

Dec 6 2018

Re Maple leaf pool closure and budget

To Regina City Council

Hello and thank you for taking the time to read and listen to my comments. I am writing as a concerned citizen and as the chair of the Hillsdale dale community association. I speak in support of another Community association the Heritage community association. There are many issues facing all Regina communities, but I am addressing the budget and closure decision of maple leaf pool.

Not only do the Heritage Community Association and Hillsdale community Association share the same acronym HCA, we as the rest of the community associations face the realities of a infrastructure deficit. As a result of past administrations and changes to how much revenue the city collects as a result of political decisions outside of the control of council has resulted in significant and dangerously harmful underfunding to our various communities.

The recent announcement of the closure of Maple leaf pool is evidence of this. The longer-term plan to maintain recreational facilities has been chronic underfunded and this will leave the community, the families, the children and visitors with a less or lower quality of community.

Our core communities need adequate recreation facilities along with a plan to maintain and replace these facilities. The decision to close Maple Leaf pool appears to be short sighted and not fully thought out. The process around this closure seems to have not included community consultation and have a clear understanding what the removal of the pool will do to the community. Further The decision to have the children and families use alternate pools in various other locations seems to be reactionary as opposed to a reasonable proactive response. It is not reasonable to think that the community family's will cross busy streets and take public transportation to these pools.

Summer days are often unpredictable and result in spontaneous trips to the pool during the day and in the afternoon. This applies to all communities, however in the core areas where they are a crucial part of the community. Some people may not believe this, but it is self-evident if you observe one of the city pools on a hot prairie day. They are packed with children and families.

There are many underfunded areas in the city, parks and recreation is one of them. The decisions of previous councils now rests on the shoulders of today's council. It is not easy decision by any assessment. I believe there are other options that can be explored to address this chronic underfunding and infrastructure deficit. This would include things such as re thinking the Wascana plan and re allocating funds to Maple Leaf pool, and or looking at meaningful investment into the recreation facilitates in all areas of Regina.

As I said at the start we may share an acronym, but we also face the same infrastructure issue.

I urge city council to rethink and come up with a better plan that would include significant funding and keeping Maple leaf pool open.

Thank you

Rick Ostlund

Resident and Chair of the Hillsdale community Association (HCA)