



Conseil Elzéar-Goulet

Boite Postal 101, Saint-Boniface, Manitoba
208 Blvd. Provencher MB R2H 0G0 www.elzear-goulet.org

Annexe B

Réunion d'urgence Conseil Elzéar-Goulet

4 avril – Proxy par courriel

Présent	Christian Dandeneau	Président
	Jonathan Boisvert	Vice-Président
	Miguel Desrosiers	Trésorier
	Pascale Hutton	Secrétaire
	Alex Comeault	Représentant jeunesse
	Monique Lacoste	Historienne
	Rita Michaud	Conseillère
	David Dandeneau	Président sortant

#24-04-04-01 – Adoption de l'ordre du jour

Proposé par Jonathan Boisvert

Appuyé par Miguel Desrosiers

Adopté

#24-04-04-02 – Piscine Happy Land

Suite à l'intervention de André Carrier concernant la fermeture de la piscine Happy Land (Annexe 1), le président du Conseil Elzéar-Goulet convoque une réunion d'urgence après avoir consulté par téléphone les membres de l'exécutif du Conseil. Il a préparé une ébauche de lettre pour envoyer à André Carrier. (Annexe 2)

Proposition :

Étant donné qu'une partie de la mission du Conseil Elzéar-Goulet est de protéger les intérêts de ses membres à Saint-Boniface,

Que le Conseil Elzéar-Goulet, s'engage à contribuer un montant de 7 500\$ au projet du Député Loisel pour intervenir auprès de la Ville pour retarder la fermeture de la Piscine Happy Land avec les deux conditions suivantes :

1. Que le Bureau du Président de la Fédération métisse du Manitoba s'engage à contribuer l'équivalent et
2. Que la Ville garde la piscine Happy Land ouverte pour la saison 2024.

Proposé par Jonathan Boisvert

Appuyer par Miguel Desrosiers

6 votes en faveur, 2 votes contre

Adopté

Signature:


Christian Dandeneau (Président)


Pascale Hutton (Secrétaire)



Présidente: Christian Dandeneau, Vice-Président: Jonathan Boisvert, Secrétaire : Pascale Hutton,
Trésorier: Miguel Desrosiers, Historienne: Monique Lacoste, Représentant Jeunesse: Alex Comeault,
Aînés: Paul Desrosiers et Roland Lavallée, Conseillère: Rita Michaud,

MMF official urges city to reconsider shutting down Happyland

‘Devastating to close this pool’

KEVIN ROLLASON

AN elected official representing thousands of Métis people living in St. Boniface says they are unhappy about proposed plans to close the Happyland Pool.

Andrew Carrier, vice-president of the Winnipeg region of the Manitoba Métis Federation, is urging the mayor and councillors to reconsider closing the pool at Marion and Archibald streets.

“If I have to, we can get people to go to city hall to express our opinion,” Carrier said on Friday.

“We pay taxes and we pay our fair share of taxes there. It would be devastating to close this pool.”

Carrier said he has heard firsthand from many Métis citizens about “the profound impact” the pool has had on the community.

“It serves as more than just a recreational facility,” he said. “It is a symbol of unity, joy and shared memories for generations of residents.

“Not everyone can afford to go to the lake.”

Carrier said the pool attracts Métis people from two of the MMF’s 18 Locals in the city with about 7,000 residents living there or about one-third of the Métis population in the city.

He has sent a letter to Mayor Scott Gillingham asking him to reconsider the proposal.

In a statement, Gillingham said “the



RUTH BONNEVILLE / FREE PRESS FILES

The Happyland Pool is located at Marion and Archibald streets.

city has a very open budget process.

“We welcome all feedback,” he said. “We are working with Coun. (Matt) Allard to explore options for the aquatic facilities in St. Boniface.”

City council is set to approve its budget on Wednesday.

According to the Winnipeg Architecture Foundation’s website, the outdoor pool, at 520 Marion St., opened in 1962 and was designed by architect Nikola Zunic.

The foundation says the pool is surrounded by a concrete sunning area with a small building constructed of painted concrete block “laid in a textured pat-

tern reminiscent of stylized waves.” A children’s wading pool was built in a separate enclosure beside the site.

Zunic, who died in 2006, also designed the Niakwa Park subdivision, helping save many trees by putting the sidewalks around them, as well as more than 35 schools, and several churches including the St. Alphonsus Roman Catholic Church on Munroe Avenue and Holy Family Ukrainian Catholic Church on Grant Avenue.

He also designed the St. James Civic Centre on Ness Avenue.

Allard said he has been fighting to save both the Happyland Pool and the



MIKE DEAL / FREE PRESS FILES

Andrew Carrier, vice-president of the Winnipeg region of the Manitoba Métis Federation

Windsor Park Pool ever since they became targets for closure in this year’s proposed budget.

He said he doesn’t believe other city councillors have the will to save Happyland so, at a meeting of the executive policy committee on Friday, he became emotional while asking for support in keeping Windsor Park open for two more years while the city holds consultations about opening a new aquatic centre in St. Boniface.

“I broke down and cried for the first time in my career,” Allard said.

“I’ve been fighting tooth and nail for these pools... unless something significant changes, I don’t think council is willing to support Happyland at this time.”

Allard said with the closure of the Happyland Pool, as well as the plans to also shutter the outdoor Windsor Park Pool, residents of St. Boniface will have gone from having five pools just five years ago to two. The Norwood Pool was demolished in 2019.

kevin.rollason@freepress.mb.ca



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annexe 2

April 6, 2024

Bonjour Andrew (André),

Thank you for your support regarding the closure of Happy Land pool. The Conseil Elzéar-Goulet appreciates your intervention, which showcases MMF's concern for our Métis citizens' welfare. Attached is the Free Press article.

Some constituents in the area, contacted Robert Loiselle expressing concerns about the lack of consultation on replacing the pool, a vital amenity. As an active member of our Local, Robert reached out to us to raise funds to delay the closure for a year, allowing for community consultation on future plans, particularly regarding affordable housing growth in the adjacent Water Tower District. Why take away a much-needed facility before building a new one for this low-income area?

Our executive pledged up to \$7,500 in matching donation if MMF supports this cause with a similar pledge. We urge you to convey this urgent message to the President. Other much larger donations have been already pledged by other community organizations. We hope this gesture convinces Mayor Gillingham to postpone demolition. Robert plans to meet the Mayor in mid-April.

We'll also engage with Liberty Local to support Robert's efforts. As you mentioned in the Free Press article, between our Local and the Liberty Local, there are 7,000 residents living in this area.

If the community raises funds to operate the pool for another summer, it strengthens Robert's argument for postponement.

Marci, Meeqwetch,

Christian Dandeneau, Chair
Conseil Elzéar-Goulet

CC : Robert Loiselle, MP for Saint-Boniface



Présidente: Christian Dandeneau, Vice-Président: Jonathan Boisvert, Secrétaire : Pascale Hutton, Trésorier: Miguel Desrosiers, Historienne: Monique Lacoste, Représentant Jeunesse: Alex Comeault, Aînés: Roland Lavallée, Conseillère: Rita Michaud, Président Sortant: David Dandeneau



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April 15, 2024

The Honourable Greg Selinger
Old St. Boniface Resident's Association
7065 Langevin Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba R2H 2W5
Email: seltoup@shaw.ca

Re: Happyland Public Pool

Honorable Greg Selinger:

It is with great pleasure that the Manitoba Métis Federation's Winnipeg Region and our Conseil for the Elzéar-Goulet would like to collectively offer \$15,000 in support of the operation of the Happyland Public Pool for the summer of 2024.

Study after study reinforces that physical activity for children can only have positive outcomes in their development, both physically and mentally. The Red River Métis are hard-working and productive, contributing greatly to the wellbeing and success of our great city. However, not all Red River Métis have the means to keep kids active in the summer months. The supply of free open-air pools has, therefore, been a great advantage for families who want to see their children thrive and be happy.

I trust that it is understood that we commit this money on condition that the Happyland Public Pool operates for the summer swim season with the same hours and conditions that it has operated under in previous years.

I thank you for your effort in this noble community driven fight to keep the Happyland Public Pool operating.

Sincerely,

Andrew Carrier, Vice President
Winnipeg Region, MMF

Cc: President David Chartrand
Robert Loiselle – rob.loiselle@yourmanitoba.ca
Christian Dandeneau -- christian@idfusion.com
Nathalie Kleinschmit – info@francofonds.org