

Report from City Council Ad Hoc Aquatics Subcommittee

Date: November 4, 2019

To: City Council

From: Mayor Robert McBain & Councilmember Betsy Andersen

Executive Summary

The Aquatics Subcommittee recommends the capital needs of the Piedmont Community Pool be considered as part of a larger analysis of short and long-term capital needs of the City of Piedmont. The Subcommittee further recommends that the capital needs of the City, as well as possible funding sources, be reviewed by the Budget Advisory and Financial Planning Committee, which will work with City staff and report its findings back to the City Council for further action.

Report

The current Piedmont Community Pool opened in 1964, and the fifty-five-year old facility is in poor condition due to age and lack of funding available for capital improvements. On November 7, 2016, the City Council adopted the Aquatics Master Plan Conceptual Design as presented by Harley Ellis Devereux (HED) and recommended by the Recreation Commission. At that point in time, the cost to rebuild the aquatics facility was estimated to be \$12 to 15 Million.

To put this in perspective, the City's FY 2019-20 general fund revenues are budgeted at \$28 Million. The general fund is managed such that a balance of approximately \$5M is held in reserve for emergencies. The City does not and will not have funds available for a capital project on the scale of a pool rebuild, and there are currently no known sources of regional, state or federal funds with which to replace the aquatics facility.

On July 3, 2017, the City Council received a comprehensive staff report that summarized progress made to date on the subject of the Community Pool. Attached as an exhibit to this report is a copy of that July 3, 2017 staff report as prepared by then Recreation Director Sara Lillevand. On that same date, the Council formed an Aquatics Subcommittee to work with subject matter experts and City staff to facilitate and conduct professional polling regarding the feasibility of a capital bond to build a new aquatics facility. The results of this polling as conducted by FM3 were presented to the City Council on December 18, 2017.

At that point, the Council wanted to better understand the timeframe before closure of the Community Pool was unavoidable due to age-related deterioration. On October 15, 2018, the City Council received a report from Richard Young of Aquatics Consulting that identified safety issues with the current facility and highlighted major structural issues that will arise in the next several years.

2. Develop Strategies for Public Outreach and Communication to Ensure a Thorough Community
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3. Explore Options to Effectively Evaluate Community Interest and Support for a New Aquatics Facility (Polling)

In order to develop comprehensive and thorough proposals for how best to undertake these critical next steps, staff is suggesting that the most effective and efficient approach would be for the City Council to establish an ad hoc subcommittee from its membership, consisting of the Recreation Commission Liaison and the Vice Mayor. This ad-hoc subcommittee would meet with subject-matter experts, stakeholders and staff to refine the approach and to develop a scope and budget for each step. This ad hoc committee would not have decision-making authority, but would complete investigative work on behalf of the Council, would keep the Council apprised of progress, and would ultimately report back with specific action-items for consideration.

By: Sara Lillevand, Recreation Director