

September 24, 2002

Chairperson and Members of the
Parks, Recreation and Community
Resources Advisory Commission

Regular Meeting of
October 1, 2002

PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION OF MUNICIPAL SWIMMING POOL

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Commission select one or more of the alternatives below:

1. Receive and file the letter.
2. Direct staff to examine potential City programs at existing public pools.
3. Direct staff to prepare a cost analysis and a list of alternative locations for a municipal pool.
4. Assign a Commission subcommittee to examine the potential for a municipal pool in Hermosa Beach.

Background

Ashley-Michele Ommen, a resident and student at Hermosa Valley School sent a letter to the Commission requesting consideration for the construction of a municipal swimming pool in Hermosa Beach (Attachment A). At the September 3, 2002 meeting, the Commission voted to forward the letter to City Council for review.

At the September 10, 2002 meeting, Council voted to redirect the letter to the Commission for consideration.

Analysis

Assuming there is an interest in pursuing this issue, the concept of a municipal swimming pool requires attention to four key issues:

1. Construction costs.
2. Operating/programming costs
3. Maintenance and refurbishment costs
4. Location

As evidenced by the list above, swimming pools require considerable funding initially and on an annual basis. Staff examined this issue ten (10) years ago and projected construction costs for

an outdoor 25-meter pool and locker rooms at \$1.3 million with operating costs at \$200,000 annually. Clearly these numbers would be increased significantly in 2002.

Since revenues from public pools only contribute modestly to the budget, in order to give preliminary consideration for the capital expenditure for a swimming pool, it would be essential to first identify a renewable annual funding source to support a general fund expenditure of this magnitude.

Absent a viable annual funding source, recreation staff could revisit the practice of placing seasonal City swimming programs at existing public pools in the area (e.g., high schools, health clubs), a strategy we have employed in the past. In addition, we could make efforts to advertise City swimming programs in Manhattan and Redondo Beach both of which are open to Hermosa Beach residents.

Ashley's letter and campaign for a pool are evidence that Hermosa Beach youngsters are active and contributing members of their community. Her research is thorough and her approach has been both thoughtful and diplomatic. Although funding and timelines for a project as ambitious as this one can be discouraging, her efforts to bring public attention to this issue may plant a seed that may bear fruit as opportunities to build and fund recreation facilities arise in the future.

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE AT THIS TIME.
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Attachment:

A. Letter from Ashley-Michele Ommen

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Rooney, Director