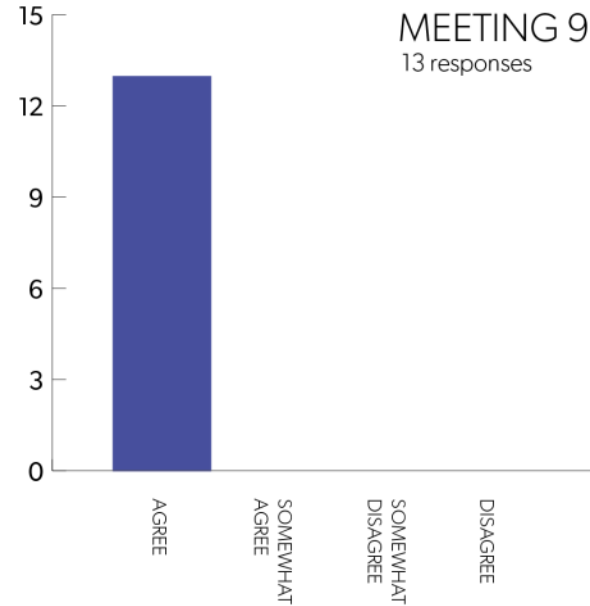
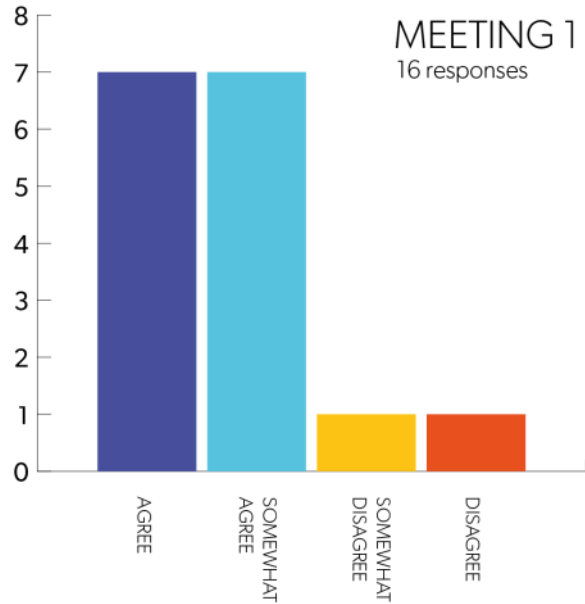
HOURS OF COLLECTIVE
MEETING TIME

HUNDREDS MORE HOURS OUTSIDE MEETINGS



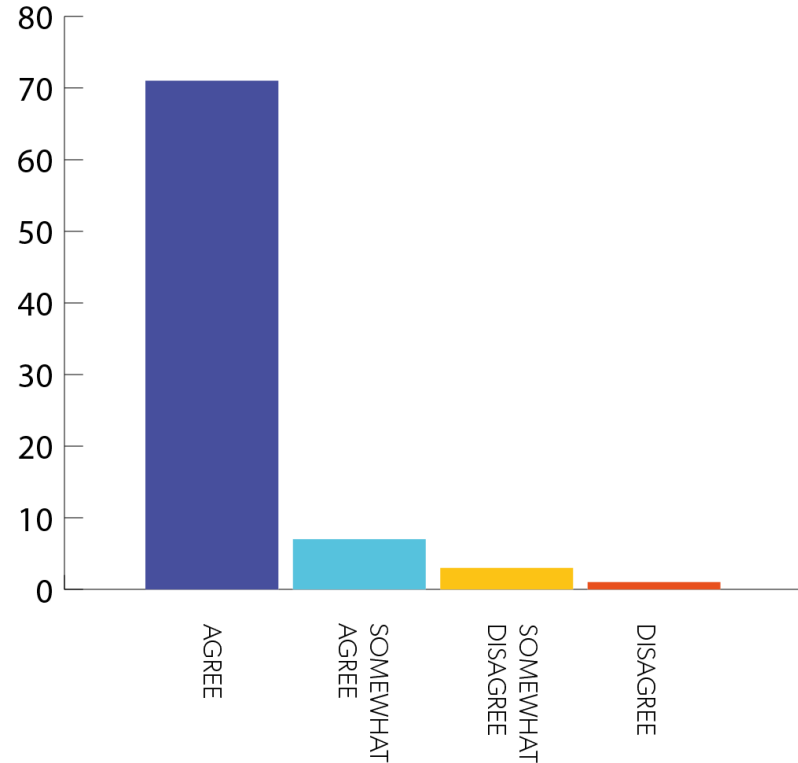
EVALUATION

“I understand the VanSplash AG process and what the group can and cannot influence.”



EVALUATION

“This meeting was facilitated in an impartial way by the third-party facilitators.”



(responses across all meetings)

January - July 2019

VanSplash Advisory Group

Check out the work of our
VanSplash Advisory Group.
Meeting notes and presentations
are available online.
Provide input to the group through
vansplash@vancouver.ca

VANCOUVER.CA/VANSPLASH



HEARING FROM VANCOUVERITES

210+

EMAILS TO THE GROUP



Variety of topics

Two major themes:

Neighbourhood pools



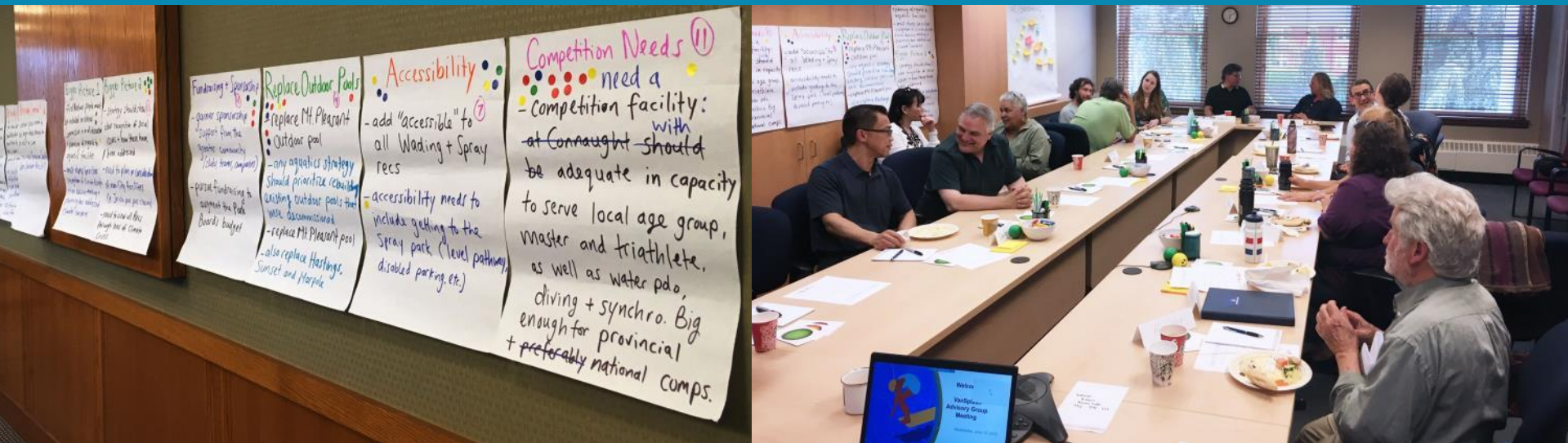
considerations for new
competition
facility / VAC replacement

Full text of emails compiled by facilitator + distributed to members before meetings

Summary of correspondence shared by facilitator at start of meetings



ADVISORY GROUP'S INPUT



A NOTE ON CONSENSUS

All advisory group input is consensus-based, except where noted

Consensus:

- absence of disagreement
- root is “consent”
- all members can accept and move forward

ADVISORY GROUP'S INPUT

Three categories:

1. Draft VanSplash content supported by group as-is
2. **Input on draft VanSplash content**
3. **Additional input**



CONTENT
SUPPORTED AS-IS

CONTENT SUPPORTED AS-IS

- All draft Principles and Goals, **except for Goal 1 and Principle 2**
- Indoor Pools Recommendation 3: **Decommission existing stand-alone whirlpools** in community centres which have safety and operational challenges

CONTENT SUPPORTED AS-IS

Outdoor Pools Recommendations 1, 2, 5, 6:

- 1: Continue to **invest in the existing outdoor pools** to keep them as unique city wide (destination) facilities within Vancouver
- 2: Prioritize locating new outdoor pools to **fill current service area gaps** in southcentral and southeast Vancouver
- 5: **Revitalize existing outdoor pools:** Improve or replace changing facilities, improve food and beverage service offerings, improve or replace mechanical equipment, improve new spray features and improve deck areas to enhance quality of experience
- 6: Provide a **new co-located outdoor pool in South Vancouver** considering Killarney or Marpole Community Centres as possible locations

CONTENT SUPPORTED AS-IS

Beaches Recommendations 1, 2, 4, 5:

- 1: Consider activating or enhancing the **range of aquatic experiences** offered at beaches, i.e. temporary water play
- 2: Find a **better way to collect information** on how many people use our beaches and how they use them
- 4: Consider enhancing the **diversity of experiences** at/from beach
- 5: Invest in swimming **improvements at Trout Lake**

CONTENT SUPPORTED AS-IS

Innovation Recommendations 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9:

- 1: Provide a **combination of temporary and permanent** aquatic innovations
- 3: **Add outdoor hot tubs** at larger destination outdoor pools that aren't co-located with an indoor pool or hot tub
- 4: Build **destination spray parks** for fun and cooling aquatic
- 5: Create **urban beaches** for relaxation and play
- 8: Build a **naturally-filtered outdoor pool** for better connection to nature
- 9: Assess **feasibility of floating pool** in False Creek

INPUT ON DRAFT CONTENT

INPUT ON DRAFT CONTENT

Vision, Principles, Goals:

- Vision is more suitable as a mission statement
- Suggested Vision: Building communities of aquatic users for a lifetime.
- Suggested Mission: Deliver a wide range of accessible aquatic experiences for residents and visitors that support Vancouver as a highly-livable, world-leading coastal city.

INPUT ON DRAFT CONTENT

Vision, Principles, Goals:

- Adjust language in Goal 1: Continue to increase annual aquatic visits per capita (instead of “swims per capita”) to recognize non-swimmers using aquatics facilities
- Add “competition” to Principle 2: Expand the definition of ‘aquatics’ to include beaches, wading pools, spray parks and new innovative aquatics experiences.

INPUT ON DRAFT CONTENT

Indoor Pools Recommendations:

Re: Recommendation 1: Move away from a predominantly neighbourhood scale pool system and deliver a greater diversity of swimming experiences at larger, community and destination scale facilities

- The group supports the amended Recommendation 1, as proposed by Commissioners in January 2018: **“Support a balanced delivery model that includes neighbourhood scale pools as well as larger community and destination scale facilities to deliver a greater diversity of aquatic experiences.”**

INPUT ON DRAFT CONTENT

Indoor Pools Recommendations:

Additional group insights related to Recommendation 1:

- **Neighbourhood pools are important**
- **Consult the local community**
- **No one is opposed to a destination pool, but where it is located is important**

INPUT ON DRAFT CONTENT

Indoor Pools Recommendations:

Re: Recommendation 2: Where feasible, co-locate outdoor pools with indoor pools to offer a greater range of aquatic experiences at each facility and to maximize operational efficiencies

- **Problems with definitions of “outdoor pool” i.e. newer one at Hillcrest is a wading pool; not big enough for an adult to swim there**
- **Community input should determine type of pool built**
- **Co-location should be expanded to other community facilities, not just indoor pools**

INPUT ON DRAFT CONTENT

Indoor Pools Recommendations:

Re: Recommendation 4: Replace Britannia neighbourhood pool with a new Community-plus scale pool on the Britannia site

- **More / better consultation and listening is required with this community and user groups to understand what they want:**
 - **Be sure to include all classes and ethnicities**

INPUT ON DRAFT CONTENT

Indoor Pools Recommendations:

Re: Recommendation 5: Once the Britannia Community-plus pool is fully operational, engage with pool users, community members, key stakeholders to determine the impact of the new Britannia pool on Templeton Pool

- **Any future consultation should start from an understanding that both Templeton and Britannia are needed in 2019 for capacity**
- **Retain neighbourhood pools:**
 - **Values, qualities, experience, accessibility can't be replaced by larger facility**

INPUT ON DRAFT CONTENT

Indoor Pools Recommendations:

Re: Recommendation 6: Provide a new City-wide destination pool with sport-training focus, at Connaught Park as part of a future arena and/or community centre renewal

- **Need to consult community**
- **Sport-training-focused facility needs to include diving, synchro, water polo, etc.**

INPUT ON DRAFT CONTENT

Indoor Pools Recommendations:

Re: Recommendation 7: Once the Connaught pool is fully operational, engage with pool users, community members, and key stakeholders to determine the impacts of the new Connaught Pool on Lord Byng Pool

- **Byng and Connaught areas have diverse needs**
- **Need to plan for increase in population on Jericho lands**
- **Mix of pool sizes is key**

INPUT ON DRAFT CONTENT

Indoor Pools Recommendations:

Re: Recommendations 5 and 7 about engaging Templeton and Byng stakeholders after Britannia and Connaught are built:

- **Templeton and Byng would remain open for a minimum of five years following the new pools (Britannia and Connaught) becoming fully operational. During this time, there would be a formal consultation process, and a thorough impact study. The group also calls for how engagement is done to be revisited, and that the engagement processes would include evaluation.**

INPUT ON DRAFT CONTENT

Indoor Pools Recommendations:

Re: Recommendation 8: Replace the Vancouver Aquatic Centre with a new City-wide destination pool with a health and wellness focus, with co-located outdoor aquatic amenities

- **Health and wellness focus is too narrow**
- **Should be a large, multi-purpose facility serving the needs of a wide variety/all user groups – wellness, health, sport training, competitive meets, diving, lessons etc.**
- **Downtown location needs to serve families, visitors, etc.**

INPUT ON DRAFT CONTENT

Indoor Pools Recommendations:

Re: Recommendation 9: Replace Kerrisdale pool with a new Community scale pool, as part of a future Community Centre and/or arena renewal...

- **Support recommendation but it should be a higher priority moved up in timeline**
- **Intensive consultation with community is needed**
- **Be sure to include schools in consultation**

INPUT ON DRAFT CONTENT

Indoor Pools Recommendations:

Re: Recommendation 10: Renovate Kensington Pool to enhance accessibility and increase opportunities for adaptive and therapeutic swimming

- **Ensure therapy components are offered at all pools**
- **More discussion/community consultation required**

INPUT ON DRAFT CONTENT

Indoor Pools Recommendations:

Re: Recommendation 11: Continue to consider building partnerships with other agencies to gain opportunities for public use of non-park board aquatic facilities

- The group supports the amended Recommendation 11, as proposed by Commissioners in January 2018: **"Continue to consider building partnerships with other agencies to gain opportunities for public use of non-park board aquatic facilities consistent with Park Board goals of accessibility and equity."**
- **Concern that partnerships will make it more expensive for users (higher admission fees)**

INPUT ON DRAFT CONTENT

Outdoor Pools Recommendations:

Re: Recommendation 3: Provide a balance of recreation, fun, socializing and fitness, through a range of outdoor pool facilities and experiences

- **Don't limit uses**
- **Don't create individually focused facilities**
- **Need to ensure ability/space for actual swimming in all outdoor pool facilities**
- **Dedicated swimming spaces with lines and straight walls**

INPUT ON DRAFT CONTENT

Outdoor Pools Recommendations:

Re: Recommendation 4: Consider an outdoor pool or spray feature with every new indoor pool facility where possible with site constraints and site planning objectives

- **As long as size and scope of indoor pool isn't compromised**

INPUT ON DRAFT CONTENT

Outdoor Pools Recommendations:

Re: Recommendation 7: Provide a new City-wide naturally filtered destination outdoor pool in South Vancouver i.e. non-chlorinated

- **Don't limit to South Van**

INPUT ON DRAFT CONTENT

Beaches Recommendations:

Re: Recommendation 3: Invest in maintaining and enhancing existing beaches: upgrade or replace changing facilities, upgrade food and beverage service offerings, provide opportunities for shade.

- **Add beach accessibility for people with disabilities**

INPUT ON DRAFT CONTENT

Wading Pools + Spray Parks Recommendations:

The group suggests **adding “accessible”** to all six of the draft Wading Pools and Spray Parks Recommendations.

- The group emphasized that **accessibility needs to include getting to the spray park (level pathway, disabled parking, etc.)**

INPUT ON DRAFT CONTENT

Wading Pools + Spray Parks Recommendations:

With additions re: accessibility, the group supports the draft Wading + Spray Recommendations:

- 1: To facilitate the emerging spray park system, **continue to convert wading pools to spray parks** or decommission them, pending locational criteria and consultation with communities
- 2: Provide **spray parks at destination and highly urban parks** serving large populations.
- 3: Provide neighbourhood spray parks **based on greatest social and geographic need** and through consultation with local communities

INPUT ON DRAFT CONTENT

Wading Pools + Spray Parks Recommendations:

With additions re: accessibility, the group supports the draft Wading + Spray Recommendations:

- 4: Consider **co-locating accessible spray parks with indoor or outdoor pools**, and/or with washrooms and community centres
- 5: Where possible, design spray parks in a way that **water can be recycled for park use**, i.e. adjacent irrigation or water features
- 6: **Distribute spray parks more evenly** throughout the City corresponding to population distribution and density

INPUT ON DRAFT CONTENT

Innovation Recommendations:

Re: Recommendation 2: Provide wellness amenities, connected with existing and future pools

- **Include accessibility and therapeutic aspects**

INPUT ON DRAFT CONTENT

Innovation Recommendations:

Re: Recommendation 6: Build a Harbour deck for improved access to our inlet

- **Inlet should be plural – False Creek and Coal Harbour**

INPUT ON DRAFT CONTENT

Innovation Recommendations:

Re: Recommendation 7: Provide play structures in the ocean at existing beaches

- **With consideration of ecological and environmental impacts**

ADDITIONAL
INPUT

ADDITIONAL INPUT

In recognition of the urgent need for increased aquatics capacity in Vancouver, an overarching message from the VanSplash Advisory Group is:

We need more pools!



ADDITIONAL INPUT

- Across all recommendations, ensure meaningful consultation is done with impacted communities, user groups and stakeholders – based on the City of Vancouver's core values and guiding principles for engagement. Revisit how consultations have been done with impacted communities. Consultation processes should include evaluation to measure effectiveness.

ADDITIONAL INPUT

- Clear and transparent communication should be a focus and high priority for both Park Board staff and elected officials. The VanSplash Advisory Group has identified a lack of public trust in VanSplash and the Park Board, and the group believes in part this stems from a lack of clarity and clear, accessible information.



ADDITIONAL INPUT

- Vancouver needs a competition facility adequate in capacity to serve local age group, master and triathlete as well as water polo, diving and synchronized swimming – big enough to host provincial and national competitions. In planning for such a facility, consult with National Sports Organizations, Provincial Sports Organizations and other user groups.

ADDITIONAL INPUT

- Renovate Hillcrest outdoor pool to make it a legal competition-size pool. The group suggests this will meet the needs of community members calling for an outdoor pool in Mount Pleasant.

ADDITIONAL INPUT

- Include a glossary in the updated VanSplash strategy report
- Ensure First Nations are included in consultation processes and that communities' cultural traditions re: water / aquatics are considered and consulted on
- Plan in consideration of climate change
- Address water quality in outdoor bodies of water for swimming
- Plan facilities with recognition of existing programs



ADDITIONAL INPUT

- Reduce the use of chlorine whenever possible
- Extend the Kitsilano Pool season, as this is the most unique pool in Vancouver and extended season would increase capacity in the system
- Empower communities to fundraise for public aquatics facilities
- Develop an upgrade and renovation plan, extending operational life-span for all aquatic facilities, to increase sustainability and operational efficiency including consideration of implementing green technologies.

ADVISORY GROUP PRESENTATION



ADVISORY GROUP PRESENTERS

- Jarrett Vaughan
- Bronwen Mears
- Anthony Abrahams

Thank You Advisory Group Members



Next Steps



- Staff will review the Advisory Group feedback
- Evaluation: operational efficiency, land considerations, facility and capital planning.
- Report back to the Advisory Group
- Return to the Board with a revised draft VanSplash Strategy for decision

Questions for Advisory Group



