

No Delegations at City Council?!

It is so disheartening that we must come to speak to City Council about no longer being able to speak at City Council.

We are sad and hurt to learn that we, the “same delegations who speak on numerous occasions”, are wasting your time.

We don't mean to come to make city council less effective. If we lived in a utopia where City Council made decisions with true concern for all citizens, we would not feel the need to speak.

We only feel compelled to speak to City Council when we see mistakes being made, when we see gross abuses of the public good.

We come because we want to participate in making the best city possible, with the smartest and most just use of our tax dollars, for the benefit all citizens.

We who love swimming outdoors have already seen how decisions made at Executive Council can negatively affect us. The final Wascana Pool Rebuild decision, made at the February 2020 Executive Committee Meeting, saw us lose our beloved long-course outdoor pool of 72 years, even though “7 out of 10 think maintaining the current size and use of the pool for lane and recreational swimming is important”.

This discussion never reached City Council, so no debate was heard from dissenting voices.

Unlike cricketers, for whom cricket pitches were created, we were not asking for something new. We expected that a “Rebuild” would renew what we had - the only pool with long course swimming in Regina - what we had been using, daily (with an added 4.26 metres - a 21st c 50 metre pool), to continue the history of recreational swimming in Wascana Park.

We were shocked to hear that we ageing swimmers are considered to be selfish to want to swim outside - even though many of us only swim outdoors - it is, or was, summer our joy and our fun to swim under the open sky in a beautiful park!

Healthy outdoor exercise within a warm swimming community contribute to physical and mental health - active ageing should be encouraged!

When no 50 metre pool option appeared in the November survey, (as mandated in the Request for Proposals), 37% of all comments, or 722 people, wrote, vehemently, that they wanted a 50 metre pool.

Our concern, in this example of a decision being made at Executive Council, is that, even though the City is responsible for civic recreation for all, this \$15 million dollar

Wascana Pool project (taking 4 years to complete, when other cities, towns, and even Regina, when we built the original Wascana Pool, do it in one year), ignored current use patterns and the voices of daily outdoor swimmers.

Before this final decision at Executive Council, the November 2019 Open House was meant to answer all our questions, but it did not: even simple questions such as “Will our Leisure passes be valid?” or “How many more lifeguards will be needed?” received the generic reply: “That has not been decided yet”. No one was willing to discuss why the change rooms were now so big, nor which trees would be cut to accommodate the circular change rooms and a lazy river — all the more worrying, when learning that the new Maple Leaf Pool’s guard room, with west-facing windows, reached an unbearable dysfunctional 38c in summer, or when the new surface of Massey Pool immediately began to peel off.

At the November Open House, city planners told us to write down our concerns, assuring us that there would be plenty of time to discuss the final Wascana Pool design. This did not happen: the design was approved at the Feb 2020 Executive Committee, and without a City Council meeting, insuring that our voices were not heard, the the design was sent to the Provincial Capital Commission.

The Provincial Capital Commission refused to meet with us. More inexplicably, a letter sent to the Minister responsible for the Provincial Capital Commission was answered by the Regina City Manager. Our 10 questions, sent to the Architectural Advisory Committee of the Provincial Capital Commission, have never been acknowledged.

Our worry is that no one seems to be accountable.

When we write to councillors, our letters are often not even acknowledged, never mind answered!

Now we are being told that we are wrong to care about our City, that our love and concern take up too much of your time.

As Regina Citizens, are we meant to simply hand over our taxes each year, and keep quiet?

This sad unanimous motion stifles and discourages engaged citizens to create a vibrant inclusive active city.