

Memorandum

June 6, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Yakima City Council
Bob Harrison, City Manager
Scott Schafer, Director of Public Works

From: Ken Wilkinson, Parks and Recreation Manager

Subject: Aquatic Center at Martin Luther King Jr. Park

The Yakima City Council re-established the Martin Luther King Jr. Park Pool Ad Hoc Committee in December of 2022. The members of the Ad Hoc committee that served on the committee initially were all asked if they were willing to be a part of the committee again. Previous members of the Committee that were willing to serve again were Council Member Holly Cousens, Park Commissioners, Stacy Hackenmueller and Matt Tweedy and community member Joe Mann. All others declined or were not able to be reached. Others that were willing to give their time to assist with the pool design process were, Council Members Patricia Byers & Danny Herrera, community members Ester Huey, Eric Silvers, Dori Peralta - Baker, Dulce Gutierrez and Anthony Peterson.

The first meeting was held on February 22, 2023 at the Washington Fruit Community Center. NAC Architecture and Water Technology, our consultants selected through the City of Yakima's Request for Qualifications process in the fall of 2022, were able to work with the committee to identify the needs and wants for a pool in Southeast Yakima. The initial work for the Martin Luther King Jr. Park Pool conducted by the Ad Hoc committee in 2018 was a great starting point for the schematic design process. The next meeting was also held at the WFCC on March 27, 2023 and further robust discussion was held by the committee. NAC & WTI listened to the committee and was responsive to the directions they were given for aquatic design. Two additional meetings were held via Zoom to further define the schematic design for the aquatic center and the supporting facilities. At the May 15, 2023 meeting the Ad Hoc committee, after further discussion, decided to accept the design presented and recommended that the design be shared with the Yakima City Council.

Progress has been made in other areas of this process. MLK Jr. Park has been surveyed and ground boring and testing has been completed. Addy Logsdon has been hired by the City of Yakima to conduct a Capital Campaign Feasibility Study. The Fund-Raising Feasibility Study will be completed mid-summer.

The total budget for the project is \$11M. The fund-raising efforts to date have included, \$1 million dollars from the Washington State Legislative Capital Projects budget for plans, specifications and bid document. An additional \$1.16 million dollars has been granted through the Washington State Legislative Capital Projects program for construction. The City of Yakima has committed \$3 million dollars to the construction of the pool, which includes a \$500,000 grant from the

Washington State Recreation & Conservation Office. Yakima County has also committed \$3 million dollars to the project. A Legacy grant for \$5 million dollars has been submitted to the Nation Park Service for additional funding for the construction, however, these grant dollars are highly competitive. Various individuals, organizations and foundations have indicated that they will contribute towards the construction of the facility.

During the process, the developing designs were share with the Yakima Parks & Recreation Commission at two of their regular meetings. The designs were met with enthusiasm. The schematic designs have not yet been shared with the Community.

It is anticipated that the pool would be open to the public as early as the summer of 2025.