

August 17, 2017

District of West Vancouver
750 17th Street
West Vancouver BC
V7V 3T3

Reference: Public Boat Launch

Mayor and Council,

We look forward to moving forward with the discussions around the future public boat ramp at the Welcoming Figure groyne. We have concerns that Staff is shifting focus of this project to consolidate the design efforts with the Ambleside Park study of 2019. As we heard at the council meeting of July 24, 2017, there were many voices speaking against delaying the reinstallation of a public boat launch in West Vancouver to that extent, and we hope that with positive action from council we can accomplish the installation of the public boat launch much more expediently.

This project need not be over complicated by lengthy discussion, studies and consultation. This is a relatively simple project and should be approached in a practical manner.

The Ambleside Boaters Group met with the West Vancouver Shoreline Preservation Society (WVSPS) board of Directors on August 15, 2017.

The mandate of this group is:

- (a) to promote and assist in the preservation of the West Vancouver shoreline
- (b) to promote community awareness in the shoreline
- (c) to improve it as a habitat for sea-life
- (d) to improve the esthetics of the shoreline area for the benefit of the West Vancouver community and those who enjoy the shoreline area

Upon discussion with the Board of Directors there was consensus that the boat launch effort fits within their goals of improving connection with the water, as do the sea walk, the various piers and the future enhanced pier/potential ferry landing. They have an interest in supporting our effort through their society, with the following points, suggestions and conclusions:

1. The Ambleside Boaters Group would be able to work in conjunction with the WVSPS in terms of using their infrastructure for depositing raised funds, and as an informative group to make suggestions regarding the design of the ramp, and provide guidance as pertains to the mandate of the WVSPS.
2. That the Boaters Group contacts the necessary regulatory bodies to seek information and approvals and raises necessary funds to initiate the design phase.

3. That the Boaters Group consider formalizing their support from anglers and boaters alike in future with a goal to a long term group that will promote community awareness and connection to the marine environment, including other possible user groups.
4. That the Ambleside Boaters Group should attain assurance from the District in writing prior to commencing design work that the area east of the Welcoming Figure groyne can be used as a public boat launch, along with any specific requirements/conditions of this use, and subject to receiving appropriate approvals.
5. That the ramp be kept simple at this stage, using modern construction techniques and products such articulated concrete revetment mats that maintain shoreline values and are easily adjusted based on changing community needs.

With the support of WVSPS, the Ambleside Boaters Group requests the District's support to enable them to commit to design, estimating and seeking contributions from others to build a public boat launch facility in the vicinity of the Welcoming Figure groyne in Ambleside Park. We feel that the regulatory bodies could be dealt with in a reasonably short time frame given the experience of the WVSPS and their connections with these agencies.

We therefore request that the District provide written confirmation to the Ambleside Boaters Group and the West Vancouver Shoreline Preservation Society that the area in the general vicinity of the east side of the Welcoming Figure groyne could be used as a public boat launch, along with any conditions of use.

Additionally we propose:

1. That the Ambleside Boaters Group in conjunction with WVSPC be responsible for discussions with regulatory agencies.
2. Upon receipt of feedback from these regulatory agencies that the Ambleside Boaters Group, at their expense, prepare a preliminary design concept and budget for a public boat launch for consideration by council.

We look forward to a favourable response to this request.

Regards,

Andrew Kennett
Ambleside Boaters Group

Sent to Mayor and Councillor by email

And Mayor and Councillors by direct email