

NO: **F001**

COUNCIL DATE: **January 14, 2013**

FINANCE COMMITTEE

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **January 7, 2013**

FROM: **General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture
General Manager, Finance and Technology**

FILE: **8200-01**

SUBJECT: **BC Water Polo Association - Women's 18 and Under and 16 and Under BC
OPEN Water Polo Tournament In Surrey**

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department and the Finance and Technology Department recommend that the Finance Committee recommend that Council approve financial support to the BC Water Polo Association ("BCWPA") in the amount of \$5,000 from the Council Initiatives Fund to assist with offsetting the facility costs associated with the hosting of the 2013 Women's 18 and Under and 16 and Under BC OPEN Water Polo Tournament at the Surrey Sport and Leisure Centre on January 25th through 27th, 2013, all as generally described in this report.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for financial support for the BCWPA related to hosting the Women's Under 18 and Under 16 BC Open Water Polo Tournament at the Surrey Sport and Leisure Centre from January 25th to January 27th, 2013.

BACKGROUND

The BC Water Polo Association and its members are hosting at the Surrey Sport and Leisure Complex one of the premier water polo events in Canada in 2013, that being the Women's Under 18 and under 16 BC OPEN Water Polo Tournament. The tournament is being held from January 25th to January 28th, 2013.

This event will showcase water polo athletes from across Canada and the USA and potentially Europe. There will be 14 to 16 teams competing involving 200 athletes.

DISCUSSION

Based on the projected number of athletes, family members, coaches and officials, it is estimated that the event will bring almost 1,000 people to Surrey during the tournament. Tourism BC estimates that such an event of this nature will generate about \$200 of economic activity per visitor per day in the local economy. As such, this event could generate upwards of \$600,000 of local economic activity.

The BCWPA is also proposing to leave a community legacy in Surrey following the event. In this regard, the tournament organizers are proposing to equip the Surrey Sport and Leisure Complex ("SSLC") pool with equipment associated with marking in the pool a regulation water polo field of play and will provide other equipment needed in support of water polo at the SSLC. This will also assist in attracting other water polo events to the SSLC in the future.

The BCWPA has requested that the City provide financial support in the amount of \$5,000, which will assist in offsetting the facility costs related to the tournament. The budget for the event is documented in a letter, dated January 2, 2013, from the BC Water Polo Association, a copy of which is attached as Appendix "A" to this report.

The following is a list of events that have been held in Surrey over the last few years for which Council has provided financial support through the Council Initiatives Fund:

Surrey Minor Hockey Provincial Championships	\$ 3,000
Canadian Youth Chess Tournament	\$ 1,000
2011 Canadian Boys Golf Championship	\$10,000
Hargobind International Wrestling Championship	\$11,000
Canada Cup Field Hockey Tournament	\$ 2,500
Optimist International U-18 Curling Championships	\$ 3,200

Encouraging the hosting of tournaments such as the subject tournament will assist in developing Surrey's image as a destination of choice for sporting events, which is consistent with the Ahead of the Game Strategy that was developed in partnership by the Surrey Tourism and the City of Surrey.

Status of the Council Initiatives Fund:

Appendix "B" provides a status overview of funding in the Council Initiatives Fund on the assumption that Council will approve the recommendation of this report.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

Having the 2013 Women's 18 and Under and 16 and Under BC OPEN Water Polo Tournament held in Surrey will assist in achieving the objectives of the City's Sustainability Charter; more particularly, action item SC12: *"Encourage and facilitate volunteerism and participation in community activities by persons of all ages, abilities and cultural communities."*

CONCLUSION

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that the Finance Committee recommend that Council approve financial support to the BC Water Polo Association (“BCWPA”) in the amount of \$5,000 from the Council Initiatives Fund to assist with offsetting the facility costs associated with the hosting of the 2013 Women’s 18 and Under and 16 and Under BC OPEN Water Polo Tournament at the Surrey Sport and Leisure Centre on January 25th through 27th, 2013.

Laurie Cavan
General Manager
Parks, Recreation and Culture

Vivienne Wilke, CGA
General Manager
Finance and Technology

Appendix “A” – Correspondence, dated January 2, 2013, from the BC Water Polo Association
Appendix “B” – Status of the Council Initiatives Fund

Correspondence from the BC Water Polo Association



BC Water Polo Association
#227 – 3820 Cessna Drive
Richmond, BC, V7B 0A2
P: 1-604-333-3480 ; F: 1-604-333-3450

January 2, 2013

Mayor Dianne Watts & Council
City of Surrey

cc: Laurie Cavan
General Manager of Parks, Recreation & Council

Re: 18U and 16U Women's BC OPEN

The BCWPA and all of its members will be hosting one of the premier events for Water Polo in Canada, the 2013, 18 and under (18U) and 16 and under (16U) Women's BC OPEN January 25-27, 2013 at the Surrey Sport and Leisure Centre (SSLC) in Surrey BC. This event showcases water polo athletes from across Canada and the USA and potentially Europe in the "Training to Compete" Category of the Water Polo Canada (WPC) Long Term Athlete Development (LTAD) program. There will be 14-16 teams, totaling over 200 athletes that will be learning to compete at a National and International level. The event will showcase some of the best female athletes and teams with the additional hope to grow this Olympic sport locally. Along with the participants' families, over 300 volunteers, officials and dignitaries from across the country, this event will attract local spectators and sport enthusiasts to participate in this Olympic Sport.

Sport Development Opportunity: An international tournament like this recognizes the importance of celebrating women's sport at a high performance level. It will help build players' self-confidence, team values and club responsibility as they continue to develop as athletes, coaches, teams and clubs. We will also be developing our local officials and organizers. Exposure to such high caliber sport will demand that they perform diligently and objectively on an international level.

Showcasing this event in the Surrey community will benefit the sport through promotion of international level competition, encourage more women to get involved and demonstrate what these young dedicated athletes can achieve. In a more tangible way and with the support of the municipality we will equip the SSLC competitive pool with a needed regulation field of play that clearly marks the zones for players and officials to compete. This will remain with SSLC as a legacy for the community to continue developing the sport locally and permit SSLC a premier venue for future water polo events. Moreover, 10 new Water-polo balls used in this tournament will remain with the facility in support the development of Water polo.



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Benefits of the tournament to local participants: Our local athletes, coaches and officials will benefit as follows:

1. Competitive and cultural experience with teams, coaches and players from across Canada and the USA
2. High level competition that will raise their skill and intensity, preparing them for future national and international competitions.
3. Exposure to National Team Coaches and University coaches with the potential of being selected to National or University team and the benefits.
4. Exposure to international level officiating and organization.

Support for this tournament will also benefit the BCWPA in the following ways:

1. Expansion of the sport as a result of exposure to water polo to local youth and families
2. Increased number of international level trained Minor officials and experienced volunteers and organizers for the sport of water polo locally and in BC
3. Showcasing the Provincial water polo program and its results to our national and international competitors.
4. Demonstrating the value of women's high level competition.

Economic and Tourism Benefits to the community: It is estimated that there will be close to 300 athletes and coaches taking part in this event. Additionally, approximately 300 family members will attend as spectators. There will also be a number of officials and volunteers that would push the total number of people descending on Surrey for the 3-4 days to almost 1000. They will be bringing economic boosts to Surrey restaurants, hotels and other local services. Tourism BC statistics estimate a \$200 per athlete per night economic benefit to the local economy. With many people staying 4 nights the economic benefits could reach \$800,000 to the community over the course of the tournament.

For visitors outside of BC, Vancouver is often seen as the only major tourism origin. By hosting the tournament in Surrey, visitors will have the opportunity to sample a less chartered territory and explore all that the community has to offer. To promote this, BCWPA will be working closely with local tourism, to promote the area and its businesses.

Potential Future Economic Benefits:

1. With the addition of a regulation playing field for SSLC and a growing awareness of the sport, future provincial water polo events such as National and International tournaments and Training Camps can be held locally at an increased frequency. Water Polo Canada, National and International Coaches and delegates will be attended this event and will be witness to the excellent facilities available in Surrey, BC.
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2. BCWPA has already connected with local businesses, volunteers and talent to assist with the hosting of this event. Catering for the tournament will come from local businesses. Local sport Aquatic equipment and apparel supplies will be invited to promote their products at this event.

Legacies for the Community: There are numerous community legacies we expect to generate by hosting this event in Surrey. Over the last several years, BCWPA has been operating with a strategy to expand water polo across BC and give young children an active start to keeping fit and athlete retention throughout adulthood promoting an active-for-life lifestyle. Training camps, water-polo tournaments and introductory events have been hosted in Surrey in the past to increase the exposure of the sport and encourage local participation. As mentioned, tournament organizers are determined to raise sufficient funds to provide the facility with a field of play and the 10 water polo game balls that will provide a sound foundation for development and the hosting of future events.

It is also anticipated that the exposure to the sport at an National/ International level will promote involvement of the sport and encourage young children, especially girls to participate in the WPC National introductory program, "I Love Water-polo ". This program is designed to be administered by local aquatic facilitators and encourages recreational water polo. For the duration of this tournament, the local instructors will witness elite water-polo, the dynamic skills and game tactics and improve their understanding of the game. Instructors will be welcome to attend the technical meetings and socials with top water-polo coaches. The legacy of local trained volunteers, Minor officials, Hostesses and other key positions required to operate tournaments and clubs, will provide the base for the sport to be built at the club level. Relationships of clubs from across Canada and the USA, with the Surrey community will be a legacy for future program development.

Human resource development: The operation of an international level tournament requires the participation on many levels performing multiple roles; Tournament Director, Registration Director, Marketing/ Sponsorship, Communications, Hospitality, Opening/Closing Ceremonies, Accommodations/ Transportation, Merchandising, Minor Officials/Volunteer and Equipment Manager. Each position will be required to increase their skills and knowledge to deliver on the requirements of an international event. The community will benefit from experienced organizers and officials. For example, the tournament director will be mentoring a local assistant. In turn the assistant to the tournament director will be able develop the expertise of the next generation creating a legacy of know-how for the province of BC in operating such competitions. Club coaches will also be developed by the experience and learning how to produce a winning team, which in turn will raises the level of skill training across BC and Canada.



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Locally, there will be about 40 volunteers trained as minor officials, enabling future events to be hosted in the community. Local water-polo facilitators and coaches will be invited to receive mentorship with the various club coaches and experienced volunteers. The staff of the SSLC will gain skills and experience in hosting an international water-polo tournament. This will be invaluable with the development of water polo in the local community and future high level competitions.

The tournament organizers are requesting \$5000 to offset legacy equipment and pool costs.

On behalf of all of our water polo athletes, volunteers and officials in Surrey and throughout British Columbia, thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

BC Water Polo Association

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "George Kouvousis", is written over a horizontal line.

George Kouvousis
President

Attachment: 1



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Appendix:

2013 BC Open Budget

Direct Access Funding	\$2,500.00
BC Open Tournament Fees	\$9,800.00
Total Income	\$12,300.00
Referee Fees	\$3,500.00
Referee Accommodation	\$700.00
Tournament Dir. Accommodation	\$350.00
Pool Costs	\$5,400.00
Equipment	\$3,500.00
Medals and Awards	\$1,500.00
Deck Food	\$600.00
Officials Clothing	\$500.00
Technical Meeting	\$500.00
Miscellaneous	\$1,000.00
Total Expenses	\$17,550.00
Deficit	\$5,250.00
Amount requested from the City of Surrey	\$5,000.00

Status of the Council Initiatives Fund



2013 FINANCIAL PLAN
COUNCIL INITIATIVES

Schedule B

Description	Amount	Allocation	
		to date	Remaining
2013 Approved Budget	<u>250,000</u>		\$ 569,991
2013 Women's BC OPEN Water Polo Tournament	5,000		
Allocations for 2013		<u>\$ 5,000</u>	<u>\$ 564,991</u>