



CITY OF WAUWATOSA  
MEMORIAL CIVIC CENTER  
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**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**  
**Tuesday, October 17, 2006 – 7:00 p.m.**

PRESENT: Alds. Purins, Stepaniak, Sullivan, Treis (7:20 p.m.), Becker, Birschel, Didier, Donegan, Ewerdt, Grimm, Hanson, Herzog, Krill (7:25 p.m.), Maher (7:25 p.m.), Meaux (7:06 p.m.) -15

EXCUSED: Ald. Krol

ALSO

PRESENT: Denise Lindberg, President, Friends of Hoyt Park & Pool, Inc.

Ald. Becker in the Chair

**Friends of Hoyt Park and Pool.** Denise Lindberg gave a power point presentation concerning the history of the Hoyt Park pool and the mission of Friends of Hoyt Park & Pool, Inc (FOHPP).

Hoyt Park is a 35-acre park owned by Milwaukee County and is part of a collection of parks connected by Menomonee River Parkway. Hoyt Park featured a swimming hole as many as 100 years ago. In 1937, Hoyt Park was deeded to the county by the city for the purpose of constructing a new swimming pool to replace the old swimming hole. The current pool, closed four years ago, was built between 1937 and 1939 by the Civilian Conservation Corps. From 1939 – 2003, the pool had the highest attendance among county pools. In 1987 big slides were installed in the pool with much fanfare.

The closure of the pool four years ago came about due to severe structural issues. The pool had been used less and less during the ten years prior to closure as the water became colder and colder (caused by the ongoing replacement of water that was lost due to leaks). Adults and small children favored the pool less and less. It was the only pool in the city open to the public. Since its closure, it has become a popular site for skateboarders to practice their sport.

(Ald. Meaux present 7:06 p.m.) -12

The Friends of Hoyt Park & Pool, Inc. was formed in the spring of 2006. Ms. Lindberg became involved partly because of her participation in the parks, recreation and culture component of a citywide strategic planning effort in the late 1990's. One outcome of the planning effort was a clear message that residents were interested in a new design, warmer water, and a family orientation for the Hoyt Park pool. Ms. Lindberg made presentations to the Wauwatosa School Board; while the School Board was interested in promoting the return of this resource to the community, it is not the primary role of the Board to see that this occurs.

Ms. Lindberg issued some follow-up e-mails late in 2005, and receiving over 150 e-mails in response; in February 2006 an update meeting was held. Community response has shown that residents want a pool at Hoyt Park. While the Milwaukee County Aquatics Committee is looking at all county pools, FOHPP is specifically concerned about Hoyt Park's pool situation. Research has shown that government involvement may not be the preferred way to assure that a pool is restored there.

Specifically, FOHPP's mission is "to enhance the quality of life for all members of the community by supporting the development, maintenance, and ongoing operation of a medium-sized outdoor family pool at Hoyt Park, and preserving the natural beauty of the surrounding park and adjacent Menomonee River Parkway."

FOHPP has studied other communities (i.e., Madison, Cedarburg and Oshkosh) to learn how they successfully developed family pools under similar circumstances. The Urban Ecology Center in Milwaukee has also served as a model. Currently FOHPP is raising awareness about a proposal to develop a new outdoor family pool at Hoyt Park. Collaboration is ongoing with the Milwaukee County Parks and Recreation Department. Private funding is being sought and it is hoped that endowments can be established to support ongoing maintenance. The level of professionalism of the volunteer working on this project is impressive. The attorney who worked with the Urban Ecology Center, Dennis Grzezinski, has been retained.

Ms. Lindberg showed a conceptual drawing of the proposed pool which will feature a zero entry area, a lap pool area with diving well and a three-foot deep area. Amenities will include picnic areas, a 'green beach,' sand volleyball court, concessions, and a wet sand play area. Concessions can be housed in the existing building (remodeled) which is still very structurally sound.

(Ald. Treis present 7:20 p.m.) -13

The concession building will include a year-round coffee house; it will be an important part of the revenue-generating stream for the pool. Family season passes will be offered in addition to the daily passes. Ms. Lindberg stressed the value of a family atmosphere, noting that the Cedarburg pool has as many adult users as children.

(Alds. Maher and Krill present 7:25 p.m.) -15

Ms. Lindberg pointed out how a facility of this type will help keep recreation dollars within the community. Currently residents are going to Brookfield and Elm Grove to swim and are paying non-resident fees. Beyond the fees, however, residents are spending money in Waukesha County on food and fuel that could be spent in Wauwatosa. This pool must be self-sustaining financially. The coffee house should help accomplish this. Heated pool water will promote more usage. Swim lessons can be offered. Swim teams could practice at this facility. The health and wellness benefits to the community are considerable. In 2007 dollars, the estimated construction cost is \$5.9 million dollars. No public money is being sought. Including endowments, the total goal is closer to \$7.9 million dollars.

This information meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Carla A. Ledesma, City Clerk

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