Community Meeting #1
August 6, 2026 5pm in OCBH

Q&A (Questions and Answers)

- What about other pools?
    - Not feasible to continue renting Westmont or other HS pools moving forward.
    - Camden Community Center is aware of our pool closure and requests from our patrons. We cannot offer our programs at their pool and their budget and processes are very different from Campbell and they are not able to make changes mid-year to their programming.
    - Looking for facilities where there is a mutual benefit to offer minimal programming if possible.
    - The priority is our aqua 50+ programs as they are the most vulnerable population we serve.
    - The earliest to potentially have programming begin is in the new calendar year.
- As swimmers, we do not want the lap swimming pool to be small if there are two pools. I want to make sure the pool for the lap swimming gets the same number of lanes. When military and summer programming is happening, we have only 6 lanes.
    - The design of the pools will be community driven, however staff would not recommend anything smaller than what we currently have and the Facility Audit done in 2017 also did not include anything smaller.
    - Participant commented: Survey was skewed because many of us said the pool was excellent because we did not want the pool to be shut down.
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- Thank you for the Westmont option. Question about do we need more people to come to the meetings?
    - We want all of you to attend and more! The next one will have the opportunity to walk the pool deck. If you know people in your neighborhood, send them over, active users or potential users.
    - Communication to those who have already joined other facilities?
        - Specific updates will go to the subset for the Pool Project
        - We will have information on our website, social media outlets and the reader board.

- Where the two pools are, will it extend out?
    - Less concrete but do not get stuck on what you see for the examples from the Facility Audit. The City has added on to this campus and has always done a great job of making the additions blend into the existing architecture so it appears they have been part of the campus the whole time. The expectation would be that the look and feel remains the same, but with that said the design can expand the existing fence line if needed.
    - We want to make things look like it has always been a part of the campus. If we are open to design changes, it includes looking at what that looks like including entry. It can be anything we want it and that is where this community design comes in.
- What about restaurants and businesses in the area? Are they not aware of how important this is to the health of the community.
    - As a city employee we cannot solicit money. This is why the Parks and Recreation Foundation is critically important to this project and is a way for community members can get involved.

- Chlorine vs salt water? Is there a cost difference between the two?
    - We are not there yet and we will rely on our consultants to assist in some of these decisions at a later date.
- Purpose of the 2nd pool?
    - The purpose is so we can have multiple programs offered at the same time. We limit our opportunities if we offer the same design. The community is changing and it would allow us to expand our offerings. We could offer aqua fitness and have lap swim at the same time if the community wants two pools. It allows us to grow. This is our opportunity to plan for the future.
- I want to promote a roof over the pool
    - When we pass out the blank site plans be sure to add that feature in. You don't necessarily have to draw it, but you can list the amenity you would like and the reasons why.
- Locker room will change?
    - Yes. Ensuring we have accessible and inclusive locker room spaces are very important.
- For the demographic question about income, do we respond as an individual or household?
    - Household
- Historic aspect of the pool, do we have to think about that?

    - The only buildings that are historic points of interest on our campus are building B, A and the Heritage Theatre.
- Working on options for the water fitness program? Do you have other pools or fee cost changes?
    - An initial conversation has taken place with a potential location. Nothing is confirmed it was just information gathering. If there is anything that we can put together, it would be in the new year, not in the fall.
- Increase in sales tax for parks?
    - Measure K was a couple of years ago, not specifically for parks, it passed but it is sitting in an escrow account because the city has been sued. We have used significant city reserves to help fill the gap the last two fiscal years. Measure K was part of a sales tax revenue which will go to the General Fund and continue providing park and recreation services, it was not designated as capital funding for infrastructure.
- The city lacks care about us in the pool, it took how many months to get aquatics going when Jennifer retired. Our biggest thing is always worrying about who is going to take the role?
    - The previous instructor (Jennifer) was a full-time employee who taught those classes regularly. Upon her retirement there was limited time to fill the vacancy. The recruitment was open for over a year and staff did direct messaging on LinkedIn to assist in recruiting. It is a hard position to fill and not everyone who is qualified to teach those classes is available on those dates and times.
- Walking by the empty pool and seeing it for the first time, all I heard was really bad leaks. Is it being diagnosed now that the pool is drained?
    - We knew we had leaks in our inlets and gutters, when we closed the pool in June for staff training, we discovered our main drain had a significant leak. The inlets were plugged and the pool was turned off and it lost 8 inches in a day. It was decided we could hold the line with the existing leaks and close at the end of summer programming. On July 14th the volume of water lost in a 24 hour period was astronomical and we couldn't continue to lose that much water and had to close immediately. To fix the main drain, we are required to have 2 drains and we only have 1. It would be over 1 million to fix just that issue and tear up the deck to run to lines and that cost still would not address the leaks in the inlets and gutters, and would not update the mechanical room and locker rooms. The pool is 75 years old and it just does not make sense to fix that when we have this renovation project moving forward.

- Are we limited to a certain size?
    - Yes the pool needs to be a specific distance from buildings, etc, but that will be handled by the consultant. This is really an opportunity for growth and for the community to plan for the next 75 years. For the design, you can really put what you want and the people who do the design will let us know what is realistic. The designers will know the size and dimensions.
- What is the estimated cost and do we have a gap with funding?
    - We are estimating about 12 million for the project, but we will see what happens with the community design. We currently have about 3.5-4.5 million from the Parkland Dedication Fund. The rest will need to come from Fundraising, State Grant, or other funding options determined by the City.
- How large of a program pool? How does it work for liability?
    - When designing your space you can simply draw a programming pool and list "large enough for 45 water exercise participants". The consultants will know sizing for those needs.
    - As for liability with two pools that will be determined and managed by our risk manager as part of the project.
- What's our competition for the State grant?
    - I was told directly we will not fair well because we will not score high enough. It is open to every city, tribal community and non-profit within California. We could ask for up to 8.5 million and could only be awarded $200,000, but any amount will help the project. All funds received from the grant do have time limits so project must be completed within 5 years from when funds are issued.
- Swim team – interested in the smaller pool for warm up and cool down, for swim meet. My question is the diversity of grants we are hoping to go for? Are we planning to apply for just the state grant or are we exploring other grants.
    - Construction and infrastructure grants are really challenging as there aren't may out there and the socio-economic status of this area doesn't usually quality. Additionally, while we are a park deficient community by the 3 acres per 1,000 residents, we are still well above some communities that are applying for grants.
    - We have looked for additional grants, but have not found any that we qualify for, if you find something please share it with us.
- Is there a need for the pool to have as big of a depth.
    - It depends on the needs/wants of the community.

- Parks and Rec foundation – the ones to go out into the community to get donations, awareness, etc. We as city employees we cannot be a part of that.
- Where will the money come from if we do not get the grants?
    - The city is very committed, finance department has already been in contact with a consultant on funding options that we can explore when we the time comes.

- Is there data on how the pool was being used? So that people outside this room we can communicate that and what we can anticipate what we will have?
    - We do have statistics on the number of people who come to the pool, kids swimming, learning to swim, users in the pool which can be shared with the community.
- What do we need to do to get more people involved?
    - This is a good turnout for a community meeting. Please share this with family and friends and other social outlets. Information will be updated on our webiste and we will continue to send out emails. Next meeting will be on Monday, August 24th at 6pm.
- I am surprised, it sounds like it is going to be 5 years. Can't believe it? Have you fully explored repairing the pool. There must be a way to fix it?
    - The pool is beyond repair. Have you really explored? Yes it would cost a few million to do a repair that does not fix a lot of the other problems as well. It is time to build for future generations for the next 75 years.
- We need more than 12 million dollars, is the city interested in selling park land to a developer?
    - We are a park deficient community, never.
- What is the feasibility to have the pool over at the soccer fields?
    - We would need to fill the big whole, and soccer parents would not be happy.
- How long before new pool is complete?
    - Honestly do not know. Public projects take longer than private or residential projects. We will share updates of timeline as we get it.
    - It is going to take some time, while we don't have an alternative pool at the time, we are going to do everything we can.