

THE CORPORATION OF THE
CITY OF WHITE ROCK
CORPORATE REPORT



DATE: March 7, 2022

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Eric Stepura, Director, Recreation and Culture

SUBJECT: Semiahmoo Peninsula Rotaract District 5050 Polar Bear Plunge

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve the Semiahmoo Peninsula Rotaract District 5050 Polar Bear Plunge event to be held at White Rock Beach (east of the Pier near P'Quals, the white rock) on Saturday, March 19, 2022.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City received a letter from the President of the Rotary Club of White Rock (Appendix A) asking for Council approval of a Polar Bear Plunge event being organized by the Semiahmoo Peninsula Rotaract Club as part of a Canada wide event called "Making Waves The Rotaract Canada Polar Plunge" to raise funds for the Rotary Foundation's Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Fund, with a special focus on providing clean water for indigenous communities in Canada.

District 5050 is a collective group of local youth Rotaract members with Clubs spanning from Everett, Washington to Hope, BC, who continuously work to grow, strengthen, and give back to their communities. A Club based in White Rock, called the Semiahmoo Rotaract Club leads community initiatives and charitable work in the White Rock area. The Rotary Club of White Rock sponsored the establishment of the Semiahmoo Rotaract Club about five years ago, and the members of the Semiahmoo Rotaract Club have done several local and international charitable projects, since their inception.

This corporate report provides some background on the proposed Rotaract District 5050 Polar Bear Plunge event, and the conditions that the organizers would need to meet, in order for the event to take place at White Rock Beach on Saturday, March 19, 2022.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION

Council has in the past supported Polar Bear swim events organized by local service (Lions and Rotary) clubs held near P'Quals, the white rock at White Rock Beach.

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

From 2015-2018, and again in 2020, the five Rotary Clubs of White Rock and South Surrey have hosted the White Rock Polar Bear Plunge on New Year's Day, January 1 at White Rock Beach. These Rotary Clubs are carrying on the work of the Peace Arch Monarch Lions Club, who organized the event for the previous 44 years.

Our local Rotary Clubs were unable to host the Polar Bear Plunge on New Year's Day, January 1, 2019 due to the debris on the beach caused by the damage to the Pier. The 2021 Polar Bear Plunge was held virtually, and the 2022 Polar Bear Plunge was cancelled due to COVID-19 Provincial Health Order restrictions.

If approved, the Rotaract District 5050 Polar Bear Plunge would be held at White Rock Beach just east of the Pier near P'Quals, the white rock. A letter outlining the details of the event is attached (Appendix B). A Special Event Application from the Semiahmoo Peninsula Rotaract Club is being submitted to the City's Special Events Coordinator in the very near future.

The following are some details regarding the Rotaract District 5050 Polar Bear Plunge.

ANALYSIS

The Semiahmoo Rotaract Club would like to host the Rotaract District 5050 Polar Bear Plunge at White Rock Beach east of the Pier on Saturday March 19, 2022, which is the day many Rotaract plunges will occur across Canada.

Organizers estimate up to 100+ participants, 100+ spectators and over 10 volunteers will participate in the Rotaract 5050 Polar Bear Plunge.

Setup of the event begins around 8:00 a.m., Saturday March 19, 2022, which involves setting up a warming tent, hot beverage vendors, sound equipment and a first aid tent near P'Quals, the white rock.

The swim starts at 12:00 p.m., noon, and finishes by 1:00 p.m., and the event site will be cleaned up by approximately 2:00 p.m.

Conditions

The following conditions must be met for the Rotaract District 5050 Polar Bear Plunge to take place at White Rock Beach east of the Pier on Saturday, March 19, 2022

1. The Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue will need to be on site to provide a rescue vessel in the water throughout the event should they be required.
2. The Semiahmoo Rotaract Club must provide the City with proof of having liability insurance coverage of not less than \$5M for the event, and the City of White Rock must be named as added insurance on the liability insurance policy.
3. A warming shelter tent must be supplied at the event for participants if needed.

The City will provide a variety of services in support of the Polar Bear Plunge, including use of City property, power, tents, garbage and recycling services, City staff to transport equipment from the loading area west of the Museum to the event site (using City electric ATV's), plus the City's Special Event Coordinator's time assisting the organizing committee.

The organizers have asked to use six parking stalls west of the Museum from 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., on Saturday, March 19, 2022 in which to unload and load event supplies and equipment.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All costs involved in hosting this event will be the responsibility of the event organizers. The City's support of this C category special event (i.e., providing event equipment or City services) will be provided through the City's 2022 special events operating budget.

COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The City's Recreation and Culture Department will assist with promoting this charitable event.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL INVOLVEMENT/IMPLICATIONS

The City's Parks Department may be required to do some site preparation work on the beach area where the swim will take place prior to the event being held.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Council's Corporate Vision is to provide a high quality of life where arts and culture flourish and our heritage is celebrated, where we can all live, work and play in an enjoyable atmosphere and where the community feels safe, secure and friendly. Special events greatly enrich the quality of life for residents and visitors by providing entertaining and festive arts and culture experiences.

OPTIONS / RISKS / ALTERNATIVES

The following alternate option is available for Council's consideration:

1. That Council not approve the Rotaract District 5050 Polar Bear Plunge at White Rock Beach on March 19, 2022.

CONCLUSION

The City of White Rock recognizes that special events are an important part of enjoying life in White Rock and provide affordable entertainment to its citizens. It also recognizes that special events enhance tourism, culture, and recreation, while providing an economic benefit to businesses in the City.

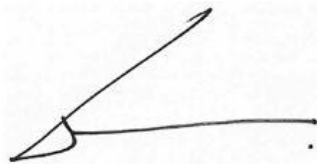
Respectfully submitted,



Eric Stepura
Director, Recreation and Culture

Comments from the Chief Administrative Officer

I concur with the recommendation of this corporate report.



Guillermo Ferrero
Chief Administrative Officer

Appendix A: Letter of Request from Gordy Sangha, President Rotary Club of White Rock
Appendix B: Letter of Request from Lexie Wynne, Secretary Rotaract District 5050