

Simon Litherland
Vancouver Sport Network
Facilities Committee Chair

Attn: Megan Stuart-Stubbs
Vancouver Park Board
2099 Beach Avenue,
Vancouver, V6G 1Z4

2011 January 13

Dear Ms Stuart-Stubbs,

Capital Plan Submission: Rowing Facilities - South East False Creek & Burrard Civic Marina

Attached please find two submissions for Capital Plan requests related to the sport of rowing.

The first, for upgrades to the Burrard Civic Marina and Vanier Park Boat Launch area is to serve the existing community of rowers and paddlers there. The second, regarding a home for rowing in South East False Creek, is for a new facility to meet the underserved demand for this sport within the City.

The upgrades to the Burrard Civic Marina will not only assist the existing users but will also improve the ability of event organizers to host new and existing water sport events in Vancouver. The South East False Creek facility will generate new opportunities for youth rowing leagues through an easily accessible location that promotes both athletic development and sport for life in line with the City's sport strategy. Additionally it will provide a network of individuals to support events and community development in the future.

Accompanying this request is an appendix that includes relevant data. These are source documents for the statistical analysis as well as the underlying support for the composition of a Rowing Strategy for Vancouver, also attached. These documents also outline how Vancouver can be rowing at a level more consistent with mature rowing cities such as London, Boston and Seattle, as well as at a comparable level to local examples such as North Vancouver and Victoria.

Please note that in over 120 years, the rowing community has yet to be provided with Capital Plan related funding for facilities development. The water sport community, embracing sailing, windsurfing, yachting, or any other human powered, non-motorized water sport (canoe, kayak, outrigger, dragon boat, paddleboard, war canoe, rowing, viking boat, and surf ski) has not had a new facility to service its growing needs since the conversion of the Jericho Beach Airstation into the Jericho Sailing Centre after the UN Habitat housing conference in 1976.

With over 120 Olympians, Commonwealth Games and World Championship rowers plying its waters since 1886, Vancouver is no stranger to rowing success. However the success of the city has resulted in an inability to generate new premises for many sports, rowing among them. Two members of the 2008 Olympic Gold Medal winning Men's 8+ learned to row in False Creek. Their first club, Thunderbird Rowing Centre, relocated to Richmond primarily because of the inability to access a facility with the appropriate resources and waterfront access.

Supporting both of these grant requests will ensure that Vancouver continues to play a part in growing both this sport and its own Sport Strategy.

Best regards,

Simon Litherland
Chair, Facilities Committee
Vancouver Sports Network

cc Vancouver City Council
Vancouver Parks Board
Dr Penny Ballem; City Manager, City of Vancouver
Malcolm Bromley; General Manager, Vancouver Parks Board
Danica Djurkovic; Director of Planning and Operations, Vancouver Park Board
Darren Peterson; Vancouver Sports Network, Vancouver Parks Board

Attachments

Vancouver Sport Network – Rowing Strategy
Vancouver Sport Network – Rowing Strategy appendix
(appendix sent to Darren Peterson and Megan Stuart-Stubbs only)