

# ASHLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission

**FROM:** Michael Black

**DATE:** September 4, 2015

**SUBJECT:** Proposed Use of the Daniel Meyer Pool in Winter Months

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The Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission has adopted two goals for the 15-17 Biennium that specifically relate to increasing pool access for Ashlanders and for working with community partners to achieve this and other goals. In fact, the highest ranked goal for APRC this biennium is to:

*Facilitate a partnership between Parks and Recreation and a community partner, such as the YMCA, SOU and Ashland School District to build new competition-style year-round indoor swimming pool for the community.*

The second APRC goal related to this topic is to: *Explore options for cooperation between community partners, such as Ashland School District and APRC to share services and facilities.*

In keeping with these prioritized goals, my staff and I have been working to identify every opportunity for a new competition-style swimming pool and increase cooperation between our partners. This is an ongoing process and includes work on the staff level, as well as the policy level.

While we work through the issues of identifying the community need and funding source to building a new pool, various organizations, including the school district swim teams, currently suffer with a lack of opportunities for space to practice. The lack of options for these swim teams/groups has prompted the proposal that I will present at the special meeting on September 8, 2015.

At the meeting on September 8, 2015 I plan to recommend that the Commission consider a contract with the Ashland School District, Phoenix/Talent School District and Master Swimmers of Ashland to allow the use of the Daniel Meyer Pool between November and February for a five-year period with the following recommended conditions:

1. That all three groups enter into a contract with APRC to manage the pool and its systems and all of the appurtenant structures during the term of the contract. APRC will provide contract oversight and all pool operations will be the responsibility of the lessees.
2. That the lessees pay a total sum of no less than \$8,000 per month, which would cover:
  - a. Wear and tear of equipment.
  - b. All utilities during the term of the contract.
  - c. Repayment of any capital costs required to operate the pool and bathhouse during the term.
  - d. All required chemicals for the proper operation of the pool during the term.
3. That the lessees contract separately to provide their own certified pool operator to perform the operational functions of the pool equipment and chemicals.
4. That all lifeguards will be provided by the lessees during the term of the contract.
5. That insurance is provided naming APRC as an additional insured with an amount of coverage of no less than \$2,000,000.
6. That the beginning of the term of use will be no sooner than the time at which the planned capital improvements to the Daniel Meyer bathhouse have been completed.

I believe that the recommendation above will provide a community solution to the people of Ashland who are involved in lap swimming and high school water sports by providing another option for the groups in the off-season of the Daniel Meyer Pool.

We considered whether it would be possible for APRC staff to operate the pool for an “open swim” time during the same time period – for those people not related to lessees – and we have determined that this is not feasible at this time for various reasons, including budgeting.

There will likely be some members of the community who wish to lap swim at the pool during this period who do not fall into one of the lessee groups. APRC staff will not be staffing the pool during the lease term, and therefore we will not provide open swim or lap swim time for individuals who are not part of the lessee group. It will always be an option for those citizens to join the Master Swimmers of Ashland organization and participate with that group.

In order to move forward with the proposal, the Commission will need to vote on the following action items:

1. To authorize the APRC Director to enter into a contract with the aforementioned groups to lease the Daniel Meyer Pool during the prescribed term each year for five years.

2. To set a fee for use of the pool during this time, recommended as no less than \$8,000 per month, which is the equivalent of \$57.00 per hr of use (assuming 140 hours of use per month between all users).
3. To authorize the allocation of the funds from the “Pool Study” project within the CIP (\$20,000) to cover the initial costs in capital required to provide heat and insulation to the bathhouse for winter use. This initial capital cost will be recovered over a period of a five-year contract with the lessees according to the recommended fee in item 2, above.

I recommend that the Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission approve the proposed use of the Daniel Meyer Pool by the Ashland School District, the Phoenix-Talent School District and the Master Swimmers of Ashland with the conditions above.

I believe that if the conditions above are met, along with any the Commission may find appropriate, that the increased use of the pool during its off-season time will be an acceptable solution to provide the minimum level aquatic facility needed for the described programs to continue while a permanent aquatics facility solution is sought.

