

From: Meredith Yox [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2020 1:33 PM
To: Julian Bell <julian@ashland.or.us>; Mike Gardiner <mikeg@external.ashland.or.us>; Joel Heller <joel@ashland.or.us>; Rick Landt <commissioner_landt@external.ashland.or.us>; Jim Lewis <commissioner_lewis@external.ashland.or.us>; Michael Black <michael.black@ashland.or.us>
Cc: 'Swim SOAC' <soacinashland@gmail.com>
Subject: Daniel Meyer Pool Rebuild

Director Black and Commissioner's,

I write to you today to urge you to place the Daniel Meyer Pool Rebuild at the top of the APRC priority list. I write to you not only as a citizen of Ashland but also as an aquatic professional.

Last summer I had the pleasure of working at Daniel Meyer as the Swim Lesson Coordinator. I actually gave up a position at a local organization with benefits and higher pay to come work as a seasonal employee with Lonny at Daniel Meyer Pool because swim safety is so important to me. After moving here four years ago, I was shocked at the amount of children at Emigrant Lake, the water slides and the YMCA who were not swim safe. Having children who have been competitive swimmers since the ages of 5 and 7 I felt compelled to do something. With my background as a USA Swim Coach I not only taught lessons at Daniel Meyer but oversaw the program as well. Daniel Meyer taught roughly 400 lessons last summer between group and private lessons. This volume of lessons has a huge impact on our community and water safety. I've been at the Ashland YMCA since Daniel Meyer I can tell you there is no way the Ashland YMCA can pick up that slack if the pool does not get rebuilt. Chad Brookman and I have been working all year to figure out how we could pick up the slack in swim lessons if Daniel Meyer was not to open this summer. Sadly, given the configuration of the pool and the multi-use of it there is no possibility that the YMCA could reach that additional lesson load.

While I completely understand the financial constraints with Daniel Meyer not being able to open this summer, the possibility of Daniel Meyer not being around in the future would be devastating to our community and the entire Rogue Valley. Not having a functional pool in Ashland means:

1. Increased drowning related deaths due to a lack of swim lessons
2. Eliminating access for rehabilitation activities for every age
3. Essentially eliminating High School Water-Polo and High School Swim with no other options
4. Eliminating jobs for aquatic professionals

So many of us in the community worked so hard to get the revenue bond approved for the rebuild. Everyone at APRC and The City of Ashland saw the huge turn-out of supporters to move this project forward and during these difficult times for all of us, to learn that the pool rebuild is in jeopardy is absolutely devastating.

For my fourteen year old daughter in particular who has not left the house in two months; the thing she is looking forward to most? Getting back in the pool! Even more than that, she can't wait until Daniel Meyer is rebuilt. She spent last summer volunteering her time at Daniel Meyer Pool teaching swim lessons, so when she turns 16 she can work at the pool as a lifeguard and teach lessons to the youth of Ashland.

This rebuild is so important to so many of us, please prioritize this project so that it can stay on track just as we had planned before Covid-19 changed everything.

Regards,

Meredith Yox

From: Cathy Thompson [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 4:35 PM
To: Michael Black <michael.black@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Please prioritize Daniel Meyer Pool, FY 20-21

Dear Director Black:

I am writing you to express my support for identifying the rebuilding of Daniel Meyer Pool (DMP) as a top priority for APRC's capital improvement projects budget and actions in 2020-2021. I believe the planned work to revitalize the pool is important for APRC to continue to prioritize for two key reasons: DMP has high value as an Ashland community parks and recreation asset, and DMP has high value as an Ashland public safety asset.

As a parks and recreation asset, Daniel Meyer Pool is arguably the most inclusive and accessible recreation resource in town. Swimming is an adaptable activity enjoyed by kids, teens, middle aged people, and seniors, from beginners to tri-athletes, able-bodied to disabled. A public pool can be used by many people in our community for recreation, fitness, training, education and competition – or just cooling off on a hot summer day. The use case for a public pool in Ashland is very strong on its own merits. The neighborhood location of DMP, in a lovely neighborhood park close to several schools, the senior center and the bike path, adds to the appeal and value of this APRC asset.

Given the popularity of the beautiful rivers, creeks, lakes, ponds and swimming holes in our region, Daniel Meyer Pool is also a valuable public safety asset for Ashland. Community safety is an important Ashland civic value, and a key way to uphold that value is to rebuild the pool to ensure continued access to Learn-to-Swim and Water Safety courses--not just for swimmers but for the boaters, rafters, fishermen, campers and explorers among us.

The recently-approved APRC plan to rebuild and expand Daniel Meyer Pool strikes me as creative, prudent, and responsible. That was very fine work by the commission, the staff and the advisory committee. While we are in a difficult social and economic period at the moment, this will not last forever and we will find our way through as a community. Please keep Daniel Meyer Pool at the top of your CIP priorities for the next fiscal year, and continue on the path to complete this important project for the people of Ashland.

Sincerely,

Catherine Thompson

From: jennifer bacon [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 29, 2020 11:13 AM
To: Michael Black <michael.black@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Pool

Hi

I am writing on behalf of my 4 member family asking to please keep the Daniel Meyer pool project viable. This community loves the pool and it is heavily utilized by young and old.

Thank you
Jennifer bacon
Meryl Roberts
Sean Roberts
Lila Roberts

From: Michelle Ross [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, May 31, 2020 4:44 PM
To: Michael Black <michael.black@ashland.or.us>; Joel Heller <joel@ashland.or.us>; Jim Lewis <commissioner_lewis@external.ashland.or.us>; Rick Landt <commissioner_landt@external.ashland.or.us>; Julian Bell <julian@ashland.or.us>; Mike Gardiner <mikeg@external.ashland.or.us>
Subject: Please make the pool renovation a priority

Dear Parks Commissioners and Director Black,

I am writing to voice my strong support of following through with the plan to renovate the Daniel Meyer Pool. Even though these are uncertain times, I am positive that our community needs and deserves an adequate pool. The vast majority of towns in Oregon with less than half of our population and fewer resources have access to nice aquatic facilities that serve their community on many levels. Water safety is a vitally important life saving skill and water exercise has proven health benefits for people of all ages and with many physical challenges.

When the SOU pool was removed a few years ago, a larger burden of services was placed on the Daniel Meyer Pool. There are many groups that currently rely on the pool such as Ashland and Phoenix High Schools, Rogue Valley Master's and the APRC summer swim program. The current pool is on the verge of disrepair and it is too small to serve all of the diverse needs of the community. An improved facility would expand opportunities for the community and have a direct positive impact on its residents.

Our community has gone through a lot in the past months, especially our children. They have sacrificed a lot to keep our community safe such as not attending school, playing sports, engaging other activities, and missing out on social interactions. I am parent of middle and high school children and I have seen firsthand how hard it has been for them. The pool is a big part of their summer and many families rely on it during the hot summer months to recreate and to teach their children how to swim. A larger pool would give many people in the community some hope and something to look forward to. I strongly believe the pool renovation is vitally important to the health and well being of our Ashland community. This is why I am asking you to please make the pool a top priority in your Capital improvement budget. It is an important investment that will have a long term positive impact on the majority of our current and future residents. I would hope that the city council would make this a priority too since their purpose is to provide adequate infrastructure for their residents and a community pool is a basic amenity that our residents need.

Sincerely,
Michelle Ross, Secretary
Southern Oregon Aquatic Community
<https://southernoregonaquaticcommunity>

From: Jenny Elizabeth Johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2020 8:01 PM
To: Mike Gardiner <mikeg@external.ashland.or.us>; Rick Landt <commissioner_landt@external.ashland.or.us>; Michael Black <michael.black@ashland.or.us>; Julian Bell <julian@ashland.or.us>; Joel Heller <joel@ashland.or.us>; Jim Lewis <commissioner_lewis@external.ashland.or.us>
Subject: Pool redesign

Hi Ashland Park and Recreation Commissioners,

I know we are in a tough time but I don't believe it's a time to ignore the maintenance of our community resources. I voted for the city hall remodel, and for a new jail (both bond measures were voted down). I still stand behind the remodel of Daniel Meyer Pool.

83 of 98 cities in Oregon with a population over 4000 have access to a year round pool within 30 minutes! Even Cottage Grove! The entire Rogue Valley has non, no year round public pool. Daniel Meyer supports summer recreation, lap swimming, senior exercise classes, swim lessons, Ashland HS Swim Team, Ashland HS Water Polo Team, Talent/Phoenix HS Swim Team, Rogue Valley Water Polo Club, Sharks Swim Team, and Rogue Valley Master Swim Team. These teams are so important as many kids who swim and play polo don't do other higher impact sports. Often they find that these sports are ones they can participate in when others haven't held their interest.

My kids are swimmers and polo players (we are on the 3rd out of 6 kids now swimming and playing polo for AHS!). This recreation and competition is their thing. The pool is important to us as a family. We will miss it this summer but what a great opportunity to remodel it!

Investment in our community is never a waste of money. This was approved because it's important. Please follow through with the plan, and do what you need to do to make it happen.

Sincerely,
Jenny Johnson
[REDACTED]
Ashland, Oregon

From: Tate Oliva [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 10:23 AM
To: Michael Black <michael.black@ashland.or.us>
Cc: Julian Bell <julian@ashland.or.us>; Mike Gardiner <mikeg@external.ashland.or.us>; Joel Heller <joel@ashland.or.us>; Rick Landt <commissioner_landt@external.ashland.or.us>; Jim Lewis <commissioner_lewis@external.ashland.or.us>
Subject: Student letter of support for Daniel Myer Pool Project

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

Dear Director Black and APRC commissioners,

I am writing to you in support of the renovation of the Daniel Myer Aquatics Facilities. My name is Tate Oliva and I am a ninth-grade student at AHS and a member of the AHS Waterpolo team. As I'm sure all of you would want your own children to work hard at sports AND school, I love both academics and extracurriculars. Being on the Waterpolo team has been an incredible experience this year and I am in consideration for being a 2020 Academic All American, after making the regional ODP team along with 3 of my teammates. This being said, I have had to work very hard to balance my school work and sports commitment due to having to practice until 9:00 every night. Because our community does not have a public pool suited to Waterpolo, my team and I have had to pay to practice very late at night at the YMCA. This has been extremely difficult especially as a teenager who on school nights has to practice until 9:00 along with finish homework for my honors classes. Not having a pool has also put my team at a disadvantage in our Waterpolo matches. We are only able to host one weekend of games a season meaning we are traveling to either Portland or California nearly every weekend. As the Director and commissioners on this Daniel Myer Pool Project, you have the opportunity to impact hundreds of kids lives through building the facility that this town is long overdue for. It will impact our community in so many ways including children having a place to take swim lessons, both Swim and Waterpolo teams being able to practice and host meets here which will in turn boost our local economy, elderly people having a place to practice water aerobics and physical therapy activities, underprivileged community members having an affordable place to enjoy, and a place for our community as a whole to cool off in the hot hot summers that climate change is bringing us. As I get ready to start my Sophomore year against the backdrop of this global pandemic, things feel somewhat grim. The decision to continue to move forward with plans would be one of the few bright spots in our community at this time, and it is a decision that you are in control of. I ask you to please continue to move forward with this project as planned. With gratitude, Tate Oliva (AHS Student and Waterpolo team member)

From: Bodhi Johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 2:40 PM
To: Michael Black <michael.black@ashland.or.us>
Cc: soacinashland@gmail.com <soacinashland@gmail.com>
Subject: The Pool that we need

Dear michael, Ashland NEEDS a year round open public pool. My father grew up in this town swimming, my older brother swam and played water polo and my older sister did so too at the SOU pool. Daniel Meyer is a dump currently, the lockers with fall off the walls, only like three of the five showers work, the pool itself is crumbling and I will commonly scrape up my feet because of the sharp edge of the bottom of the pool that's cracking away. The tiles on the side of the wall simply fall away at the touch of a hand. Please, it's a necessity that the rogue valley gets a public working pool.

Thank you, Bodhi Johnson

From: Dra. Ann Michael [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, May 23, 2020 2:35 PM
To: Julian Bell <julian@ashland.or.us>; Mike Gardiner <mikeg@external.ashland.or.us>; Joel Heller <joel@ashland.or.us>; Rick Landt <commissioner_landt@external.ashland.or.us>; Jim Lewis <commissioner_lewis@external.ashland.or.us>; Michael Black <michael.black@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Pool

Hello
Commissioners

I would like to ask that the city commissioners to seriously consider about having a public pool available to the people of Ashland.

I have been swimming with the masters at the Daniel Myers Pool which is slowly falling apart and needs to be up graded.

It is so wonderful to have a public pool at our disposal..I miss it terribly since the COVID 19 shut down.

Here are comments that need to be addressed.

- Ashland needs a functioning pool. The infrastructure of the Daniel Meyer pool is falling apart rapidly and costly repairs are not recommended.
- 83 of 98 cities in Oregon, with population over 4000, have access to a year round pool within 30 minutes. The Rogue Valley has none, no year round public pool.
- When SOU closed its pool in 2015, Daniel Meyer became the only public pool. Daniel Meyer Pool supports these aquatic teams: Ashland HS Swim Team, Ashland HS Water Polo Team, Talent/Phoenix HS Swim Team, Rogue Valley Water Polo Club, Sharks Swim Team, Rogue Valley Master Swim Team,
- Daniel Meyer Pool summer program offers swim lessons to all from toddlers to adults; knowing how to swim saves lives.
- Daniel Meyer Pool summer program also offers various aquatic classes for all ages, as well as lap swimming for all skill levels;
- The following organizations all support physical aquatic activities, and articles regarding the health and safety benefits of aquatics may be found on their websites.
 - The Center for Disease Control,
 - World Health Organization,
 - National Drowning Prevention Alliance,
 - USA Swimming, USA Water Polo,
 - US Water Fitness Association,
 - US Masters Swimming,
 - Aquatic Exercise Association,

- o American Academy of Pediatrics,
- o Blue Mind Company,
- o National Autism Association,
- o Pool and Hot Tub Alliance,
- o Special Olympics, the
- o American Heart Association

- Thank yo for your consideration

Sincerely

Dr Ann Michael

--



Dr. Ann Oldham Michael (www.pacificrimchiro.com)

Certified Craniopath

Life time SORSI member (www.SORSI.com)

ASHLAND OREGON

Ashland, Oregon 97520

From: Karen Horn [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 2:20 PM

To: Michael Black <michael.black@ashland.or.us>; Jim Lewis <commissioner_lewis@external.ashland.or.us>; Rick Landt <commissioner_landt@external.ashland.or.us>; Joel Heller <joel@ashland.or.us>; Mike Gardiner <mikeg@external.ashland.or.us>; Julian Bell <julian@ashland.or.us>

Cc: soacinashland@gmail.com <soacinashland@gmail.com>

Subject: Support for Daniel Meyer Pool Project

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

Dear Director Black and Parks Commissioners:

I am writing in support of the Daniel Meyer Pool Project. I know there are many competing agendas for the city at the moment but I hope this one does not get postponed indefinitely.

I am a lap swimmer and have lived in Ashland since 2009. Through the years, I have gone from pool to pool in our community and in Medford, trying to find a place to do my thrice-weekly swim workout, the one I have been doing since 1986 and that has become an important part of my fitness program and my life. I think you know the reasons for my wanderings: limited lap swim hours, water too hot for laps, lanes so crowded we swim 4-5 to a lane, pool used by summer camp kids without notice, etc. etc.

When I learned of the plan to re-make the DM Pool, I was overjoyed. Finally, a place to swim my laps in a swimmer-friendly facility! Ashland has needed a public pool like this for many years — please keep this project on the front burner.

Thanks,
Karen Horn

From: Hailey Kuhn [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 2:48 PM

To: Julian Bell <julian@ashland.or.us>; Michael Black <michael.black@ashland.or.us>; Jim Lewis <commissioner_lewis@external.ashland.or.us>; Joel Heller <joel@ashland.or.us>; Mike Gardiner <mikeg@external.ashland.or.us>; Rick Landt <commissioner_landt@external.ashland.or.us>

Cc: Swim SOAC <soacinashland@gmail.com>

Subject: Daniel Meyer Rebuild Needs to Be #1 Priority

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

Dear Commissioners and Mr. Black,

I am writing to ask that you please consider the **Daniel Meyer Rebuild as a top priority for our community**. A community swimming pool is an invaluable resource. It is a place to offer life-saving and life-extending education and experiences from cradle to grave. Water is a therapeutic medium that offers a unique, gravity-reduced environment that cannot be replaced or replicated easily. Daniel Meyer is a precious jewel that is inclusive of **all ages, all abilities, all genders**.

In our region, we have so few opportunities to build aquatics programs and teams. Daniel Meyer has been the cornerstone for swim lessons, aquatic safety, water fitness and youth and adult swim and water polo teams. It needs to be rebuilt to continue its incredible service to all in our community and flourish.

It is shocking to think of not having a viable pool for aquatics in Ashland while we offer so many other outdoor activities already, like hiking, tennis, sports fields, pickle ball, mountain biking, basket ball and volley ball courts. If we lose our pool, there is no other substitute or easy way to offer aquatics to the thousands of people who will use the Daniel Meyer Pool. There is no way to replicate, easily transform existing land and scale aquatics - the answer is a Daniel Meyer Rebuild. We have done our due diligence, involved community in Ashland and the region to give input and feedback. The community will cherish, use and be grateful for a rebuilt Daniel Meyer - and it will thrive with an aquatics facility that can support the majority of citizens and visitors to our town.

Please keep Daniel Meyer's Rebuild at the top of your priority list. It is unique. It is supported and it serves all of our community in an inclusive way that defines the spirit of who we are.

Thank you for your time and this very important consideration.

Sincerely,

Hailey Kuhn

[REDACTED] mobile
[REDACTED]

From: Michael Duffy [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 2:58 PM

To: Julian Bell <julian@ashland.or.us>; Mike Gardiner <mikeg@external.ashland.or.us>; Joel Heller <joel@ashland.or.us>; Rick Landt <commissioner_landt@external.ashland.or.us>; Jim Lewis <commissioner_lewis@external.ashland.or.us>; Michael Black <michael.black@ashland.or.us>; Swim SOAC <soacinashland@gmail.com>

Subject: Ashland's new swimming pool

Hello,

Is a community aquatic center an asset to the city. What specifically would be considered an asset.

Life long health enhancer, thirty per cent of Ashland residents are senior citizens. A pool provides a space for low impact exercise and lap swimming.

On a different age group, swim lessons for children. Water safety awareness in lake and rivers. For all levels, a cooling 'water hole' with life guards, for family members to enjoy together.

In a town of tourist, what a better afternoon spent hangin' by the pool before a play or concert.

The high school has water polo and swim teams. If I have this correctly, all the meets and matches are 'away' games. So consider the parental logistics of that variable.

Finally, I believe you have a list of comparable size Oregon cities and smaller that have pools, Ashland, uh no. Mike Royko's, Slats Grobnik, might have said, " you have high school, you have an internationally respected theater, you have a university, but you ain't got a stinkin' pool'?

Pool, top of the list!

Sincerely,

Michael Duffy
Ashland.Orygun

From: Janice Tacconi [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 10:02 PM
To: Julian Bell <julian@ashland.or.us>; Mike Gardiner <mikeg@external.ashland.or.us>; Joel Heller <joel@ashland.or.us>; Michael Black <michael.black@ashland.or.us>; Jim Lewis <commissioner_lewis@external.ashland.or.us>; Rick Landt <commissioner_landt@external.ashland.or.us>
Subject: Daniel Meyer pool

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

Dear Ashland Parks & Rec Commissioners,

I know you are facing budget shortfalls and have to make hard decisions about which projects to prioritize, and I am writing to propose that the Daniel Meyer pool be in the top priority list. The pool is used by seniors, families, children, and sports teams, and it is in desperate need of repairs. I'm worried that if the rebuild is delayed much longer, the pool will fail and the city of Ashland will lose this important asset.

Please keep in mind the broad use and appeal of the Daniel Meyer pool as you work through a difficult set of decisions. Thank you,

Janice Tacconi
[REDACTED]
Ashland

From: Chris Honore' [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 6:18 AM
To: Michael Black <michael.black@ashland.or.us>
Cc: soacinashland@gmail.com <soacinashland@gmail.com>
Subject: Daniel Meyer Pool Project

To Michael Black,

For years, summer has meant buying a punch card and swimming laps at Daniel Meyer pool. Season after season I took enormous pleasure in simply being in the water outdoors and definitely took this incredible resource for granted. It wasn't until all of us who relished our time at D.M. realized that it was possible that we might lose the pool that we began to explain why this community resource was so profoundly important. A spectrum of reasons emerged. I know you've heard them over the last year as folks stepped forward and we filled white boards with the countless ways the pool has a special place in the life of our small town.

My hope is that our voices have been heard and weighed. It would be heartbreaking to lose D.M.

Thanks,

Chris Honore'

From: Jackie Bachman [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 2:59 PM
To: Michael Black <michael.black@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Please Make the Pool a Top Priority

Dear Director Black,

I am writing to support the rebuilding of the Daniel Meyer Pool as a top priority for APRC. My main concern is water safety and swim education for our Ashland youth. This is a vital skill that needs to be included in the school curriculum beginning in the early elementary grades.

I served on the Ashland Pool Committee for several months. We worked hard to look at all the alternatives to making sure Ashland continues to have a good quality community pool. I appreciate all the work you did in researching the options and I believe we have a very good plan in place now.

Ashland needs a quality community pool in order for families and the school district to have easy access to enrolling our youth in water education classes. Medford's pool is falling apart and their new aquatic facility is a year or more away. Our community deserves a local quality pool for water safety, swim teams, recreation, and an outdoor adult swim program.

Please put a Quality Ashland Community Pool on the top of your list for the next biennium. Ashland needs and deserves it!

Thank you for your support of this vital project for our community!

Sincerely,

Jackie Bachman

Jackie Bachman
Board Member, Community Relations
OHRA



From: Mike Hitsky [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 9:53 AM
To: Julian Bell <julian@ashland.or.us>; Joel Heller <joel@ashland.or.us>; Mike Gardiner <mikeg@external.ashland.or.us>; Rick Landt <commissioner_landt@external.ashland.or.us>; Jim Lewis <commissioner_lewis@external.ashland.or.us>; Michael Black <michael.black@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Please Continue to Prioritize the Daniel Meyer Pool Project

Commissioners and Director Black,

I love to mountain bike and I am an active user of Ashland's extensive trails, along with the BMX and skate parks. I hope in the near future we can make the skills park and pump track a reality. But I appreciate that you are endeavoring to complete the challenging task of reprioritizing APRC's projects, and quite simply we don't *need* a bike park. In addition to the trails and parks I reference above, we have countless other open spaces where those who wish develop bike skills can and do get better; be it pathways, parks, driveways, parking lots, etc. The skills/pump project can and should wait. And the same rationale should apply when you consider the *need* for proposed development at many of the additional park spaces that are also contemplated as capital improvement projects.

That logic does not apply, however, when it comes to the Daniel Meyer Pool Project. We do not have any public pool in our community other than the pool at issue, which is rapidly and dangerously falling apart. Frankly, it is shocking to me that we don't have more swimming facilities in the area. I grew up in a suburb of Detroit where all four of the middle schools and both high schools in my district had swimming pools. Swimming was recognized for what it is: an essential skill for ALL, whether or not those who used those facilities endeavored to participate in swimming-related activities later in life. Unlike mountain biking, everyone should develop basic swimming proficiency. It is a shame that our local schools haven't prioritized this life skill, especially when you contrast the tame suburban environment where I grew up with southern Oregon's prevalence of wild and unpredictable rivers.

I do not envy the difficult choices that you have to make and I do wish to express my sincere gratitude for your continued service and the challenging work ahead. I do hope that you will reaffirm the pool project as a top priority, recognizing that your decision should not be a mere popularity contest (even though notably the pool certainly has a large number of supporters), but should also take into consideration the utility/importance of the activities provided to the community at large and the safe future of our community.

Thank you,

Mike Hitsky

From: Elizabeth Henderson [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 11:26 AM
To: Michael Black <michael.black@ashland.or.us>; Jim Lewis <commissioner_lewis@external.ashland.or.us>; Rick Landt <commissioner_landt@external.ashland.or.us>; Joel Heller <joel@ashland.or.us>; Mike Gardiner <mikeg@external.ashland.or.us>; Julian Bell <julian@ashland.or.us>
Cc: Swim SOAC <soacinashland@gmail.com>
Subject: Daniel Meyer Pool

Dear Director Black and Commissioners,

I am writing to express my strong support for the re-building of the Daniel Meyer pool. I understand that the pandemic situation is causing unsubstantiated budget concerns and I would like to communicate why updating this pool should remain a high priority for the city.

I am a newcomer to the Rogue Valley, a new member of the Rogue Valley Masters, and a long time swimmer. Having lived in both Eugene and Bend, I was surprised to find that the caliber of a public outdoor swimming pool in the Ashland area was significantly lower than what I was accustomed to (Amazon pool in Eugene and Juniper in Bend). And from what I understand, there are aspects of the Daniel Meyer pool that are deteriorating and in desperate need of large repairs that are not recommended. If this pool were to be allowed to fall out of use, this would be a gigantic detriment to the community.

The options that would be left for swimming year round are definitely sub par, and not substantial enough to comfortably support the aquatics users in the community. This is of course not limited to the Masters swimmers, but the lap swimmers, the various swim teams, water polo teams, not to mention swim lessons, other classes, and recreational swim for kids and families.

Water activities are important to many people in the community, and the improvement of the pool would certainly draw in even more interest. Water activities and swimming are healthy--for both physical and mental well-being of many!

I truly hope that this project will not be abandoned or pushed forward very far into the future. The SOU pool was already permanently closed. There is clearly enough support in the community for swimming and aquatics to justify moving forward in the quality of the swimming pools, instead of potentially taking another back step.

Thank you very much for your consideration,
Elizabeth Henderson

From: June Mather [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 12:05 PM
To: Michael Black <michael.black@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Daniel Meyer pool upgrade....

Dear Director Black,

As a life-long swimmer, founding member of Rogue Valley Masters and, my proudest accomplishment, mother of two Ashland High School swimmers and water polo players, I strongly urge you to make the Daniel Meyer pool upgrade your top priority in the CIP budget. I am sure that you are well aware of the numerous benefits offered by a larger and safer pool in Ashland. Certainly our current COVID situation has impacted this project but the need is still there.

Many thanks for all your work and support for this important project.

June Mather
Treasurer
Southern Oregon Aquatic Community

From: Jocelyn Sanford [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 3:44 PM

To: Michael Black <michael.black@ashland.or.us>

Cc: Swim SOAC <soacinashland@gmail.com>

Subject: AQUATICS: #1 PRIORITY

Director Black,

I am writing in support of a new municipal swimming pool for Ashland and maintaining this project as the top priority for APRC. I have lived in Ashland since May 2002 and have been a participating member of this community for the past 18 years. For our community to thrive we need to provide opportunities for citizens of all ages, abilities, and socio-economic backgrounds to be able to participate in aquatic activities. A swimming pool creates and provides a safe public space for all to experience a multitude of health benefits. Research supports the scientific evidence that water provides physical, emotional, psychological, cognitive, creative, and social well-being to our lives. As the author, Wallace J Nichols describes in his book Blue Mind, the connection we have to water may be described as "...Blue Mind, a mildly meditative state characterized by calm, peacefulness, unity, and a sense of general happiness and satisfaction with life in the moment." (Blue Mind, the surprising science that shows how being near, in, on, under water can make you happier, healthier, more connected, and better at what you do, pg 6)

A culture of aquatics in our town creates an interconnectedness. The child who learns how to swim grows up to participate in sports at the middle school and high school level. This young adult is eager to be a swim instructor who teaches the next generation how to swim and be water safe. This same young adult is the lifeguard who provides a skilled service to other members of our community for open recreational swim, lap swimming, aqua-aerobics, and senior swim. Knowing how to swim and be water safe is important here in the Rogue Valley due to the numerous creeks, rivers, and lakes. We need a new swimming pool with both shallow and deep water to be able to comprehensively serve the aquatic needs of Ashland citizens.

Thank you for your continued support and prioritization of aquatics for Ashland,

Jocelyn Sanford, MSPT

Ashland citizen, mother of three, Physical Therapist, Committee member of the ARPC Pool Ad-Hoc Committee June 2018-September 2019, Certified Pool Operator, former Lifeguard and Water Safety Instructor, Honorary Life Member of United States Water Polo, a former member of the United States Women's National Water Polo Team and Bronze medalist at the 6th FINA World Championships 1991, member of U.S. Masters Swimming, member of Rogue Valley Masters Swimming, volunteer coach/Ashland High School water polo teams, Pacific Northwest Zone/Development Boys Coach for Olympic Development Program/USA Water Polo, Bluemind Ambassador

Other Resources:

Blue Mind <https://www.wallacejnichols.org/>

Starfish Aquatics Institute <https://www.starfishaquatics.org/index.html>

American Red Cross

https://www.redcross.org/content/dam/redcross/atg/PDF_s/SwimmingWaterSafety.pdf

National Drowning Prevention Alliance <https://ndpa.org>

APTA Academy of Aquatic Physical Therapy <https://aquaticpt.org/>

Pool and Hot Tub Alliance <https://www.phta.org/>

American Heart Association <https://www.heart.org/>

Aquatic Exercise Association <https://aeawave.org/>

American Sports and Fitness Association

<https://www.americansportandfitness.com/products/advanced-water-aerobics-certification>

U.S. Lifesaving Association <https://www.usla.org/>

USA Swimming <https://www.usaswimming.org/>

USA Swimming Foundation <https://www.usaswimmingfoundation.org/>

USA Water Polo <https://usawaterpolo.org/>

U.S. Masters Swimming <https://www.usms.org/>

USA Diving <https://www.teamusa.org/usa-diving>

USA Artistic Swimming <https://www.teamusa.org/USA-Artistic-Swimming>

Special Olympics <https://www.specialolympics.org/our-work/sports/swimming>

SCUBA <https://www.padi.com/>

U.S. Water Fitness Association <http://www.uswfa.com/>

Swim Strong Foundation <https://www.swimstrongfoundation.org/why-is-swimming-one-of-the-most-heart-healthy-exercises-2/>

Paralympic Swimmer, Jamal Hill and his goal of teaching one million people how to swim <https://www.swimuphill.com/press>

Black Kids Swim <https://blackkidsswim.com/>

Encyclopedia Britannica/Swimming

<https://www.britannica.com/sports/swimming-sport>

Please refer to the Recommendations of the Pool Ad-Hoc Committee

https://www.ashland.or.us/SIB/files/APRC/2019/APRC%20Commission/FINAL_FINAL_RECOMENDATION_POOL_ADHOC_9_30_19_v2.pdf

From: Swim SOAC <soacinashland@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 3:57 PM

To: Michael Black <michael.black@ashland.or.us>; Mike Gardiner <mikeg@external.ashland.or.us>; Jim Lewis <commissioner_lewis@external.ashland.or.us>; Joel Heller <joel@ashland.or.us>; Julian Bell <julian@ashland.or.us>; Rick Landt <commissioner_landt@external.ashland.or.us>

Subject: CIP Re-prioritization task

Hello Director Black and Commissioners,

I don't envy your difficult task of having to re-prioritize all the CIP projects. However, I am hoping that you will consider looking at the task this way: If I had a certain amount of money, and my home needed certain repairs but I also wanted a few new amenities (hot tub, addition of a new family room, whatever) I would spend the money on the items needing repair/replacement first. Then, if there was any money left, I'd consider new amenities. I think that is a sound approach for you all to consider when looking at what projects to save and spend the limited CIP budget upon for 2020 - 2021.

So, I urge you all to keep the Daniel Meyer Pool Rebuild Project at the top of the list, and to not give up on finding alternative funding for this project. The DM Pool is an existing asset and very valuable to the citizens of Ashland. It needs to be rebuilt because there is no other public pool in Ashland. The Ashland citizens have voiced their approval and support for a public community pool for many years, and most recently through the efforts of the DM Pool AdHoc Committee. Thanks to your dedication and hard work, there are many other park amenities already available to citizens for hiking, biking, play grounds, walking, golfing, tennis, pickleball, etc., but there is no other public pool other than the DM Pool. It's the only aquatic facility in town, available to the public, for fun, swim lessons, etc.

Every town needs a public community pool! It is vital for families to have access to a pool for swim lessons for their children, a life-saving skill. It is vital for seniors to have access to a pool for rehabilitation after illness or injury, and for folks of all ages and abilities to be able to get into the water to maintain physical strength and fitness. Water safety and swim classes are imperative for a town surrounded by lakes, streams and rivers, and a coastline not far away. A public community pool, when it's the only pool, is absolutely necessary to rebuild it and maintain it.

Thank you for your hard work, commitment, and dedication to keeping so many park amenities available to Ashland citizens.

Rebecca Kay, president

Southern Oregon Aquatic Community

<https://southernoregonaquaticcommunity.com/>

From: Tamara Houston [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 9:49 PM
To: Julian Bell <julian@ashland.or.us>; Michael Black <michael.black@ashland.or.us>; Jim Lewis <commissioner_lewis@external.ashland.or.us>; Joel Heller <joel@ashland.or.us>; Mike Gardiner <mikeg@external.ashland.or.us>; Rick Landt <commissioner_landt@external.ashland.or.us>
Cc: soacinashland@gmail.com <soacinashland@gmail.com>
Subject: Daniel Meyer Pool - we need it!!

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

Dear Ashland Commissioners,

Please prioritize the Daniel Meyer pool repairs and renovation project! Southern Oregon needs a pool - a safe and hygienic swimming hole that meets public use standards and can foster community and healthy choices for all ages of users.

Fixing the pool and keeping it running is the most cost effective way for Ashland to have a public pool; letting it become run down to the point that it has to be demolished and totally rebuilt is not in the best financial or physical interest of the community.

Please, please, keep this project on the table. Swimmers everywhere are counting on you!

Thank you, and with great respect,
Tamara Houston
RVM swimmer

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2020 11:24 AM
To: Julian Bell <julian@ashland.or.us>; Michael Black <michael.black@ashland.or.us>; Mike Gardiner <mikeg@external.ashland.or.us>; Rick Landt <commissioner_landt@external.ashland.or.us>; Jim Lewis <commissioner_lewis@external.ashland.or.us>; Joel Heller <joel@ashland.or.us>
Cc: soacinashland@gmail.com <soacinashland@gmail.com>
Subject: Daniel Meyer memorial swimming pool

Daniel Meyer memorial swimming pool needs maintaining just as any asset owned by the taxpayers of Ashland. Dr. Meyer and his wife donated funds to be applied to the swimming pool development many years ago. Their intent was to provide aquatic education to the children and the adults of the city of Ashland so they would be prepared to care for themselves in this world of 75% water.

Looking at the facility itself, you probably have a 2 million dollar + investment standing there already, plus the park grounds. Are you as a group going to leave it in disrepair?

My wife and I have lived in Ashland for 48 years. I have used Daniel Meyer Pool since it was built along with the University pool in the winters. DO you intend to shutter the pool as University has done? To make water education unavailable for your children?

I am a lifetime swimmer 77 years old and I will continue swimming.

I think it's a slow path to the pool refurbishing, but the funding has been taken care of by the leadership of the Park commission, if it requires a bit more time to complete the refurbishing, take it, but follow thru with your plans and teach everyone to swim, it is important.

Sincerely,
Frank Philipps
541 482 2059

From: jennifer bacon [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 29, 2020 11:13 AM
To: Michael Black <michael.black@ashland.or.us>
Cc: soacinashland@gmail.com <soacinashland@gmail.com>
Subject: Daniel Meyers pool

Hi

I am writing on behalf of my 4 member family asking to please keep the Daniel Meyer pool project viable. This community loves the pool and it is heavily utilized by young and old.

Thank you
Jennifer bacon
Meryl Roberts
Sean Roberts
Lila Roberts

From: Risa Buck [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 29, 2020 5:38 PM
To: Julian Bell <julian@ashland.or.us>; Mike Gardiner <mikeg@external.ashland.or.us>; Joel Heller <joel@ashland.or.us>; Rick Landt <commissioner_landt@external.ashland.or.us>; Jim Lewis <commissioner_lewis@external.ashland.or.us>; Michael Black <michael.black@ashland.or.us>; Swim SOAC <soacinashland@gmail.com>
Subject: Input to parks commissioners - Top 3 priorities

Hello Parks Commissioners and Staff

This is input for the Parks meeting coming up to decide priorities for Ashland Parks as a result of Covid.

As part of the Ad Hoc Committee for maintaining a pool for our community it won't surprise you that my number 1 priority is figuring out how to preserve a public option for our community to swim. Covid 19 has provided a worse case scenario for funding and I maintain faith that Michael Black will pull some sort of rabbit out of his hat to keep the project moving forward. As a city, we failed ourselves by voting down the bond to repair 3 failing public buildings. Dan Meyer Pool is in a similar predicament. I don't want the pool to be unavailable because of neglect and be off limits to our community like Pioneer Hall and the Community Center.

I also think that the Senior Center and efforts to keep that population connected was important before and even more important now with all the isolation.

So the third priority would be providing whatever opportunities are possible to keep people safe, active, and outside.

The Ashland Parks Trails, particularly the Wonder Trail has been a lifesaver. Thanks for all you've done and what you'll continue to do.

Stay well,

Risa Buck

From: Arne Mason [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, May 30, 2020 5:56 AM
To: "[@michael.black@ashland.or.us](mailto:michael.black@ashland.or.us)"@mail143c7.megamailservers.com <"[@michael.black@ashland.or.us](mailto:michael.black@ashland.or.us)"@mail143c7.megamailservers.com>; "[@julian@ashland.or.us](mailto:julian@ashland.or.us)"@mail143c7.megamailservers.com <"[@julian@ashland.or.us](mailto:julian@ashland.or.us)"@mail143c7.megamailservers.com>; "[@mikeg@ashland.or.us](mailto:mikeg@ashland.or.us)"@mail143c7.megamailservers.com <"[@mikeg@ashland.or.us](mailto:mikeg@ashland.or.us)"@mail143c7.megamailservers.com>; "[@joel@ashland.or.us](mailto:joel@ashland.or.us)"@mail143c7.megamailservers.com <"[@joel@ashland.or.us](mailto:joel@ashland.or.us)"@mail143c7.megamailservers.com>; "[@rick@ashland.or.us](mailto:rick@ashland.or.us)"@mail143c7.megamailservers.com <"[@rick@ashland.or.us](mailto:rick@ashland.or.us)"@mail143c7.megamailservers.com>; Jim Lewis <commissioner_lewis@external.ashland.or.us>
Subject: please maintain Daniel Meyer pool

My two children learned to swim 30 years ago at the Daniel Meyer pool. Community swim pools serve a public health need by teaching thousands of our town's children over the years to be safe in the water. Please continue the funding necessary to continue this public service for our town .. it is important.

Thank you,
Arne Mason
541 482-2260

From: John Weston [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, May 30, 2020 11:45 AM
To: Michael Black <michael.black@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Fwd: Please support the pool project

Begin forwarded message:

From: John Weston [REDACTED]
Date: May 29, 2020 at 12:13:02 PM PDT
To: julian@ashland.or.us, mikeg@ashland.or.us, joel@ashland.or.us, rick@ashland.or.us, jim@ashland.or.us, michaelblack@ashland.or.us
Subject: Please support the pool project

Dear Ashland Representatives,

I know that prioritizing the various park projects will be a very difficult process. We are all shocked to find ourselves in an economic shortfall. I remember one meeting when someone mentioned that we had to be concerned with smoke impacting the Meals Tax. I realize that economics will limit your choices.

I am writing to encourage you to continue with the plans to pursue the pool project. I've been a resident of Ashland for over forty years, a life long swimmer, a teacher, a coach and can attest to the numerous benefits of aquatics. I know that you have heard a variety of aquatic testimony at numerous Parks meetings. I don't feel that it is necessary to reiterate those benefits.

I think it comes down to selecting projects that support the health and well being of Ashland residents. The work has been put into supporting the pool project. We have a great plan. Quite simply, Daniel Meyer needs to be remodeled and upgraded. I hope that you can find a way to continue supporting the pool project.

Thanks for your time,

John Weston

[REDACTED]

Ashland

[REDACTED]

From: erin coke [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, May 30, 2020 11:48 AM

To: Julian Bell <julian@ashland.or.us>; Mike Gardiner <mikeg@external.ashland.or.us>; Joel Heller <joel@ashland.or.us>; Rick Landt <commissioner_landt@external.ashland.or.us>; Jim Lewis <commissioner_lewis@external.ashland.or.us>; Michael Black <michael.black@ashland.or.us>; Rebecca Kay [REDACTED]

Subject: Daniel Meyer Pool Project

Dear Director Black and Park Commissioners:

I am writing in support of the Daniel Meyer Pool Project. I know this is an unprecedented time in history, but the issue of having a pool in our community has not changed due to covid-19. There is still the need to have a place for: children to learn to swim, waterpolo practice and competition, for swim team practice and competition, for therapy, for lap swim, teen-agers to learn safety skills and have summer jobs and for community members to gather enjoy the water on a hot day. Due to limitations on the current pool, it is underutilized, so even more programming would be available if we had a larger pool for all the reasons I sited and for those reasons discussed in the parks commission meetings.

I'm hoping that you will keep the pool re-build at the top of your list !

Thank-you for all you do,

Sincerely,

Erin Coke

Erin Coke

[REDACTED]

Ashland, OR 97520

[REDACTED]

From: Susie Lutz [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, May 31, 2020 9:40 AM

To: Michael Black <michael.black@ashland.or.us>

Subject: Daniel Meyer Pool

Dear Mr. Black,

I have 3 children ages 7,9 and 11. We have been utilizing the Daniel Meyer pool for the last 11. It is an extremely valuable part of our community and summer experience. It is one of places in Ashland we really treasure.

It is an extremely important part of our summer. All 3 of my kids have taken swimming lessons there and benefited from the small

lesson size and energy of the well trained instructors It is a fabulous outdoor pool where my kids can meet with friends and enjoy a refreshing swim. It is a place when the heat hits that my kids can get the exercise they need.

My oldest daughter has been inspired by the life guards and hoped to work there one day.

We hope you will continue to maintain and improve the facility as we look forward to swimming and exercising there for years to come.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Susie Lütz
1700 E Main st
Ashland OR

From: Richard & Sharon Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, May 31, 2020 11:43 AM
To: Michael Black <michael.black@ashland.or.us>
Cc: Swim SOAC <soacinashland@gmail.com>
Subject: Ashland Swimming Pool Proposal

Dear Commissioner,

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE consider the new swimming pool project for SO MANY reasons!!

1. Water Safety
2. Exercise for rehabilitation
3. Exercise for health and wellness
4. Benefit to community for various programs: water polo, children's swim lessons, swim teams, etc.

We understand the circumstance of limited budget projects but in our humble opinion, having a swimming pool is an important need for the community.

Thank you for this consideration.

Richard & Sharon Smith
Residence of Ashland since 1990

Note: Michael, we truly appreciate all your support and interest in the past.

From: Ann Bass [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, May 31, 2020 1:41 PM
To: Julian Bell <julian@ashland.or.us>; mike@ashlnad.or.us <mike@ashlnad.or.us>; Joel Heller <joel@ashland.or.us>; Rick Landt <commissioner_landt@external.ashland.or.us>; Jim Lewis <commissioner_lewis@external.ashland.or.us>; Michael Black <michael.black@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Public pool comment

Hello,

I wanted to write to voice my support for having and maintaining a public pool in Ashland. In my 34 years living in Ashland, I have regularly used all of the public and private pools for lap and recreational swimming as has my family. Except for some winter use of the YMCA and SOU (years ago) pools, the majority of that use has been at the Daniel Meyer Pool. Please prioritize the funding of a public pool and it's continued maintenance in your budget and fund raising. It is and will be an enormous asset to this community, especially as we no longer have one at SOU.

Thank you for you work,

Ann Bass

From: Ann Bass [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, May 31, 2020 1:41 PM

To: Julian Bell <julian@ashland.or.us>; mike@ashlnad.or.us <mike@ashlnad.or.us>; Joel Heller <joel@ashland.or.us>; Rick Landt <commissioner_landt@external.ashland.or.us>; Jim Lewis <commissioner_lewis@external.ashland.or.us>; Michael Black <michael.black@ashland.or.us>

Subject: Public pool comment

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Thank you for you work,

Ann Bass

From: Andrew Gramley [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, May 31, 2020 1:58 PM

To: Julian Bell <julian@ashland.or.us>; Mike Gardiner <mikeg@external.ashland.or.us>; Joel Heller <joel@ashland.or.us>; Rick Landt <commissioner_landt@external.ashland.or.us>; Jim Lewis <commissioner_lewis@external.ashland.or.us>; Michael Black <michael.black@ashland.or.us>

Cc: Swim SOAC <soacinashland@gmail.com>

Subject: Daniel Meyer Pool Rebuild

Hi Director Black and Commissioners,

My name is Andy Gramley and I have lived in Ashland with my family since 2006. I am writing to strongly encourage you to keep the Daniel Meyer Pool project at the top of our list of Ashland Community needs. When the funding plan for our community pool rebuild was secured and approved last year, I was immediately grateful for the work many of you did and excited and hopeful for the future of aquatics in Ashland and for the community building opportunities that a rebuilt pool could offer.

Swimming and Water Polo have been a part of my life since I was 5 years old. My high school, college, and Ashland area friendships in nearly all cases are friendships/community started in the pool on a swim or water polo team. Currently, I swim with the Rogue Valley Masters Swim team and I coach the Ashland High School boys and girls water polo teams as well as coach and run our Ashland Spring Club Water Polo program. I do this voluntarily because I love coaching and I love bringing the great game of water polo to young kids. In the Spring of 2019 the Ashland Water Polo Club had 40 kids participating between the ages of 10 and 18. During the 2019 H.S. Season we had 30 Ashland High kids who played for many different reasons including: physical fitness/challenge, team building skills, the camaraderie, the social connection, self-confidence, a sense of belonging, a personal or parental desire for healthy structure, and many other reasons. All of these motivations can have a positive, powerful impact on a kid's academic, social, emotional, and physical wellbeing.

Despite the shallow depth of the current Daniel Meyer pool, we were in the process of building some great Ashland Water Polo program/participation momentum before the Covid-19 pandemic hit. Our club was very excited about a new pool and how that would accelerate that momentum! Having now gone several months without swimming in a pool myself and having completely lost our Spring Water Polo season, my yearning for a multi-purpose community pool has only grown stronger. My masters swimming group has resorted to swimming in Emigrant Lake (which can be dangerous given the boat traffic) and the Ashland Water Polo Club has resorted to (less than compelling) Zoom workout sessions. Not to sound overly dramatic, but if a post-pandemic Ashland's return to 'normal' doesn't include near term access to a viable community pool, our family would strongly consider moving to a community that does...and it pains me to say that given how much I have loved living in Ashland.

Once again, thank you all for initially driving and approving the Daniel Meyer rebuild. Having read my note, I hope you understand how important it is to me, my family, and a large group of middle and high school aged kids that we continue to prioritize rebuilding Daniel Meyer.

Thanks,
Andy Gramley

From: Pamela Downs [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, May 31, 2020 3:29 PM
To: Michael Black <michael.black@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Daniel Meyer pool project

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

Dear Commissioner Michael Black,

My name is Pam Downs, I am an Assistant Swim Coach for Ashland High School (AHS), Lifeguard at the YMCA, life long Triathlete and a resident of Ashland for 15 years. I am writing to you to share why I think The City of Ashland must rebuild Daniel Meyer pool.

As an AHS Assistant Swim Coach, my experience last season made me realize the dire need for Daniel Meyer to be rebuilt. One of many reasons, is the facility is old and the patch jobs won't maintain a functioning pool for more than a year or two. When Daniel Meyer becomes nonfunctional, there will be no pool for the High School Water Polo and Swim Teams (Phoenix and Ashland), USA Masters Swim Team or for the Ashland, Talent or Phoenix communities to swim in. With all the lakes, Rivers, and Beaches in Southern Oregon, The City of Ashland should provide an opportunity for their citizens and neighboring communities to become comfortable swimming in the water.

The AHS Swim Team last year consisted of 22 swimmers, 5 were club swimmers, 9 were 2nd year swimmers and 8 were at a beginner level. Of those 8 swimmers 3 of them were Seniors who never learned how to swim. This is another crucial reason our community needs Daniel Meyer rebuilt. All children under 18 years old should have an opportunity to learn how to swim. The swim lessons offered at the Daniel Meyer and The Y focus on the youth and their program always fills up. Since Daniel Meyer pool temperature is in the low 80s, the teens should have an opportunity to learn how to swim and to potentially swim year round there. Also, the swimmers who took lessons from the Y and from Daniel Meyer summer program could progress to Daniel Meyer year round swim program.

AHS Swim Team Coach, Todd Lantry, led 9 of the AHS swimmers to the State Championship at Tualatin Hills in Corvallis. We had one individual State Champion in the 100 backstroke and both boys and girls relay teams placed in the top 5. The main reason those 9 High School swimmers were so successful in the State Championship was because they have an opportunity to swim year round on a Swim Team. 8 swimmers swim on the Superior Stingrays team in Medford Superior Athletic club with Coach Siouxha. The other swimmer drives to Grant's Pass Y to swim on their swim team. These two swim teams in the Rogue Valley train in pool that are just as old as Daniel Meyer. If Daniel Meyer pool isn't rebuilt, the Ashland YMCA pool will be the only functioning pool in the near future.

Once Daniel Meyer pool is rebuilt, Ashland Park and Recreation could have a steady income all year long through High School Swim and Water Polo meets, US swimming Master meets and the funds from a potential Daniel Meyer Swim team. There could even be a Aquatic fitness program for the exercisers that can't tolerate the YMCAs heated pool. In return, the businesses of the City of Ashland, Oregon Shakespeare festival, and the food and Beverage tax fund would also benefit from all the traveling teams who come to compete at Daniel Meyer pool.

If the above reasons doesn't convince you that the City of Ashland needs to rebuild Daniel Meyer, then I would like to share with you the success of Superior Stingrays swim team in Medford and how Daniel Meyer pool could have the same success. I was an assistant Coach to Coach Siouxha for 4 years. In the past 5 years, the Superior Stingray's has grown from 9 swimmers to 130 swimmers. There's 4 different swimming levels and the age ranges from 5 to 18 years old. 2 swim levels pay \$70 a month and the 2 older groups pay \$90 a month. Last time I counted, there were 10 swimmers from Ashland that swim on that team. During September tryouts, Coach Siouxha turns away many swimmers due to lack of pool space. Hence, another reason why Daniel Meyer needs to be rebuilt.

The Superior Stingray's attend meets for long course in the summer time (50 meter pools) Redding, Reno, Corvallis and Bend. The Short course season (Fall/Winter) meets are in Eugene, Springfield, North Bend, and Coos Bay. Each season Superior Stingrays will have up to 15 swimmers or more make it to the USA Swimming State Championship. Currently Coach Siouxha has 1 Olympic hopeful and many High School Seniors going to swim for a College next year.

I believe with a rebuilt Daniel Meyer pool that consist of diving boards, 10 ft deep end, 8 to 10 lanes and a community friendly environment it too could bring in tourist from all over Oregon and California. The only dimension I would change on the new pool is the length of 25 yards bt 50 meters to 50m by 50 m. A 50 meter pool would allow swim meets through the summer and dual activities during the spring time. Also, I would have a contract with the Dome Guys from Ashland to cover the pool in the Winter.

Thank you for your time and for everything you do for our community!

Pam Downs

Name : deborah groshong

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email : [REDACTED]

Subject: Daniele Meyer pool

Message : There are many lap swimmers in town that would like to see the outdoor pool open when it is possible. As a lap swimmer I enjoy my exercise outside and in Ashland we have a limited season, this year being even more challenging. Lap swimming could be redesigned for safety following models from other Oregon regions and other states. One person per lane, reserve lane in advance and give them 60 minutes. Charge more for lap swimming and have increased times to accommodate swimmers. I have lived in Ashland since 1986 and have used the pool in the summer every year. Please reconsider the pool closure for the summer. You have been elected by Ashland voters and this is what we would like to see.