

CITY OF BOULDER, COLORADO
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
RESOLUTION TO BOULDER CITY COUNCIL
CONCERNING THE NEED FOR
WARM WATER FACILITIES

THIS RESOLUTION from the City of Boulder Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) to the City of Boulder City Council concerns the pressing need for warm water therapy and wellness facilities in Boulder:

WHEREAS, the Mission of the City of Boulder Parks and Recreation (P&R) is to promote "the health and well-being of the entire Boulder community by collaboratively providing high-quality parks, facilities and programs" (Mission Statement, P&R website.); and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the PRAB, among other duties, to offer advice and consultation to City Council and city departments on the acquisition, construction, and maintenance of city park property and to coordinate policy on the development and use of recreational facilities (PRAB website.); and

WHEREAS, on April 22, 2015, P&R released its Aquatics Feasibility Plan (AFP) final draft, which was reviewed and commented upon by the PRAB on April 27, 2015; (See SUMMARY OF THE CITY OF BOULDER AQUATICS FEASIBILITY PLAN DATED APRIL 22, 2015, PERTAINING TO WARM WATER FACILITIES, which accompanies this Resolution and is incorporated herein by reference); and

WHEREAS, the AFP makes the following findings relevant to the needs of senior adults, disabled adults and disabled children for a warm water therapeutic and wellness facility in Boulder:

- One of the demographic groups in Boulder whose aquatics needs are *not* being met by existing City facilities and programs is that of the adult population (55+). The AFP summarizes this unmet need, based on community input, as "A desire for warm water amenities to meet therapeutic needs of users with physical and mental disabilities as well as facilitate aquatics lessons and programs for all ages (youth and older adults)." (AFP at 3.)

WHEREAS, the AFP further finds that:

- "The only current provider [in Boulder] of a warm-water facility for the purposes of therapeutic and rehabilitative services is Boulder Community Health. *This facility is reportedly going to close in December 2015.* (AFP at 18.) (Emphasis added.) The AFP considers "closure of Mapleton warm water wellness pool at end of 2015" as both a "threat" and an "opportunity." (AFP at 63, 64.); and

- Among the "key recommendations" made by the consultants on the AFP project is that the P&R staff focus on "areas of greatest need of programs and services ... as identified through community engagement" including "Warm Water Wellness." (AFP at 40.); and

WHEREAS, the AFP places needed warm water therapeutic and wellness activities and increased warm water facilities in the "action" category, which describes the extra services and/or capital improvements "that *should be undertaken when additional funding is available.*" (AFP at 66.) (Emphasis added.)

- “This includes strategically enhancing existing programs, beginning new alternative programs, adding new positions, or making other strategic changes that would require additional operational or capital funding.” (AFP at 66.);
- The AFP states unequivocally that with respect to these programs, that P&R "in coordination with the CMO, PRAB, and City Council should "evaluate and analyze potential sources of additional revenue, including but not limited to capital bond funding, partnerships, program income, grants, and existing or new taxes." (AFP at 66.)

NOW, THEREFORE, PRAB finds and recommends to City Council as follows:

1. That the impending closing of the BCH Mapleton Therapeutic and Wellness Pool on December 31, 2015, places the health of many Boulder Senior Adults and other disabled people at significant risk.
2. That providing warm water facilities for therapeutic and wellness benefit of senior adults and others falls within the P&R's mission to promote "the health and well-being of the entire Boulder community.”
3. That City Council forthwith authorize P&R, in coordination with the CMO, PRAB, and City Council, to evaluate and analyze potential sources of additional revenue, including but not limited to capital bond funding, partnerships, program income, grants, and existing or new taxes, which can be applied toward replacing the BCH Mapleton programs and facilities. P&R should present options to accomplish this purpose to City Council within 90 days.
4. That users of the BCH Mapleton Pool should be consulted on a regular basis during this process.
5. That City Council should decide which option or options to pursue and should instruct P&R to proceed to implement those options with all deliberate speed, including providing an interim solution pending development of a permanent solution to this community problem.

Done this __ day of _____, 2015.

Boulder Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

By _____
Mike Conroy, Chair