

Request Post-Budget Capital Project Approval – Shaw Centre – Score Clock and Timing Equipment

ISSUE

This report provides information and requests post-budget approval for a Capital Project P.00706 - Leisure Services - Facility Equipment Replacement (Capital Project P.00706) to replace the score clock and timing equipment in the 50-meter competitive pool at Shaw Centre.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development and Community Services recommend to City Council that:

1. That Capital Project P.00706 be increased by \$848,000 to fund the replacement of the score clock and timing equipment at the Shaw Centre, be approved; and
2. That the increase to Capital Project P.00706 be funded from the Leisure Services Equipment Replacement Reserve, be approved.

BACKGROUND

Shaw Centre originally opened in 2009 and is internationally recognized as a state-of-the-art aquatic facility and has hosted a variety of elite aquatic events and activities in all disciplines (artistic swimming, diving, speed swimming and water polo). Shaw Centre has hosted 2 International Competitions, 18 National Competitions, 23 Western Canadian Championships, along with many Provincial and Local events. Shaw Centre hosted 16 aquatic events in 2024, each utilized the score clock and/or timing equipment.

The current score clock and timing equipment was supplied and installed by Daktronics during the original construction of the facility; and the timing system was updated in 2017. As of August 1, 2023, Daktronics has discontinued the sale of timing systems and will also discontinue providing support for the current timing system (parts and components) after December 31, 2030.

The score clock and timing equipment are in need of replacement as they have reached the end of useful life. In recent years, the score clock and timing equipment has had issues which require frequent and costly repairs. Due to the age of the system, there is an increased risk this system could fail during a competition event.

To continue to host aquatic events in all disciplines at Shaw Centre, a new score clock and timing system which meets Swimming Canada and World Aquatic Guidelines is required.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

The capital project to replace the score clock and timing equipment was initially planned for 2026. In order to meet the timeline for project delivery, consulting support is required in 2025 to oversee the design, procurement process and to manage the project through to completion and commissioning. Aquatic score clocks and timing equipment are specialized technical equipment and no subject matter expert exists within the City's staff. Therefore, Administration requires consulting support to oversee Capital Project P.00706.

The competitive pool at Shaw Centre is tentatively scheduled for a maintenance shutdown in the summer of 2026. Administration is planning for the installation of a new score clock and timing equipment to align with the shutdown to minimize the impact to programming and rentals. This timing also coincides with the planned re-opening of Harry Bailey Aquatic Centre, which will ensure that one 50-meter competitive pool is open and available for aquatic club rentals and programs. Aquatic club rentals generally decrease during the summer season.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Research has been conducted with other aquatic facilities across the country which have recently replaced comparable systems. The proposed capital budget to replace the timing system, 2 scoreboards, as well as contingency and consulting fees can be completed within the project budget of \$848,000.

Shaw Centre's operating budget contributes annually to the Leisure Services Equipment Replacement Reserve for the replacement of the score clock and timing equipment. The Shaw Centre Equipment component of this reserve has a projected balance at the end of 2025 of approximately \$1,043,000. The reserve has sufficient funds to proceed with implementation of Capital Project P.00706, in 2025 without negatively impacting other capital projects.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no privacy, legal, environmental or social implications identified.

NEXT STEPS

Subject to City Council approval, Administration will develop and issue a Request for Proposals for Consulting Services, which will be followed by a tender for the supply and installation of the new score clock and timing equipment.

REPORT APPROVAL

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