



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Patti Bridal, Chief Administrative Officer **FILE:** 8215-03
PC: Jason Blood, Director, Recreation Services **DATE:** September 27, 2024
FROM: Gary Lefebvre, Manager, Aquatics
Shayne Wright, Manager, Community Recreation
SUBJECT: ***VERNON AQUATIC CENTRE REPURPOSING STUDY***

The project teams' including Innovate Planning & Co., Station One Architects and The W Group, completed the initial data gathering stage and engagement with the Public, Interested Party and User Group, on September 25th. The first stage generated conversation and ideas for a repurposed Vernon Aquatic Centre space that could be utilized to meet community needs while enhancing the existing Vernon Recreation Complex amenities.

The process completed to date as outlined in the RFP:

- inform residents, user groups, and organizations about the project;
- engage the community for ideas;
- gain insight into the community and user group space needs; and
- identify potential synergies or conflicts with neighbouring facilities.

The next stage as outlined in the RFP:

- identify risks related to options being considered for the repurposing;
- review possible operating models;
- create three (3) options for repurposing the existing aquatic centre space based on consultation and research;
- present idea concepts back to community, to validate what we heard;
- prepare preliminary high-level capital and operating cost estimates based on three (3) recommended concept plans; and
- present three (3) options to Council for consideration.

Who we heard from:

Engage Vernon - 1075 surveys completed
Focus Groups - 48 representatives from Large Events, Sports Users, Seniors,
Community Activity, Arts and Culture
Open House - 150+ (Recreation Centre, Vipers Game and Village Green Mall)

What we heard:

Detailed and compiled engagement responses. (Attachment 1)

Additional Comments Received:

- Provide a convertible flexible space that can provide options for multiple groups at different times of day.
- Provide space and / or services that could be utilized by diverse age groups.
- Activity groups are willing to share space (equipment storage would be needed).
- Recreation Centre facility needs to be updated:
 - Roof over the outdoor rink;
 - Convert Dogwood Gym to other purpose, if a gym is created in Aquatic Centre space;
 - Upgrade the Auditorium, increase options for larger events and possibility of more break out rooms;
 - Improve Recreation Complex foot traffic flow.
- Cultural Centre – what area of need is it going to meet and any synergies with repurposing the Vernon Aquatic Centre.
- Science Centre relocated for larger space.
- Vernon Winter Carnival needs a new space.
- BGC Okanagan and Teen Junction could relocate to better serve community.

What's next:

Open Houses will be held on the dates below, where the project team will share the concept drawings based on what we heard, providing the community opportunity to provide final feedback:

- October 22, 2024 Vernon Recreation Centre – Willow Room 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm
- October 23, 2024 Vernon Recreation Centre – Willow Room 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm

The concept drawings and feedback will be presented to Council at their regular meeting on November 25, 2024 indicating repurposing options for consideration.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council receive the memorandum titled “Vernon Aquatic Centre Repurposing Study”, dated September 27, 2024 and respectfully submitted by the Manager, Aquatics and Manager, Community Recreation;

Respectfully submitted:



Shayne Wright
Manager, Community Recreation



Gary Lefebvre
Manager, Aquatics



Approved for the Agenda by the CAO