

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor Coffey, City Council Members and City Manager, Cliff Moore

FROM: Scott Schafer, Director of Public Works  
Ken Wilkinson, Parks and Recreation Manager

DATE: January 22, 2018

RE: Community Swimming Pool Ad Hoc Committee Report and Recommendation

To address a top priority of Yakima City Council, Ken Wilkinson, Parks and Recreation Manager for the City of Yakima, presented information at a study session regarding a public swimming pool on the eastside of Yakima to City Council on May 30, 2017. At the conclusion of the presentation, staff was directed by City Council to create an Ad Hoc Committee to study the issue further and bring back a recommendation to the full Council. Three City Council members volunteered to serve on the committee. The three City Council members were Dulce Gutierrez, Avina Gutiérrez and Holly Cousens. In addition to the City Council members, three Parks and Recreation Commissioners also volunteered to serve. Those Parks and Recreation Commissioners were Matt Tweedy, Josette Gonzales and Stacy Hackenmueller.

In June of 2017, a press release was sent out asking for community members to apply to serve on the Community Swimming Pool Ad Hoc Committee. Seven applications were received. The first meeting of the committee was scheduled for July 17, 2017 and during that meeting the applicants from the community were interviewed by the City Council members and Parks and Recreation Commissioners. After the interviews, the Council members and Parks and Recreation Commissioners selected 3 of the applicants to serve on the committee. Joe Mann, Erika DeLeon, and Alma Rabadan were selected to serve on the committee representing the community.

The first meeting was held on July 31, 2017 and during that meeting, a purpose statement for the committee was created. The purpose statement of the Community Swimming Pool Ad Hoc Committee is

***“ To create a recommended proposal for City Council to consider regarding a pool in an east Yakima location, funding options, programming, amenities, cost estimates, with maximum opportunities for increased activities for (youth, families & seniors) our community.”***

Additional meetings were held on August 28<sup>th</sup>, September 25<sup>th</sup>, October 23<sup>rd</sup> and November 27<sup>th</sup>. Agendas and meetings notes are attached.

Power Point presentations were given to assist in discussion of the options for a community swimming pool on the eastside of Yakima. Power Point presentations are attached.

There were multiple topics for discussion placed on the agenda. Some of these topics included potential locations for a swimming pool, possible swimming pool features, various examples of possible schematic designs for swimming pools that were overlaid on potential site locations,

possible swimming programs and classes that could be offered and the possibilities for funding a public swimming pool project. There was great discussion and contribution of ideas and thoughts from the committee. The details of the discussions are identified in the meeting notes from each of the six meetings. In addition to the agenda items discussion, a presentation from a member of the group working to purchase and develop the Yakima Speedway property was given to the committee. At the end of each meeting, those from the general public were given an opportunity to voice their thoughts.

A general design was used for aiding in the discussion. The square footage measurements for buildings, deck space and swimming pool from Franklin Park Pool were used in the schematic designs. The pool deck area was 44,000 square feet and the pool surface area of 8,000 square feet was placed within the pool deck square footage. Mechanical building was drawn at 35' x 35' or 1,225 square feet and the pool concessions, restrooms, locker room area and cashier area building was drawn at 50' x 35' or 1,759 square feet. Parking spaces needed were based on the YMC requirements and for a pool deck area of 44,000, it was determined that 160 parking spaces would be needed.

There were three location selected for the placement of a swimming pool. They are the Yakima Speedway property, the Mill Site property and Martin Luther King Jr. Park. After much discussion, the Mill Site property was eliminated from the recommendation for a location and the pros and cons of the two remaining locations were identified. Listed below are the identified considerations for each property for your review.

#### **Martin Luther King Jr. Park**

**+**

- City owns land
- Positive location
- Residential area
- Established neighborhood
- Close to schools/green space
- Nearby bus routes
- Safe to walk
- Lunch / Breakfast provided at Yakima school
- Close to other parks
- Community feel
- Less expensive to construct parking

**-**

- Existing park
- Too small
- Less growth opportunity
- Parking concerns – on street
- No park [greenspace] after pool is built
- Area would be a construction zone 9-18 mo.

#### **Yakima Speedway Property**

**+**

- Large size area
- Growth options
- Close to Kiwanis / I-82
- Close to bus routes
- Many apartments & housing
- Positive neighborhood

**-**

- Construction zone – surrounding development
- Cost to purchase land
- Currently a proposed project
- May take many years to acquire
- Low visibility
- Questions about if the neighbors will be supportive

After the discussion about location benefits, the committee agreed that both locations had viability, but that future developments needed to be factored into the project as it moves forward. During our meeting on October 23rd, a representative from a group of investors working to purchase the Yakima Speedway property presented an early concept of their plan for developing the property. A possibility to utilize a portion of that property may be an opportunity in the future. A formal request of a land donation at the Yakima Speedway property was considered as a future factor for consideration discussed during a committee meeting. An estimated cost for the construction of the conceptualized swimming pool identified in the Power Point presentation was also discussed and it was determined that in order to identify a realistic estimated cost for construction, a public swimming pool design consultant would need to be hired. A consultant would also be able to provide operational cost estimates.

The Community Swimming Pool Ad Hoc Committee is to be commended and thanked for giving of their time and sharing their thoughts and ideas regarding exploring the options for creating a new swimming pool in Yakima.

The information and recommendations within this report from the Community Swimming Pool Ad Hoc Committee as requested by Yakima City Council to address their priorities is submitted for City Council's consideration.