

DMPool Eco-Friendly

As a representative of Southern Oregon Aquatic Community, I would like to state that we are so glad that all commissioners and Director Black are in favor of re-building the Daniel Meyer pool and are strongly onboard with the conviction that Ashland definitely needs to have a multi-functional, multi-generational public pool available to all Ashland citizens.

Where the waters get a little muddy, so to speak (pun intended!) is around cost and around possibly insisting the new pool be 100% eco-friendly with today's highest standards of reducing greenhouse gases (GHG). I acknowledge that the Pool AdHoc committee made that recommendation, and that all of you are embracing that recommendation. My fear now is that the project will be put off indefinitely due to cost, and due to pressure to strictly adhere to the recommendation that the heating and water purifying systems must absolutely be 100% eco-friendly.

It is noted that the City's Climate Policy Commission has the authority to recommend updates to the City's Climate and Energy Action Plan (CEAP), and monitor and make recommendations on the implementation of the CEAP for the community and for City operations. I understand ordinances aimed at reducing GHG in all new City projects, as well as ordinances to retro-fit and make modifications to existing City buildings, vehicles and equipment are not yet clearly defined or implemented with regard to a new pool. The DMPool might be the first major project to try and meet these as yet not clearly defined or not yet implemented future ordinances.

So, my request to Director Black and the Commissioners is to view and consider all of this with keeping several things in mind:

- the existing pool is really on its last legs, but the need within the community is so great that we hope you will keep DM Pool operational until construction begins on the new pool;
- the citizens of Ashland have brought this issue (need for a new pool) forward for many years already, way prior to so much focus on reducing GHG;
- the need for a new pool has been officially identified and studied for 2 years now,
- DM Pool has been closed for a year already and children are growing up fast without adequate access to swim lessons and learning to swim – a life-saving skill;
- Qualified high school students are graduating without being able to secure college scholarships in aquatics due to no public pool available for competitions;
- Senior citizens have had no access to a public pool for aquatic rehab, classes, or lap swimming;
- Families have had no access to a public pool for recreation.

All of these reasons and more are the basis for seeking funding now and building the new pool as quickly as possible, with or without the most technically advanced eco-friendly equipment.

Rebecca Kay, Ashland, OR