

December 10th, 2018

RE: Outdoor Aquatic Destination Facility

Good evening Mayor Fougere and Members of City Council

I am Wilma Staff. My purpose in being here this evening is to present my case for the retention and upgrading of both Wascana and Maple Leaf Pools.

I am pleased that the City has decided to make a significant commitment to improve our recreation facilities. However, the 16 million dollars committed, to renovate one pool, should be revised so that both Wascana and Maple Leaf Pools can be refurbished.

In the 1980's, I too faced the dilemma of preserving or closing City pools and replacing them with spray pads. The need to constrain costs related to a growing City led to a recommendation to close both Maple Leaf and Wascana.

According to the report, Wascana had lighting and electrical issues and Maple Leaf had reached the end of its life. Although, like yourselves, we always respected our administration's advice, we decided City pools were too important to close any of them. As a result, with some repairs, both pools have continued to operate for the past 34 years.

That said, I think the decision you make this evening should be considered in the following context.

Recommendations related to a development, as defined in the zoning bylaw, must comply with the governing policy document, Design Regina, authorized by bylaw 2013-48.

The guiding policies related to recreation are in Goal 2. The stated objective is to "**Ensure access to a variety of recreation programs and services in all neighbourhoods**". That would support a decision to refurbish both pools. The primary goal of the OCP, to develop complete neighbourhoods", reinforces such a decision.

Here is part of the recreation chapter prologue.

Historically, the city's outdoor recreational facilities have defined the spatial landscape of the city. Today Regina's recreation opportunities are some of the most cherished. Going forward the City will need to ensure it maintains this legacy for future generations.

In addition to the OCP policies, an argument for retention of both pools can be supported on the following basis.

Pools give children the opportunity to learn the principles of water safety. In a province with a drowning death rate higher than "the national average", a decision to retain both pools would be prudent. Also, municipally run and supervised pools provide an opportunity for our immigrant families, to learn those principles and more importantly, learn to swim.

Having said that, given the aforementioned OCP policies, it could be argued, the adoption of a proposal to close a pool in any neighbourhood, is a breach of bylaw 2013-48.

Due to its location in Wascana Park and that it offers a recreation opportunity to anyone visiting the park, Wascana, may warrant a higher level of restoration. However, at the community level and no less essential to the City's recreation options, Maple Leaf, Dewdney, Regent and Massey are neighborhood pools that also offer a valuable recreation opportunity.

Mindful of Council's commitment, to maintain the integrity of Regina's neighbourhoods and to those who volunteer to help keep those neighbourhoods livable, I am asking City Council to renovate both Wascana and Maple Leaf Pools.

Respectfully submitted this 6th day of December 2018.



Wilma Staff
RMA/UMA ret.

References:

**Design Regina – Part A City Wide Plan Citywide Policies
Parks Recreation and Open Spaces Pages 47 and 48**

**Design Regina – Part B City Secondary Plans
Core Area Neighbourhood Plan Part B.8 Page 1 of 9
Objective (b)**