

## **Region of Queens Municipality - Pool Committee**

**Tuesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

### **Minutes**

Present:

Deborah Spartinelli, Chair

Councillor Vicki Amirault

Elise Johnston, Manager of Capital Projects

Morgan MacDonald, Physical Activity Coordinator

Sandy Graham-Muise

Celeste Johnson

Anne Doggett

Lezlie Armstrong

Regrets:

Councillor Jack Fancy

### **1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement**

Deborah Spartinelli, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:29 p.m and gave a land acknowledgement to recognize that the meeting is taking place in Mi'kma'ki, the traditional and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

## **2. New Business**

### Retractable Cover Presentation – Covers in Play – Morgan and Elise

- Conduct feasibility study to evaluate fixed vs. retractable pool cover options, including staffing, costs, and operational impacts.
- Observe pool operations for one full year before proceeding beyond enclosure investigations.
- Share findings with design team—information is still preliminary and has not yet been presented.
- Explore options like fixed walls with extendable roofs and structures covering only the lane pool.
- Review case study from YMCA in North Carolina to inform potential seasonal use extension.
- Investigate Department of Education funding to support school swim programs and lifeguard costs.
- Assess impact of fixed covers on summer swim meets (up to 600 participants); consider cover design that accommodates such events.
- Evaluate integration of support pillars into pool deck during construction for better design/cost efficiency.
- Launch a user survey at end of swim season to gather community input on cover options and funding scenarios.
- Begin early planning for extending QPEC pool staffing from 2 months to 9 months annually.
- Reconnect with local schools to explore potential for revived swim programs and partnerships.

### Fundraising Committee Report - Presented by Celeste

- The committee has expanded and now includes 6–8 active members.
- Updates on equipment:
  - The diving platforms have changed; starting blocks are now included at no additional cost, resulting in a \$4,000 credit.

- A set of bleachers was not included in the original contract. The estimated cost is \$35,000. This expense can be covered within the contingency budget.
- The committee is exploring the potential for energy efficiency upgrades, possibly in partnership with Nova Scotia Power, particularly for heat pumps. Pricing details for these upgrades are still pending.
- A wet wheelchair has been added to the list of fundraising priorities.
- The next committee meeting is scheduled for May 12th.

#### Update on Pool:

- Pool construction is progressing well; both pools have been concreted, with inset steps now visible.
- Backfilling is underway, and pavilion foundation work has started.
- Surveyors will be on-site tomorrow to mark key reference points.
- The design features a 6-inch gap between the water surface and deck level.
- Water testing is scheduled for the coming weeks.
- Targeted opening is spring 2026, ideally before March.
- Lifeguard staffing was discussed, with a need to review wages for competitiveness.
- Recruitment should begin soon to secure staff for next year.

Next meeting to take place on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 3:30

### **3.0 Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned by Ms. Spartinelli at 3:40pm