From:
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 11:49 AM
To: CLK-CityClerks <CityClerks@winnipeg.ca>; CLK-OPEdelegationforms <OPEdelegationforms@winnipeg.ca>
Subject: Winnipeg.ca : Submit communications to Council / Register in delegation

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Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 11:49:28 AM

Personal information
Full name: Kevin Handkamer
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Job title:
Organization:
Address:
City: Winnipeg
Province or territory: Manitoba
Postal code:

Delegation information
Committee: Executive Policy Committee
Committee - council: N/A
Committee - other: N/A
Agenda item (number and title): City of Winnipeg Budget 2024 - Closure of Outdoor Pools

Service inquiry: Submit Comments in writing
Participation preference: N/A
Comments in writing: As a resident of Norwood/St. Boniface I am disheartened to learn that once again outdoor pools are recommended for closure due to an unwillingness to invest in this City's existing outdoor recreation infrastructure. Outdoor pools are community hubs that provide recreational opportunities for residents of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities. The user groups utilizing outdoor pools represent a much broader demographic than you will see visiting the splash-pads that are slated to replace these iconic outdoor pools.

Happyland pool for example services areas that are classified as 'higher poverty neighbourhoods' and 'concentrated poverty DA's' within the Winnipeg Recreation Strategy. The pool exists within a highly utilized park and can be accessed via AT pathways and neighbourhood bike routes. As we grapple with climate change, increasing days above 30 degrees, as well as a number of healthcare epidemics aided by inactivity, it is crucial that we provide teens the opportunity to hop on their bike and spend the afternoon swimming with their friends regardless of which cultural or socioeconomic backgrounds they may come from. These facilities are much more than pools, they are places where residents young and old gather to relax and converse with one another, they bring much needed activity to neighbourhood parks and greenspaces, and they provide recreation opportunities for those most neglected by other recreational facilities.

Outdoor pools support the goals outlined in the Recreation Strategy focused on 'active living', 'Inclusion & access', and 'connecting people with nature'. As a neighbourhood resident, parent, and life-long outdoor pool user, it is my sincere hope that Council re-thinks this short-sighted proposal to decommission these facilities that are important to so many residents of this city.
Thank you

File:
Public engagement preference: Yes