

Office of the City Clerk,

I am writing you to request to make a presentation to City Council at the Council meeting on December 10th, 2018 in regards to the 2019 budget and specifically in regards to the closure of Maple Leaf Pool and the creation of a new waterpark in Wascana Park. The following is what I hope to present to council:

My daughter, Lilla, and I have used Maple Leaf Pool since Lilla was born. It is in our neighbourhood, it is affordable daily recreation in the summer, and it gives my daughter an opportunity to practice swimming skills she would otherwise not have an opportunity to practice. When I broke the news to her that the city was closing the pool she was devastated. She cried until bedtime and not a tantrum spoiled child cry, it was the quiet sobs of a broken heart. Lilla looks forward to swimming at Maple Leaf all winter long. She knows that when I get home from work in the summer, we can throw our swimsuits on and walk to the pool for a fun swim before supper. It's easy and doesn't require planning because it is close by and free. I don't drive, so getting to Maple Leaf is the best option for us in the summer. On weekends she can spend hours there with friends, having free and easy fun, being active and outside. My partner works most weekends and some evenings, so Lilla and I have to find activities that don't require a car, Maple Leaf was that activity every summer for the past eleven years. And we were not alone in the pool. Most days it was packed with families, kids, and seniors. I'm not sure you have correct stats for the amount of people using the pool, especially in the last year, as I did not see anyone counting people coming in at the front at all, the window was covered up with a wooden board.

I understand that the pool is perhaps beyond repair. What Lilla and I are asking is that you make the commitment to replace Maple Leaf pool with a new pool in the same place Maple Leaf Pool is currently located or find ways to fix the current pool. It doesn't have to have fancy slides or frills of any sort, just a pool with a deep end so that children can practice important swimming skills.

Swimming in a pool in the summer outside is so beneficial in so many ways to many people young and old. It provides cardiovascular exercise in a low impact setting and water resistance helps encourage stronger bones for older adults. Swimming and diving as exercise are also great for kids, allowing them to expend energy and blow off steam and allowing everyone to cool off in the hot summer. A spray park would not be adequate for all of those things. Please do not replace Maple Leaf with another spray park. I am also aware of the suggestion to build a destination water park of some sort in Wascana Park. I am against this. Our city needs places for children to play and learn swimming skills on a daily basis, not as a 'destination' their parents can only take them to once in a while because of both cost and travel time. Yes, Wascana is sort of close to our house, but there is no way that I could get off work at 5 and take Lilla there everyday. To go there we would need to plan a trip, pack a meal, it would turn into a daytrip.

I have asked Lilla to present on this topic with me to city council, because her voice is important. She wants to, but is unsure because everytime she talks about it, she starts to cry. Taking away the pool is taking away something so important to her that I don't even think I can adequately explain it to you. I'm sure many, many other children in our neighbourhood feel the same way as Lilla.

I am unsure how these meetings work and how long they take, since it is a school night, Lilla and I may not be able to be present to make our presentation. In this instance can someone else read our letter?

Thank you,
Stacey Fayant and Lilla Fayant