



July 25, 2016

Community members,

There has been a lot of discussion lately in the community regarding the Community Pool and rightfully so! This is a major project. Conversations range from the cost, the benefits, the implications to tax payers, to the betterment of the community. I wanted to take this time to give you an update of where the City and Pool Board are with the project and what the next steps will be. It is important to me and the Common Council to ensure the community knows all of the facts prior to the referendum question that will be placed on the November 8th presidential election ballot.

- The Burlington Community Pool was built in 1965, originally a joint project of the Burlington area service clubs. The Burlington Jaycees, Burlington Kiwanis, Burlington Lions Club, and Burlington Rotary formed the Burlington Community Pool Corporation in 1961 with the expressed intent of building a recreational facility for the city's residents. A dedication was held, and the pool opened for swimming on June 11, 1966. Between 1966 and 2014, the operations and maintenance were paid by the service clubs. The community pool has never been supported by **City tax dollars**.
- In 2008, a Facility Assessment was completed by the Pool Board identifying site conditions, recommended improvements and approximate costs. The Pool Board made several improvements based on this study.
- In 2014, with an extensive list of required maintenance and repair items and with a declining membership, the City granted a one-time amount of \$25,000 to fund some of these pool expenses. Groups of volunteers also raised money and donations for the pool to rehab its facilities in order to open for the 2014 season.
- In November 2014, the City released a Request for Proposals (RFP) inviting consulting firms qualified to design municipal pools to submit a proposal that would provide for engineering services regarding the design of a new pool. The RFP was issued to ensure the City would receive the highest level of engineering services possible, at a cost which is in line with industry standards. Burbach Aquatics, Inc. was selected to provide consulting services with the construction of a new pool; however, a contract could not be negotiated between the City and Burbach.
- In December 2015, the City released a new RFP seeking consulting services for planning and design services for the Community Pool. In March 2016 Ayres Associates was selected and a contract was signed to fulfill four out of six phases of the overall project. These phases include site assessment, preliminary design, creating a management plan for the pool and referendum assistance. The cost for Phases 1-4 is approximately \$150,000.

- Ayres began the site assessment right away taking soil samples and evaluating the condition of Devor Park. They were able to take the data and create three preliminary designs based on feedback from the Pool Board and Common Council. The three designs were presented on July 19, 2016 at a Joint Common Council/Pool Board/Park Board workshop, as well as the Committee of the Whole meeting the same night. All parties involved selected two designs with recommendations for slight modifications to each of the plans.
- The next step to the Community Pool Project will be outlining the referendum question for the November 8, 2016 General Election and educating the public.
- Over the next few months several workshops and educational sessions will be held to allow the public to view the design plans, see the overall scope of the project, learn the costs and impacts on property taxes and be prepared to cast a vote in November 2016.

I will do my best to keep you informed each step of the way. Additionally, we are sensitive to your concerns regarding city expenditures as part of the overall project. As such, the City is committed to have all numbers and facts presented to you before making the final decision.

Thank you!

Mayor Jeannie Hefty