



**RESTON COMMUNITY CENTER  
PUBLIC INPUT RECORD  
FEBRUARY 2, 2017 – MARCH 2, 2017**

*The following comments were submitted to RCC for consideration by the Board of Governors between the dates of February 2 and March 2, 2017. All text in red is Executive Director Leila Gordon's response to input.*

**Jane Anthony, Reston Resident**, submitted the following comments via email:

We totally need more access to options for swimming via the Reston Community Center. Many groups share this small pool and we need to increase access for all groups.

Thanks for letting us know your concern – it would be great if you could elaborate on what you envision. For example, do you feel that more than one pool is needed, for whom the pool should be designed, etc. And we are planning ahead in the context of a high degree of certainty that a new comprehensive Wellness Center with extensive aquatics components will be realized by the Park Authority in Reston Town Center North within the decade. Any thoughts you have that offer more detail are welcome. And of course, importantly, funding issues are a big part of our considerations. We will also reconvene in March to report back from the work done in February – so you could put March 13 on your calendar if that would work for you to attend to hear the staff report to the Board then.

I will not be able to attend the February 13th meeting and would like my comments included in the feedback on the RCC Pool. I am a regular lap swimmer at the RCC pool, a former member of the Reston Masters and have trained for the swim portion of three Reston triathlons at RCC. My family has lived in Reston since 1977 and we have all enjoyed multiple aspects of the RCC pool. I understand that there are major repairs to the mechanical system of the RCC pool that are needed which are both costly and will close the pool for an extended time starting in the summer of 2018. I also understand that Fairfax County Park Authority will be building a recreation/fitness center in North Reston sometime in the future. I also am aware that the RCC Staff, Board, and community are exploring a number of options to reconfigure and have a separate, smaller pool in that area that may be used for lessons, classes, etc. This will allow the two pools to have different temperatures and the remaining lane pool to be cooler. This is a wonderful opportunity to have cooler water for workouts and warmer water for therapeutic classes and is well worth the investment. Reston is a growing community and we need both to enlarge and re-configure the present pool to service our full community - competitive swimmers, swim classes, high school teams, diving teams, and recreational family swim. In addition I understand that a deep water pool is required to train life guards and for dive practices. Training lifeguards is needed to staff not only RCC, but the outdoor summer RA pools. Members of the Reston Community are in a special tax district that has contributed to the pool and has provided access to residents at reasonable rates. We need to continue having a Reston pool at Hunters Woods with reasonable rates that meets all of our residential needs. Re-configuring the RCC Aquatic area will serve more of our residents. The pool is always busy with all the competing needs. Paying a RCC special tax allows Reston residents to have access to a pool at reasonable rates meeting the myriad uses and needs of the Reston swimming community. For sure Reston's growth will also support a Fairfax County Park Authority facility - we need both an RCC enhanced Aquatic Center and a FCPA recreation/fitness center. I hope arrangements can be made that there is not a hiatus in pool availability while under construction.

**Ruth McWilliams, Reston Resident**, submitted the following comments via email:

I am writing in regard to the planned renovation of RCC programs and policies. I take several courses a year at RCC. In addition, I regularly attend a weekly water aerobics class on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. I would hope that if there is to be a complete overhaul of the indoor pool for an indefinite

period of time that there will be sufficient attention paid to an alternative to the RCC water aerobics classes at a comparable price at a nearby pool. I will be following this with great interest.

Thank you for sending us your thoughts. Regarding the closure period for RCC's pool – we have to replace all the pool's major systems in the coming 12-18 months. If all we do is replace in kind, we will need to close our facility for about 4-6 months. If we pursue a path that will allow us to significantly improve the pool facility through renovation, our current estimate is that it will require 12-18 months of down time. Either path will require that we attempt to work with our community partners to have our patrons accommodated. As in past lengthy facility closures, our efforts will entail patrons temporarily using Park Authority, Reston Association and/or YMCA pools. We won't be able to control for the pricing in those environments – but we will do our best to work out arrangements that will be easy for our patrons, and we will endeavor to give our patrons as much lead time as we can to make their plans. Please let us know if you plan to attend next Monday; in either case, we will include your message in our record of feedback to our planning.

**Judith Newman, Reston Resident**, submitted the following comments via email:

I am a senior with spinal disease and chronic pain. I use the pool every day for exercise to maintain strength and flexibility. I realize that work is needed on the pool, but I am hoping that closing the pool won't be necessary. If closing is needed, please limit the duration. I'm so grateful for the wonderful benefits of the community pool and the staff who run and maintain it.

Thank you for sending us your thoughts. Regarding the closure period for RCC's pool – we have to replace all the pool's major systems in the coming 12-18 months. If all we do is replace in kind, we will need to close our facility for about 4-6 months. If we pursue a path that will allow us to significantly improve the pool facility through renovation, our current estimate is that it will require 12-18 months of down time. Either path will require that we attempt to work with our community partners to have our patrons accommodated. As we have during past extended closures, that will entail working out temporary use of Park Authority, Reston Association and/or YMCA pools. We won't be able to control for the pricing in those environments – but we will do our best to work out use that is as affordable or close to our pricing as we can achieve. And we will endeavor to give our patrons as much lead time as we can to make their plans. Please let us know if you plan to attend next Monday; in either case, we will include your message in our record of feedback to our planning.

**Susan Meeks-Versteeg, on behalf of Reston Chorale**, submitted the following comments via email:

The Reston Chorale would also like to hear about the status building a performing arts center in Reston.

Thanks for your RSVP. Attached is the Strategic Plan Update; we will discuss briefly where we are on the performing arts venue front on Monday.

**Kendall Jamison, Reston Resident**, submitted the following comments via email:

I take water aerobics and find it essential to my health and wellbeing.

I went to the meeting Monday night. Below are several comments and questions:

1. I echo the many comments about the essential nature of the shallow and deep water aerobics. I am 69 and, after a land exercise injury, osteoarthritis in my right knee abruptly curtailed my ability to walk even short distances. Water aerobics have enabled me to gain strength and endurance while my knee was healing. I need to continue this work as I will continue to have some level of pain and disability for the rest of my life. My quality of life is greatly improved because of water aerobics.
2. I believe your staff may have confused the MS and ARTHRITIS deep-water classes, which have limited enrollment, with the 8am & 9am drop-in, deep-water aerobic classes. We need lots of different water aerobics classes.
3. I want to echo the need for both depth as well as graduated shallow WARM water.
4. Clearly plan 2 gives the most flexibility for years to come.
5. It was clear at the meeting that there is a constituency for a cooler pool for laps and some graduated depth in that cooler pool. The teaching steps are very desirable in the warm pool.
6. Please add 1-2 ramps in the warm pool.
7. What is the depth in the therapeutic pool?
8. What is the goal of the therapeutic pool? It does not seem big enough for physical therapy or a class.
9. If work on one pool at a time in Plan #2 saves time, will it save money because construction costs can be staggered?

10. Where will the money come from?
11. Please make sure the floor tiles in the dressing rooms and around the pool are SAFER. Check out sport and health at Reston for attractive, simple use of tiles and paint.
12. The family room in the Women's locker room is a GREAT idea.
13. The Women's locker room needs to be the larger space. Men are much quicker and more agile in changing. They spend less time there and use less room.
14. There need to be more showers in the Women's space. Women are more cognizant of chlorine.

**Sumi Vintimilla, RSTA Winter Swim Program Chair**, submitted the following comments via email:

I'm in charge of RSTA Winter Swim. We are very happy to be able to use the pool at RCC and we appreciate your strong support for us. Unfortunately, I won't be able to join the meeting on Monday, but could you please send me a copy of what you share at the meeting? You can send to this email address or you can leave it at the front desk at the pool because I go to the pool every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday. Our Vice President will attend the meeting, so she can speak out for RSTA, but as RSTA Winter Swim Chair, we are very happy the way it is now. We would like to have lap lanes, so we can have the efficient practices. Preferably, not have a (b)each entry and have a deeper diving well.

If I understand your message below correctly, you are indicating your preference for a lap lane-only configured pool without two features: beach entry or a deep end. We will incorporate your input below to our record of feedback on the pool issues. I am attaching the updated RCC Strategic Plan. The materials distributed at the meeting Monday will be posted to our website following Board approval of the committee meeting minutes at their March 6 meeting. You will be able to then access them on our website. They are not distributed or official until the March 6 meeting timeframe.

What I meant is no beach entry, but nice to have a deep end for diving.

**Denise Kelly, Reston Resident**, submitted the following comments via email:

Like many seniors I have been coming to RCC drop in classes for decades, and have paid the small district tax to Fairfax County. If the pool does close for a while, I want to be sure the alternative accommodations will be built into the Strategic Plan, and that Seniors will not feel any financial burden. These Senior drop in classes are aerobic and essential for good health. These are the only aerobic opportunities most of us can afford.

Your input below will be included in our records of feedback. We will be exploring the RCC Strategic Plan on Monday as well as the future of the Terry L. Smith Aquatics Center. Whenever we have closed for an extended period of time, we have tried hard to create alternative arrangements with our colleagues at Reston Association and the YMCA to allow our patrons to access their aquatic facilities. We are mindful of how economical our facility and programs are for our patrons but we can't dictate that other facilities use our pricing. In the past, the Y in particular has been very understanding about our patrons' needs and I have no reason to believe they won't be in the future.

**Julie Gray, Reston Resident**, submitted the following comments via email:

I have read your strategic plan, and have a few questions: What does RCC plan to do to achieve its goals? You document past communications and other Reston organizations, but do not describe what you would like those relationships to look like, or what desired outcomes you would like to achieve. A good strategic plan covers budget as well, and addresses how spending will be used to achieve stated goals and desired outcomes. There are a lot of community resources in Reston, which are currently diluting each other by competing for resident time and attention. The Reston Community Center can add a lot of value by connecting the school system, Reston Association, Reston Town Center, the Nature center, Fairfax County government, police departments, YMCA, Girl/Boy scouts, Cornerstones, and local companies, religious organizations, and non-profits. I might suggest a starting point would be single website that pulls information from all community resources - trail maps, calendars, policy documents, contacts, etc. For example, a searchable, filter-able website with schedules, cost, ages, location, etc on all the available summer camp options (or after school programs, swim lessons, holiday events) in Reston would be tremendously valuable. I had also hoped that the RCC strategic plan would clearly prioritize equal access to all community resources, and discussed how this would be achieved. I appreciate the opportunity to contribute ideas, and hope to meet you at the meeting on Monday.

Thanks very much for your feedback. Strategic Plans come in many different formats with varying degrees of specificity. We are comfortable that the inter-related materials we produce reflect the balancing of ongoing core mission-related programs and services and the initiatives we take in furtherance of our strategic vision. I am happy to discuss details with you. Achieving a merge of all the

information you list in one website would be a daunting enterprise and such a website would be very challenging to maintain. We are committed to supporting a calendar on the web that contains major events of community interest and that seek a broad audience. We can see how that works and build upon it. Our organization and the others you cite do work collaboratively to achieve the goals you mention. Our latest focus is on doing so in the Reston Opportunity Neighborhood undertaking which is just beginning. I am very hopeful that will produce strategies for achieving the access for youth and families that you describe. I look forward to meeting you on Monday, Julie!

**Estelle Guttman, (residency unknown)**, submitted the following comments via email:

The pool, as it is configured, works well for so many people. Please don't fix what isn't broken!! If it needs repairs, then do it in the summer when the outdoor pools are open. Closing the pool for a year or more would be severe hardship for all those who use it regularly. The pool is used all day long by many, but it's never too crowded. We don't need a second pool. I have been getting my only exercise in the pool for more than 20 years. In fact I started using the pool so long ago that for years I paid only \$17 for 20 visits. More than one doctor has told me the best exercise for my body is in the pool. For years I took classes. But now I put my old arthritic body only in the deep water where there is no bouncing on the floor, and no stress on the bones and joints. I can move my body in water in ways that I cannot on land. Working out in deep water is the best medicine for the bones and joints. Please don't take it away. The Hunters Woods pool is one of the best benefits of living in Reston.

Thank you for sending me the note below. I appreciate very much how passionately attached our patrons are to the Terry L. Smith Aquatics Center. Regardless of which path we determine to take, the pool complex will indeed have to close for a substantial period of time – at a minimum – replace the aging systems that have outlived their capabilities. We anticipate that work will require a minimum of 4-6 months. We are investigating the potential to use the funding for replacement of all the pool systems to explore a more thorough renovation project instead to make the pool more useful over a longer period of time. Your input will be included with the feedback we receive this evening and beyond as we formulate the best approach for achieving the outcome that will best serve our patrons and community.

**Margaret and Tom Carter, Reston Residents**, submitted the following comments via email:

We strongly oppose any proposal that would decrease the discount given seniors who attend aquatic programs at the Reston Community Center. As you know, the duration of each session of our class (Aqua Burn) went from four weeks to three weeks at the beginning of 2017, which constitutes an effective increase in fees per session of about 25 percent. Add a reduction in the senior discount on top of that, and I fear that you will see seniors opting against taking this and other aquatic classes. (And, we should point out, Aqua Burn and the deep-water water aerobics class that immediately precedes it on Mondays and Wednesdays, whose attendees also are primarily seniors, recently had a five-month hiatus when a qualified instructor could not be found.) To us, it appears that the Reston Community Center is attempting to balance its budget on the backs of seniors. That is not right. We have been loyal patrons of the Aqua Burn class for over seven years. While younger attendees have come and gone, a dedicated core of seniors has continued, session in and session out. Again, we oppose any decrease in the senior discount.

Thank you for sending your thoughts regarding our planning. We have for consideration this evening a pricing approach to achieve consistency and equity in our discounting practices across all our programs - whether in the water or on land. The proposal will shift the cost of the registered aquatics classes for seniors by \$1.17 per hour for seniors. This is a proposal that is not being presented to balance our budget on the backs of seniors, but rather to bring the aquatics programming into alignment with all the rest of the programming offered by RCC. Across all the programming offered, we are trying to achieve broader choices and participation and to maintain pricing that is as neutral as possible in its impact for seniors currently involved in our programs. We embarked several years ago on a gradual phasing and adjustment of pricing to bring our overall agency cost recovery to a level that would put our core budget back in balance. We have moved from a cost recovery percentage overall of about 12-13 percent to cost recovery that is about 15-16 percent. The RCC financial policy is to achieve cost recovery from fees that is no more than 25 percent of our operating and personnel costs. By comparison to the Park Authority, Reston Association and the Y, our offerings remain substantially lower in price; for seniors the costs are even more significantly lower. We very much appreciate how important the programs we offer are for our patrons - especially those who may be challenged economically to balance all their financial needs with their recreational and fitness needs. Your input will be included in our records and carefully considered as we investigate the best strategies to achieve our goals. Thank you very much for taking the time to send it

to us and you can look forward to results of our explorations being further discussed on March 13 when staff presents recommendations to the Board for upcoming FY2018 and FY2019 planning. That meeting will occur at the same time in RCC HW.

**Denise Hogan and Robert Goudie, on behalf of Reston Town Center Association**, submitted the following comments via email:

On behalf of Reston Town Center Association (RTCA), we wanted to write in connection with Monday's public meeting to thank you for another strong year of partnering together to deliver quality programming for our community. As in years past, RCC's participation in our weekend children's activities in the park, and your invaluable sponsorship of the Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival (a core community event at the Town Center), were deeply appreciated and valued. Seeing the smiling faces on the hundreds of children who show up for the weekend events, and watching the typically tens of thousands in our broader community who interact with the over 200 artists from across the country who are part of the fine arts festival, tells all everything you need to know about how successful these partnerships have proven. And we were especially pleased, with your help, to bring back to Town Center for a "Night of Dance" two of the ballet troupes you had so thoughtfully selected for site-specific performances at the festival (those performances were, sadly, rained out on festival weekend). The "Night of Dance" was so beautiful and drew such a nice crowd – well over 300 for the performance at the Patrick Dougherty sculpture and a large gathering at the Reston Rondo sculpture as well – that this may well be something we want to consider on a more regular basis going forward. But this past year also marked an expansion of our partnership with the addition of the new chamber concert series with the Shenandoah University Conservatory (SUC) on Sundays in July at the park. The five shows were a terrific success, averaging around 200 attendees. Thanks to RCC's relationship with SUC, we have created not only a unique, open-air event, but one of unrivaled quality. And we are very excited that our teams have been able to work together to expand this to nine shows with SUC this coming summer! We have every confidence that over time this is going to grow into one of the most anticipated cultural events on the local calendar. So we write to thank you not only for past successes, but for being creative and collaborative with us in thinking through new ideas, like the chamber concert series. The community is daily enriched by the leadership you are providing. We are looking forward to another highly successful year together of delivering quality programming for our community.

Thanks Denise and Robert for your thoughtful and kind comments. They will be entered into our official record of input. We also value the strong partnership we have with Reston Town Center – it has helped us significantly reach out to others to "build community."

(From Denise) Thanks, Leila. As I say every year, Reston Town Center's partnership with Reston Community Center is not considered work at all but a real pleasure from the Holiday Parade, Frosty Follies and special holiday and summer performances and working with valued not for profit events. We are very much looking forward to March's "Spring Into Giving." The RCC family always goes the extra mile and with that special smile as we get our happy holiday families down the street.

**Robert Goudie and Lily Siegel, on behalf of the Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE)**, submitted the following comments via email:

We are sorry we cannot be at your planning meeting this evening. In lieu of being there personally we at least wanted to send you this note letting you know how deeply appreciative we are at the Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE) for the robust partnership we have with RCC. First and foremost, we simply could not put on our annual Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival without your Signature Community Sponsorship. This past year was a bit of challenge with the weather, but the festival remains a place where "the 'art stars' of the outdoor art fairs vie for spaces." (*Art Fair Insiders*, 2015.) Your involvement, of course, goes beyond the sponsorship and includes the incredible performance art that you deliver to help round out the festival experience. The site-specific dance performances that you have arranged for each of the past two years – and, we are enthusiastic to hear, that you will be delivering again this year! – have been nothing short of phenomenal. We are so proud to identify RCC as one of our top sponsors for this marquee cultural event. Add to this the adult educational programming that we partner on, and RCC's incredible and unhesitating support as a Platinum Sponsor of our new Biennial Campaign, and there is a simple reality that becomes apparent – a big part of our success is thanks to RCC's vision and leadership as such a strong partner. We have taken to adding the tag line "Make Art Happen" on some of our community communications. Well, RCC makes art happen! We think that what we are doing with our Destination GRACE vision is helping fulfill Bob Simon's ambition of making Reston an ever more

complete community. It is not just that, with our partners like RCC, we are helping to create a compelling cultural proposition that will get people taking the Metro not only east but west. But once here at this destination we are transporting our audience to another, a place of wonder, imagination, and inspiration. Every year we touch more people with our core exhibition, educational, and festival programming as our Destination GRACE vision gains momentum. And that is possible in large part because we have such a strong and dedicated community partner in RCC. Thank you, and we are looking forward to another successful year of working together to Make Art Happen.

We highly value our strong relationship and continuing work with GRACE. Your organization is a real Reston treasure and we are very pleased to offer our support. All the activities you list and the ever-present beauty the GRACE gallery lends to Reston are pillars of what makes this such a special place. We consider GRACE to be a part of our arts family.

**Luda Draganova, Reston Resident**, submitted the following comments via email

- 1.) I've been enjoying the RCC pool for many years; I like the way it looks and what it has to offer now! It's a lovely, cozy pool that serves the local community well. I come here 2-3 times a week for lap swimming and spa. If there is a need for some renovations, that's OK, but I would prefer the pool is not shut down for a long time. **Regardless of the scope of repair/systems replacement efforts, the minimum amount of time we will need to close the pool next year to accomplish our minimum needs for its systems and structure is about 4 months. We are considering renovation options that extend from 4-6 months to 12-15 months.** I don't want it to be turned into a big industrial/professional 50-m monster, with a lot of money spent during the overhaul and then - during its maintenance! If there is a thought that the pool is too vacant during the day time (I like that, but I see how this can be a concern), then how turning it into a bigger pool would attract day-time visitors? So, in a nutshell, my vote is for preserving the status quo, with any required (but not drastic!) renovation. **There is no consideration of installing a 50 meter pool.**
- 2.) If the decision is made to perform a complete overhaul of the pool (to achieve whatever new shape and form), then I would like to know:
  - What will be offered to the RA residents as an alternative during the reconstruction period? Will there be an arrangement with, say, Herndon pool to treat us as Herndon residents or to accept our RCC pool passes there? **We have not initiated discussions with RA, the Y or any other pool as yet. Herndon would have no policy avenue from which to consider treating our patrons as Herndon residents or to accept our pool passes. It is highly likely that any arrangement we make will be with our local Reston partners – RA and the Y – and will be identical or similar to arrangements we have made in the past.**
  - What will our Reston residents' pool entrance fees be after the renovation? **Fees to use our pool will continue to rise gradually to attain the level we are targeting – (no higher than 75% of comparable Park Authority fees). We won't know precisely the fee schedule we will reopen with until we are closer in time to that date. It will however continue to be the case that our fees will remain substantially lower than the fees charged by other public facilities as a consequence of the tax paid by Reston property owners. Regardless of the scope of replacement undertaken the pricing will continue to evolve in this fashion.**
- 3.) I would like to be added to the distro list of people that you inform of any decisions/changes regarding the pool. If such a list does not exist and will not be created, then please let me know how I can stay informed regarding this matter - decisions, future meetings, etc. **We are happy to add you to our distribution list.**

**Thank you for your note below; if you would be kind enough to provide us with your residential address, we will include it in our records of feedback/input to this issue. We will also add your email address to our distribution list for notice regarding upcoming meetings to consider the aquatics facility capital projects issues. I have inserted some responses in the message below in red. (Report note: comments included in red ABOVE.)**

Thank you so much for taking the time to write a prompt and thorough response; I appreciate it! I had a chat today with a participant of yesterday's meeting, so I have some idea what options were discussed. Some comments: I would hope the necessary renovation (at least - the bulk of it) will start when the RA outdoor pools are open. (Is this what you meant by the partnership with RA? I believe, they don't have any indoor pools to offer.) In this case it would be really nice if the RA summer season is extended by a couple of weeks: recently the first half of October has been very mild and warm! As for the Y, that would be helpful if there is some deal with them for the after-outdoor period. I am not aware of similar deals in the past, so cannot comment on that. Thanks for adding me to the distro list.

Yes, we are targeting the start of the work for the start of the swim season outdoors. I will keep your ideas about the October season in mind when I talk with RA. Thanks very much for your input and we will keep you posted on the upcoming meetings

**Sandra Helig, Reston Resident**, submitted the following comments via email:

Maintaining a senior/handicapped / disabled accessible pool and water activities for health and wellness.

I am a long time resident of Reston (1988-current) and have used the pool at various times over the years for health and/or rehabilitation.

In years past, when employed full-time, I used to swim laps during my lunch hour or after work on occasion (I had school age children at the time). Currently I attend the Mon, Wed, Fri water aerobics classes which are held in shallow-to-shoulder-depth water and sometime include suspended/supported exercises in the deeper part of the lap lanes. I also swim laps after the class and on occasion will come to just swim laps. I prefer the drop in classes where I am not signed up for/ committed to-- sessions of classes where I may not be able to attend every class for one reason or another.

I have, in the past, registered for evening water aerobic classes in the diving well but prefer the drop in for morning classes.

Regarding the demographics of pool use:

AGING IN RESTON!!: I am one who is aging in Reston. I have osteoarthritis and must have the water exercises as regular stretching, & mobilization of my joints. The guided classes are structured and moderated by a very well qualified instructor (Maggie). When I don't include water low impact exercise, I experience much more pain and am less likely to be active outside of my home. There are many senior citizens in the classes — many who are quite a bit older than I am (66)... I have been in the 8:00-9:00-10:00-11:00 classes — all of which are usually crowded. Some people come from the nearby Friendship House. I also see other many other senior men and women who I believe though not in classes, utilize the pool and hot tub for health reasons.

FUTURE:

1. I hope to see the pool continue to have drop-in water aerobics for seniors and people with mild to moderate forms of disability. I appreciate the classes running the timeframe of the entire morning since it takes me time to warm up my muscles/joints in the morning (8:00 would be near impossible to get to, 9:00 doable but I go to the 10:00 class. )

2. I hope that you keep the size of the EXCELLENT and very large hot tub where there is room to walk and stand or sit without being in other people's faces. I do stretches in the hot tub. I don't care about the jets because they ruin my bathing suits but I do like that the jets are powerful when I have used them for an ailment. I don't have a usable tub at home that allows for the range of motions; the small circular one also are a joke. This hot tub gets full — other pools — even the Herndon Community Center hot tub have hot tubs that are way too small!

3. I hope to see at least three the lap lanes continue to be open throughout the day when the kids are in school and hopefully there will be one or two at any given time.

**Ms. Helig** also provided the following written comments at the February 13 meeting:

- Regarding Facility Use: Fairfax Park Authority has priced most programs out of my ability to pay. I have to exercise – I would LIKE to take courses for personal growth and enjoyment.
- Regarding Fees: When I want to bring my grandchild to an RCC class (2 under 10). I want to pay my resident fee.

Thank you very much for sharing your concerns regarding RCC aquatic facility capital projects. We will include them in the official record of input to this matter and we will include your email address and contact information to alert you regarding upcoming meetings to discuss the issues further.

**Kim Brightwell, Reston Resident**, submitted the following comments via email:

To the RCC Board, Thank you for your service to the community! To Lisa and Michelle, who I know personally, I couldn't have any better people than you representing my interests! I attended this evening's meeting hoping to simply gather information. I raised my hand to speak out but was not called on. Still, I would like to add my voice through this email. I am in favor of providing several pools of different temperatures to accommodate different users. I would also like the option in scheme 1 or 2 to have more than 6 lap lanes. I am willing to consider creative financing even if some of it comes out of my own pocket. I swim at the RCC pool four times each week as a member of the Reston Masters Swim Team. The team not only provides a great fitness opportunity for men and women ages 18 to 86 (the current age of our oldest team mate), but it is also a 'family'. We work out to stay healthy but also to compete and to

work to get those 'seconds' and 'milliseconds' faster to be better than we ever thought we could be. We cheer each other on in workouts and in swim meets. We represent Reston at local meets, the Colonies Zone meet, National Meets, and even international meets. We are also a terrific group of friends who have celebrated with each other through marriages, raising children (some of whom have then swam with us once THEY turn 18!), birthdays, new jobs, retirements, yes and even deaths. The RCC pool is our home. We feel very passionate that it should continue to be so. I know that you feel that way, too.

Thank you for your message below; it will be included with the official record of feedback to our work on the Aquatics facility and the Board members will all receive the entirety of that record. I am blind-copying Lisa and Michelle to share your very kind remarks regarding their service. (RCC doesn't share private email addresses of our Board members). We greatly appreciate how passionately our users feel about the pool and our intent is to restore an aquatics facility that is improved vastly but that still serves the social, recreational, fitness and therapeutic needs of our patrons to the greatest extent feasible. We will of course keep those who have provided their contact information informed regarding this very important undertaking. Many thanks for taking the time to join us last evening and going forward.

**Elena Simonenko, Reston Resident**, submitted the following comments via email:

I received the email below, and will try to attend the meeting on Friday, February 17th. However, I also wanted to email you my opinion on RCC program improvement, so it can be added to the agenda beforehand. I'm a resident of the Small District 5, and has been living in this area for over 10 years. As a parent, I'm really grateful to have the opportunity to enroll my daughter into various educational and development programs. However, this was a privilege when my child was 5-11yo, and then we ran into a problem that swimming classes are offered only for younger kids. Level 6 was and is the highest offered class that my daughter could attend and had to take it over and over again in order to have some swimming practice. She loves to swim and would continue taking classes, but then felt uncomfortable being the oldest kid in the group. Also, for all other programs, there is a big age gap that offers classes for ages in categories of 1-12yo, and 16+yo. As a resident and a taxpayer of the Small District 5, I would really appreciate if RCC would consider to extend programs to all age categories. In particular, I would like to see swimming classes offered on weekends or evenings for teenagers with swimming skills (Level 6, strokes or butterfly styles, etc). Also, we got an overwrite to attend art classes (16+) for my 14yr old, but the majority of people there is at 40-50th age. She attends the classes, but not so enthusiastic to be not around her peers. All in all, please consider to add programs for teenagers!

Thanks very much for your suggestions and ideas below. And I apologize that there was confusion regarding the date for our Community Engagement meeting – it was last night. The event on Friday is for older adults looking for new relationships – that doesn't appear to apply to you! The two dates were originally mixed up and correcting that mistake has clearly led to some added confusion. I can't win for losing! I appreciate your comments very much regarding more options for teens. That is our most challenging age cohort. You may be aware that the "adult" category of classes for swimmers begins at age 13 – not 16 – but it still doesn't address your very legitimate concern for having something available for teens who like to swim but who may not be on a swim team. I will pass this along to our Aquatics staff. I also understand your note about the art classes. We are continuing to refine our programs for arts enthusiasts and hoping to attract a broader age range to those classes. We'd love to have your daughter's suggestions for ways she would advise we reach more teens with these content areas. We will include your comments in our official record of input to our Board. If you could please provide your address for that purpose we'd appreciate it. Thanks and stay tuned—we will be hosting more meetings to discuss the pool issues in the weeks ahead.

Thank you for your prompt response and attention to this matter. I'm sorry that I missed the meeting, but will try to attend the future ones. I'll double check on the swimming programs, but per my understanding, even though the adult category is 13+yo, the classes are only for the beginners. Perhaps, I'm not sure how to get onto the swimming team (would appreciate if you can provide me with some guidance on it), but it would be great just to have regular swimming sessions for teens. Thank you for passing this recommendation to Aquatics staff. In regard to art classes, my daughter likes pencil drawings and painting, and currently is taking an Abstract Painting class. We have teens in our neighborhood, who also like to draw, so, they might be interested too. I guess, if the class would exist or age bar would be lowered this might gather popularity among teenagers. Thank you for your efforts and I look forward to see more educational programs for teens.

Thanks very much – this is quite helpful information. Our programming team members are copied and I assure you we will explore the ideas you have presented. I also will be sure you are included in notices about future meetings. Thanks again for your valuable input!

**Gordon Gerson, Reston Resident**, submitted the following comments via email:

You did your usual splendid job presenting and explaining RCC's concerns and plans vis-à-vis the pool. I would like to chime in with a few comments. You presented the three possible design "solutions" as really being one (#3) due to the potential costs of # 1 and 2. Unfortunately #3 will solve your problem but not ours. I have been a member of Reston Masters Swim Team for 33 years. There are only two or three whose tenure exceeds mine. I have, as you well know, also presided over the team for a long time. Brian Evans has relieved me and is doing an excellent job. I am devoted to supporting our team and expanding our future growth potential. I think you are aware that what we (RMST) really need is the new Reston Recreation Center complete with a modern competition level pool. Until that time we need a pool that will provide us with air and water that is appealing to our members, not driving people away. We have many members who prefer swimming with us outdoors for this reason. I understand that the cost factor is what is driving you to design number three. However since there is little likelihood that would be of better value to us than the current design I think what is needed is re-focusing on the cost issue. Reston has become the home of many large corporations. I don't know how many of these (if any) have been solicited for sponsorship of a new and improved pool facility for RCC. I know that I have brought this issue up with you in the past to no avail but I want to do so again because I consider it the only real solution to the current problem. I am appealing to you not to settle on design number three but to refocus on design #2 and go find some sponsors willing to chip in.

Thank you for your super efforts on our behalf.

Thank you for your kind words; you make me blush when you butter me up! I want to assure you that I am keenly interested in achieving a new pool facility that has vastly improved water and air quality and has sufficient options for those who want significantly warmer water that we may consider the option of lowering our set point in the lap pool a bit – my hope is that the combination of these improvements and others will achieve an overall quality of improvement that is significant and that your members will find worth the investment and time needed to accomplish them. I urge you and your team members to remain engaged as we continue to explore the options available to us. I will explore the options for financing with the county as a function of due diligence—I don't have high hopes for that. Further, there are profound difficulties in this community in raising dollars for the plethora of non-profit organizations in Reston; it would be very difficult in that context for RCC – with its significant public resources – to go out and compete for those funds. And for what it's worth, the single path to facility funding these days by default seems to be the path of proffers. And there is a community "plan" in that regard that includes the Park Authority complex. We will continue to explore the optimum solutions to the many challenges having the one building, the one source of funding and the several competing audiences to serve create. I remain very optimistic that we will arrive at a good solution that you and your constituents will participate in achieving. Stay involved! Let me know if you'd like your comments below included in the "official" record for the meeting last night and our engagement on this subject. If so, just add your address by reply.

Yes, please make them part of the "official" record.

Happy to do so; please send your address so we can include that too.

**Brian Evans, on behalf of Reston Masters Swim Team Association**, submitted the following comments and attachment via email (attachment included in its entirety at end of meeting report):

Please see the attached letter regarding RMST, as an organization, input on the upcoming changes to the RCC aquatics facility. Thank you for holding Monday's meeting and we look forward to the March 13th meeting.

Thanks, Brian. We will include the statement in our official records and are continuing to explore the optimum solutions for the aquatics complex. We will appreciate your continued involvement in these efforts and are confident that together we will get to a good outcome.

**Laurence Paulson, Non-Reston Resident**, submitted the following comments via email:

While I realize that competition and fitness users represent only part of your constituencies, the RCC pool as currently configured is less than optimal. The current typical water temperature is too high for competition and fitness purposes. The air quality has been reported as poor for many years; causing some members to quit RMST and join other teams with better training facilities. In addition, the pool size is very limiting for completion and training (6 lanes x 25 meters); 8 swimmers per lane is very crowded for a serious training workout; while all RMST members (approx. 100) do not attend all workouts, it's crowded. And there are no provisions for starting blocks, making completion not an option. While it's noted that a Fairfax County Recreation Center in Reston may occur within 10 years; and may include a

true completion-level pool facility. Proposing this facility as a solution is very tentative for team-based activities and does not address issues for the next 10 years. I'm hoping this Aquatics Facility Capital Project can address some of these issues in a nearer term. – RMST member since 2003

Thank you for writing and sharing your views with us. Please (reply to all) provide us with your address so it can be included in our record of input. We will use this email address to communicate with you regarding future meetings on the issue. I assure you we are very keenly interested in significantly improving air and water quality and better-serving all our aquatics constituents.

It occurred to me last night that all your constituencies would be better addressed if you changed "Proposed Floor Plan Scheme 2" by expanding separate Lap Pool from 6 lane x 25YD to 25M x 25YD thereby providing more training space and an actual competition pool with provisions to swim both Short Course Yards (SCY) and Short Course Meters (SCM) both official sanctioned competition formats. And Scheme 2 would also provide adequate space for swim lessons in a separate pool at a water temperature warmer than Lap Pool and suitable for water aerobics and therapy. Just a thought.

Thanks for your ideas, Laurence. We will include the below in our record of input.

**Eileen Li, Non-Reston Resident**, submitted the following comments via email:

This is a short note for the board meeting held on 2/13 evening. First of all, I want to thank for all board members and people involved with creating RCC programs for Reston community. Your efforts to the community are widely appreciated. Regarding to the proposal of new swimming pool, I would vote for option 2 with additional inputs:

1. The pool should have a separate kids area for training and practice.
2. The new pool should focus on water quality and air quality. Myself and many people I knew who have multiple physical symptoms after swimming due to high chlorine level.
3. If it is possible, RCC should consider to get one salt water pool. I understand that the salt water pool could be more expensive. However, the health benefit for the arthritis disease and beyond are huge.

Thanks for the consideration. - RMST Member

Thanks for sending us your views. Please (by reply to all) provide us your address so we can include that in our records of your input. Your email address has been added to our list to send out notice of upcoming meetings to discuss the pool further.

**Margaret Shapiro, Non-Reston Resident**, submitted the following comments via email:

I have lived 1.5 miles from Reston Community Center and enjoyed its many program offerings for the past 12 years, even though I am not a Small District 5 resident. I wanted to share my opinions on the situation with the aquatics facilities, because I feel strongly that RCC is in a position to make a big change to help the community. I owned a family-operated business in Reston for 13 years (Potomac River Running stores) and have worked with thousands of local runners and walkers in the area, many of whom I have referred to the pool facilities at RCC for training. I have used the pool for physical therapy, and my physical therapists at Virginia Therapy (partnered with Virginia Spine) have used it for rehab classes for patients. I have friends who take and teach the water aerobics classes, and my children's friends are members of the Reston Swim Team (which uses the facility for practices indoors when it's not seasonable to swim outside) and South Lakes High School swim team. I recognize that the facility is used for a variety of purposes serving many needs. Because of the disparate needs within our community, I support:

- A redesigned aquatics facility needs to address issues with water temperature and air quality. It is very difficult for competitive swimmers to train effectively in the warmer temperatures. **We do plan to address water quality, air quality and water temperature. For water and air we intend to achieve far better quality than is presently the case. Regarding water temperature, we are continuing to explore how we can better accommodate the needs of all swimmers.**
- RMST serves the Adult and Senior Adult populations in Reston. Swimming is a life-long sport. We need to meet the needs not just of the adults seeking warmer temperatures (for water aerobics and therapy purposes) but also those competitive adult swimmers (like myself and our large Reston Masters Swim team) who seek a productive place to train within the community. **We agree.**
- RCC should plan for a growing Reston population in the next several years. Since we have so many more housing complexes going in and anticipate major population growth (they've been talking about it in the schools, too), we need to have appropriate pool spaces to meet the demand. **That's true, however, it's also true that many new residential buildings being built in**

Reston contain their own pool facilities. So the challenge of meeting the needs of a substantially larger population are significantly offset by this well-established trend. It's also true that a number of private sector enterprises have stepped into the indoor aquatics arena and so some demand for lessons and fitness are being met there as well. The issue of competitive context is an increasingly complicated one and one that we will be exploring deeply to assure we build/renovate in a fashion that will address needs appropriately.

- There is no guarantee a Fairfax County Recreation Center in Reston will occur even within 10 years. Offering this facility as a solution shouldn't be used as a solution for team-based activities and does not address issues for the next 10 years. In addition, Fairfax County Rec Centers are not as community-friendly as the RCC because of their prohibitive costs. People in Reston made it abundantly clear to us that they felt that the County Park Authority is obligated to provide a facility similar to others in Fairfax County to address our needs as a community. We support that and remain confident that this facility should be and will be part of the Reston landscape. That doesn't mean we will go away or that there aren't very specific Reston needs for aquatics programs that we can and should continue to meet. We are no longer operating in a vacuum however and we have to take those issues into account as we plan. It's also true that we are a multi-faceted community center with many programming and services sectors to support. That too has ramifications for our building planning.

I hope you will consider these ideas when formulating a strategic plan for the next ten years. I am a proud resident of this area and enjoy the wonderful services RCC provides. We greatly appreciate your involvement and support. We are passionately committed to continuing our high-quality and affordable programs and services for Reston. Thank you for sending us your input below. I have inserted some comments below in red. Please send us your address so we can include it with the comments record. We are continuing the discussion with the community and will use your email address to send you information about upcoming meetings. (Report note: comments included in red ABOVE.)

**Anne Delaney, on behalf of Public Art Reston**, submitted the following comments via email:

I reviewed the Strategic Plan 2016-2021 and am very excited by RCC's goals and objectives. I wish to express our gratitude for RCC's support and continued commitment to Public Art Reston. I am particularly grateful for the areas of collaboration: support to community public art projects and related educational programs; public art and speakers program at CenterStage; support to present public art films program as part of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Jo Ann Rose Gallery last fall; support to and presence at ChalkFest at Reston Town Center; support to promote Chalk on the Water; to name a few. It is a pleasure to work with you and RCC's staff notably PD, Kevin, Karen and Mark Brutsche, BeBe, Linda, and Gloria with whom I have had the pleasure to work over the past year. I will be meeting with PD in early March to discuss opportunities for future collaborations and programming. As Maggie Parker mentioned at the board meeting last week, we are currently working on a strategic plan for future public art projects that we plan to discuss with our founding community partners. I welcome RCC's commitment to develop a Community Calendar. We will do our best to provide updated content whenever available and appropriate. Again, I am disappointed to have missed Monday's meeting.

Thanks, Anne, for your comments below. We will add them to our records of input to our plans for the future. We too greatly appreciate the powerful and strong collaborative relationship with Public Art Reston and look forward to it continuing to contribute to the vitality of this great community we share. Warmest regards and with hope you are feeling much better.

**Norman and Barbara Happ, Reston Residents**, submitted the following comments via email:

My wife and I attended the meeting on Monday night. Thank you for all your work and the great presentation. We have been using the CC pool since 1980. We swam with the Masters Swim team for over 10 years (1980 to early 1990s). When I was working, I swam at 6am. Since we are retired, we now swim three mornings a week at 7am (so that those needing to get to work can get the early times.) Our observation is that the majority of people swimming laps in the morning are seniors. And the water aerobics classes seem to be mostly senior, also. I am sure that you have the data on the demographics of who uses the pool. The major divergence in needs seems to be around the water temperature. Those of us who currently swim in the morning find it quite comfortable. If the temperature was dropped by 5 degrees, many of us would probably no longer be able to use the pool. My wife and I are in our 70s and some of the users are in their 80s. It would be a great loss to many of us if we could no longer swim at the CC. The HS swim team only uses the pool during the swimming season, whereas we use the

pool all year round. Most year round competitive swimmers are on teams that have pool time (I assume) in pools with colder water. Providing a community resource for residents who are swimming and using the pool for health and enjoyment reasons seems like it serves a much larger segment of the community than catering to the HS swim team and elite competitive swimmers. It also sounded like the new county facility was going to fulfill the needs of competitive swimmers.

Some other minor items and thoughts:

1. 25 meters vs 25 yards. Having swum in the CC 25 meter pool for the past 37 years, I would vote for a 25 meter pool. However, even us old guys can adapt if necessary.
2. Pool usage vs time. If you Google a place of business (for example Trader Joe's), they have a chart of popular times. This allows people to visit a less busy times. Could something like this be put on the CC website?
3. Pricing vs usage. As an extrapolation of displaying usage vs time, a next step could be pricing adjustments based on usage (similar to the beltway toll lanes). This could be done for card holders using a computer adjustment and could help to even out pool usage.

Thank you for sending this. It will be included in our official record of input to this important discussion. Your ideas are interesting and we will look at the potential for refining our schedule/pass access and pricing. It's unlikely to be something we'd implement prior to the capital project given how long we may be closed for either systems replacement or renovation. Thanks again for taking the time to participate – we will keep you informed about upcoming meetings as the conversation proceeds.

**Lisa Groves, Reston Resident**, submitted the following comments via email and attachment (attachments included in their entirety at the end of this report):

Thank you for hosting the recent meeting on the RCC Programs, Planning, and Renovations to Aquatics. The presentation was informative, well done, and clear in message. We appreciate your effort to stay on published schedule, yet also hear attendee input and discussion. While my hand was up, I was not selected to talk before the 8 pm end-time. I write to you now to share my thoughts. I attended the meeting as a swimming advocate for all ages. I have worked and participated extensively with RMST, RSTA, and SLHS swimming. As a teen and young adult, I worked at RA pools for years. I swam at RCC when it first opened, and continue to swim there today. I commend you for keeping the facility maintained and open for many years. Unfortunately, Reston outgrew the RCC space a long time ago...and the Reston indoor swimming need continues to grow. For decades, I've seen RCC maintain a strong, ongoing tone for aquatic priorities. While RCC wants to be inclusive of all community, there is a strong priority to provide a welcoming, warm (literally air and water) aquatic facility to (1) families with young children or beginning swimmers, (2) disadvantaged, disabled or very new swimmers, (3) seniors who thrive with therapeutic, recreational, social, and affordable aquatics. RCC has also provided affordable access to community team swimming. Yet, RCC has struggled to accommodate the different needs of team and competitive training over its other priority groups. As a result, many swimmers in the community swim elsewhere. These swimmers are ALL ages - from age groupers to seniors. The swimmers who remain at RCC are strong advocates of RCC, but may still feel compromised. Competitive swimming requires lane space, non-turbulent water with gutter systems, excellent air flow and quality, low chloramine levels, excellent filtration and oxidation systems, and cooler water temps. Many Reston swimmers go to other pools because RCC cannot accommodate all needs. As a Reston team swimmer, parent, and official, I have tried to encourage changes or additions to our indoor swimming. For decades, I have heard talk of a Reston Rec Center run by Fairfax County. Now, there is an opportunity to finally build one. I sense an undertone that "team" swimming is better suited to this new rec center in North Reston. The fact that access is still at best 6-9 years away is underplayed. What should we do in the interim? **We are keenly aware that our pool will remain an important resource for the entire spectrum of swimming we currently attempt to support. Our hope is to achieve a project that will considerably – very considerably – improve the swimming experience for the entire spectrum of our users. That means better “water” conditions, pool conditions and temperature experiences across fitness/competitive swim practicing, senior exercise options, lessons and social swimming uses. The fact that we have to at a minimum replace our aging infrastructure represents an opportunity to determine if we can accomplish far greater improvement with a more significant renovation project than simple systems replacement would otherwise afford us.** RCC has three prospective pool renovation models, yet any significant change appears unfeasible due to funding constraints. Major maintenance must happen, but can new pool capacity really be added? Could we get a Small Tax District #5 bond referendum placed on the 2017 November voting agenda for an \$8+ million expansion? **In a word, no. It requires a minimum of 18 months to do the steps required of a bond**

**question.** If approved, could construction start on a full two pool model in 2018? **No.** How long would the facility realistically take to be operable? Are there additional parking, locker room space, and other facility impacts? **In all likelihood, these would add to the timeline significantly because we are currently at capacity with regard to parking spaces for RCC users. Adding to our facility participation capacity would necessitate opening a discussion with both the Hunters Woods Village Center ownership AND with Fairfax County Government. So in addition to the length of time for the renovation (12-15 months), there would be a preliminary period to determine IF such a renovation could occur with respect to the parking restrictions – let's say for the sake of discussion – 5 or 6 months – then the 18 months to put a bond question on a ballot – now you are in 2019; you probably don't want such a question on an "off-year" ballot, so 2020. Then the construction – so you'd be at 2022. In addition to these issues, there is the not inconsiderable issue of having to replace the systems anyway – so spending 1M would have to occur. You'd lose your opportunity to spend more for a better aquatics facility and conceivably end up having to spend that amount again if we turn out to have to renovate to the option 3 standard should parking not resolve positively. There are as you can see some considerable risks involved in pursuing options 1 and 2.** Leila emphasized the importance of RCC values and desires for community partnership. As another option, would it be possible for RCC to partner with RA on a (new) outdoor pool-bubble enclosure? A heated, bubble pool could be targeted for use by RMST, RSTA, SLHS and other fitness lap swimming. Could some RCC funds be considered for bubble & heating instead of going for the expansive pool expansion requiring a bond referendum? Understandably, there are operating hours and neighborhood considerations, but RA has an array of pools for exploration. Further, other constituencies might be able to participate in making this alternative feasible. **We have neither discussed this internally nor discussed this with our colleagues at RA. It's a separate and equally complex discussion in my view, but we can certainly apprise RA of this interest now being expressed.** Thank you again for your efforts, perseverance, and assistance. For the historical record, I am attaching two letters that I provided in years past on this topic. - USMS Swimmer with RMST; USA, RSTA, SLHS Swimming Official, Parent, Alum  
**Thank you very much for your thoughtful engagement with our investigation of indoor aquatics options – both now and in the past. We are very aware of how important our role is to Restonians who make swimming a key feature of their personal and family fitness and recreation. Regarding some of your questions below, I have inserted my comments in red and we look forward to continuing this important dialog with our community in the coming weeks. Thank you again very much! (Report note: comments included in red ABOVE.)**

**Lucy Manheim, Non-Reston Resident**, submitted the following comments:

Thanks for the informative meeting at the Reston Community Center on February 13 and all your work putting it together. As a long-time member of the Reston Masters Swim Team, I am very interested in the future of "our" pools—both the one at RCC and the possible one at RTC/N. All swimmers at RCC are interested in the quality of the water and the air. The water quality is carefully monitored and chemicals and water are added to try to maintain the purity. Some swimmers had to leave because of the chloramines in the air. A few years ago, the Aquatic Center's air conditioning system was replaced at a cost of ~\$70,000. **It was not the air conditioning that was replaced; we installed a Paddock Evacuator to improve air quality. It achieved some limited success.** A couple recent returnees told me they noticed a difference—and so do I. But it could be considerably better and I suggest we investigate the installation of a UV system (for example-- [http://www.cleanerpools.net/uv\\_benefits.php](http://www.cleanerpools.net/uv_benefits.php)) for both RCC and any new or reconditioned RA pool. The capital and maintenance costs (and health and safety benefits) far outweigh those of traditional chlorine, bromine, or ozone systems. Most Fairfax county pools use UV. **Yes. And our pool is currently among them.** Another of my concerns is the coating on the pool/spa surface. It should be a type that is guaranteed for 20 years (indoor pool) and is applied over a properly prepared surface. The company that applies it should be warranted to replace it at their cost and also pay for any downtime replacement might incur. Here are a couple sites for your information. **A renovation project would involve replacing the entire pool – shell and all.**

<https://blog.craneengineering.net/how-a-local-pool-cut-water-usage-by-92>

<https://www.superior-industries.com/products/specialty-products/swimming-pool-paint/pro-master-platinum.html>

Regarding the future configuration of the pool(s), I heard at the meeting—and since—that we could possibly start with one pool and "when we get the money, we could add the other" (to achieve the two-pool, second, configuration). Great idea, but maybe unpractical because costs go up and getting more money is not very likely (for example, Fairfax County is currently in trouble financially....). So I expect RCC to end up with #3. **Keep in mind that RCC is separately funded by a tax paid only by Reston property owners. So our decision-making is not strictly tied at all to the general fund considerations.** I

appreciate the opportunity to add my comments.

Thank you for your comments below my signature block. Please send us your address to include with your input. I addressed some of what you wrote in red below. (Report note: comments included in red ABOVE.)

**Tony Wynes, Reston Resident**, submitted the following comments via email:

I was concerned to hear that the swimming pool infrastructure at Reston Community Center is reaching the end of its intended life and attended the February 13 community relations meeting interested to learn more about the problem. As a Reston resident for almost 20 years, I have used the RCC pool in various roles: Adult beginner, lap swimmer, Masters Swimmer, parent standing-by in the pool when my children were infants, and parent standing on the pool deck with my children in lessons. I've probably spent at least 5 hours a week in that pool, outside of the time when Reston Association's pools are open. At the meeting, I was glad to hear that the RCC board is looking into overhauling the facility and soliciting feedback from the user base regarding any changes that they would like to see in a refurbished pool. Having spent time in the pool, in a variety of capacities, I can honestly say the temperature is always an issue and usually an unsatisfactory compromise. The variety of activities that take place in the pool during the day do not provide time for it to heat up and cool down. One of the suggested reconfigurations proposed at the meeting was to extend the aquatics center and to add an additional teaching pool. I believe this would be the most satisfactory solution to address the temperature problem. Although a two pool solution would require significant capital outlay, a larger aquatics facility would be consistent with projections that Reston will continue to grow in population over the next several years. I do understand that Fairfax County has plans to build a Recreation Center in North Reston in the next 10 years. However, I believe that with the forecast population increases, and resulting traffic congestion, Reston can sustain both. I would like to see RCC provide a location for Reston's competitive swims teams to train and a location for leisure and therapeutic swimming activities both before and after completion of the Recreation Center.

Your comments below will be part of our record of input to this important discussion.

**Gloria Michau, Reston Resident**, submitted the following comments via email:

I understand that there will be a meeting on March 6 at 6:30 p.m. with Wayne Hughes, to discuss his designs for the pool renovation. There are a number of patrons, like myself, that take deep water exercise classes on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and our concern is that Wayne may not be sufficiently aware of what we do in these classes in order to design a pool that would truly meet our needs. We would humbly like to suggest that Wayne come visit one of these classes before March 6 so that he will be better acquainted with what we do and therefore be better able to discuss and design a facility that meets our needs. As you may know, we have six classes a week: 8:00, 9:00 and 10:00 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays so he could have his pick of times to visit. We sincerely appreciate what you are doing to make RCC meet the needs of the entire community.

Thanks for your good suggestion below. I will be sure to share it with Wayne. I want to reassure you that what Wayne is doing at present is sharing concepts with us that illustrate how we might approach a renovation project. These are therefore basically "concept" drawings/models and not designs. There will be much more work ahead if and when the Board decides to pursue a comprehensive renovation project. I just wanted to reassure you that the opportunities to visit and assess the many factors that would need to be considered are not limited to the calendar between now and March 6. Please know also that I shared your comment regarding your need to be in water that is deep enough to support your body weight with Wayne. We will keep you posted regarding the planning process and I am confident that as we proceed all the various needs of our swimmers are being kept very much in mind.

**Barbara Gems, Reston Resident**, submitted the following comments via email:

I want to second the ideas expressed by Gloria in her note to you. I am not enrolled in the deep water class right now, but I have often gone to the pool on Mondays and Wednesdays when the diving pod is free. I have bad hips and knees and exercising in the deep water is much more comfortable than jumping around in the shallow end. Please don't let the architect take away this vital area of the pool. The deep water classes are extremely popular - so popular that not long ago, we had to add another one. And, both classes are usually pretty full. I will be out of town, but otherwise would attend the meeting. I hope you and the architect will listen to the suggestions from those of us who rely on the deep water diving pod for exercise.

Thanks for your input below; please send us your address so we may include it in our records on this matter. Regarding the deep end of the pool – consideration of changing the configuration of our pool environment is being undertaken to expand the utility and attractiveness of the Terry L. Smith Aquatics Center. The assets of the existing configuration are being carefully kept in mind as we explore new possibilities. We are keenly aware of the need for deep water for a variety of user experiences and will be careful to incorporate it in our future. Thank you again for your involvement.

**Mary Jo Marchant, Reston Resident**, submitted the following comments via email

I plan to attend the briefing, thank you for the opportunity to have a voice in the planning. I am a member of the fibromyalgia, MS and arthritis deep water aerobic class, the warmth and depth of the water is vital to my mobility and managing my MS.

**Katherine Slater, Reston Resident**, submitted the following comments via email:

I want to share that your March 6 meeting conflicts with the RSTA board and general members meeting as well as the SLHS Winter Sports Banquet. The timing of your meeting will by default limit the number of constituents from your "middle market - those aged 13-50ish -- who can attend. This will in all likelihood skew your meeting attendance to the constituents who represent the very young and retirees. I encourage you to not conclude that the lack of attendance from your middle market is in any way a lack of engagement in renovating the aquatics center to meet all constituents' needs. Please do NOT draw that conclusion, as it will be untrue. I would very much like to attend future meetings and stay engaged in the process, and would appreciate you setting future RCC meetings when they do not directly conflict with standing meetings for swimming clubs/organizations in our area. RSTA's meetings are published on their website at RSTA.org.

I assure you that we are well aware of the needs of our fitness/competition swimmers. It is our intent to continue to serve the full spectrum of our patrons – including that group of swimmers. We are also aware of the deficiencies in our current pool environment from their perspectives. The number and intensity of representation of various points of view at our public meetings is important but not dispositive in terms of the Board's decision-making on any aspect of our planning. They consider research, data, input from patrons and staff guidance before coming to conclusions regarding any policy, planning or capital project investments. Regarding when we set our meeting dates, it's impossible to coordinate meeting calendars in our community any longer. RCC Board meetings are always on Monday evenings; that is baked into our operational profile and represents facility utilization on our least crowded night of the week. I appreciate very much the disappointment that may be felt over having to choose between very important competing schedule demands. I assure you that any written input that you and your fellow swim team participants want to provide us will be given equal attention to the input provided at meetings. In addition, you will be able to view the meeting materials online at our website following the presentation from Mr. Hughes and have a chance as well to attend the joint committee meeting (Community Relations and Program/Policy) that takes place on March 13 if you'd like to see how your views/concerns were addressed in the further development of concept planning for a possible pool renovation project. I hope that alleviates your concerns and very much look forward to your continuing input and involvement in this matter.

**Sterling Pilette, Reston Resident**, submitted the following comments via email:

I swim at the RCC pool as a member of the Reston Masters Swim Team. We work out to stay fit and also to compete therefore we spend a lot of time in the pool water. Please consider an alternative to chlorine. The chlorine affects some swimmers more than others but they shoulder on because they like to swim with the team and have no choice. I know some swimmers that have had to drop out of the sport due to the negative skin and breathing issues of the chlorine. A salt water system that uses sodium bromide salt instead of sodium chloride salt, producing bromine instead of chlorine may be a good choice. My research shows Bromine offers distinct advantages based on its relatively benign and even helpful by products. Special equipment is needed to apply bromine in pools which may mean more upfront expense. Another issue to bromine is educational but I think we should be able to reeducate our staff to handle bromine. Please ask the pool design manager/builder to analyze and look at alternatives and create the best outcome for our pool. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Thanks so much for taking the time to contribute your views regarding our pool. I will be sure to pass this along to Mr. Hughes. Regardless of the specifics, I assure you that the air and water quality are the primary objectives for vast improvement.

**Ruth Toxopeus, Reston Resident**, submitted the following comments via email:

I plan to attend this meeting and fully support maintaining some deeper water and therapeutic temperatures.

**William Bartsch, Reston Resident**, submitted the following comments via email:

With regard to the meeting March 6th regarding plans for a renovated Aquatics Center, I will not be able to attend but have views on the subject. Basically, I don't see why the Center has to be renovated. At present it fully meets the needs of swimmers and others. As they say, "If it ain't broke, why fix it?" I'm sure a renovation would also entail shutting down the pool for an extended period, a great inconvenience, for where are we expected to swim in an indoor pool? (Pool user since 1982)

Thank you for your input. While I appreciate that you desire to continue to use our aquatics facility without interruption, that is unavoidable. We will need to close for a longer period this upcoming summer to adequately patch issues with our current pool shell and some other repairs. In the summer of 2018, we either need to be closed for a period of not less than 4 months (and likelier closer to 6 months) to replace the legacy systems for the Terry L. Smith Aquatics Center that are at the end of their life. Alternatively, we may close for a longer period to accomplish a more comprehensive renovation. In any case, the status of our existing pool systems and shell are such that extensive capital project scheduling will be needed. We can't in fact fully, safely or appropriately meet the needs of our swimmers for much longer. Regardless of how we go forward, we will endeavor to obtain support for our swimmers from our colleagues at Reston Association and the Reston YMCA. While not a perfect solution to the problem created for our swimmers, we hope that with enough time to plan ahead, our patrons can figure out reasonable substitute activity to maintain their personal fitness or therapeutic regimens. If you would be kind enough to send us your address so we may add it to our record of input on this matter, we'd greatly appreciate it.

Thank you for your response to my email regarding renovation of the pool. I hadn't realized that it was in such need of renovation.

Thanks, Bill. Yes, it's a testament to the skill and tenacity of our staff and contractors that we have been able to continue with systems that are (in some cases) nearly 40 years old. But all good things do come to an end. <smile> Thank you for sending your address and the comments will be passed along to our Board with the other input we have gotten from our swimming community. It's wonderful to have such engaged and passionate patrons.



Dear RCC Community Relations & Staff,

Thank you for holding the community relations meeting at RCC and presenting the redesign options to the RCC Aquatics Facilities.

Reston Masters Swim Team (RMST) has been a part of the Reston community since 1974 and has enjoyed the aquatics facility at RCC the past 40 years. RMST is a swim training program under the United States Masters Swimming organization and provides training for members 18 and older. Over the years, RMST members have achieved success at the local, regional and national levels of competition, but mostly its 100+ members that enjoy the fitness benefits of swimming and comradery of a team. RMST is community itself.

Reston Masters is just one of the three RCC Founding Partners that use the RCC pool for lap swimming and training. Collectively, all three represent customer populations that RCC would like to increase its participation (Adults 55 & younger and teens), as presented at the Feb 13 meeting.

For RMST, the current water and air conditions do not meet our needs and we are encouraged that improvements are being considered to the facility. Water temperatures above 83° and inadequate air flow impacts performance and more importantly health of our members. The current aquatics environment has been a contributor to our declining membership for the past several years.

During the February 13 meeting, 3 options for reconfiguring the aquatics facility was presented. RMST feels option 2 (with 2 separate pools) allows each pool to have separate water temperatures would be the best solution for the ALL the RCC aquatics customers. As mentioned in the meeting, options 1 and 2 are not realistic options for several reasons mostly due to cost, and option 3 would be the likely option selected. However, as presented option 3 does not meet the needs of ALL customers that rely on the pool for swim training, especially if a solution for water temperature 83° or below cannot be achieved. In addition, a pool should have adequate depth for starts/diving and proper perimeter gutters for water return/filtering.

Pool space is very limited in Northern Virginia. Fairfax County Park Authority's plans for a recreation center in Reston is many years away (if at all), and will be at capacity upon opening. Forecasts of population growth around Reston will increase substantially in the next few years.

In recent years, RCC has increased its rental fees and RMST understands and appreciates the need to do so. As an RCC Founding Partner, RMST encourages the RCC to consider upgrading its aquatic facility to meet needs and concerns of ALL of its current customers and the growing Reston population.

Sincerely,

Brian R. Evans / RMST President

**As per request, copy sent 5/11/09 by Lisa Groves via email to**  
Sandhya Somashekhar  
Staff Writer  
The Washington Post  
Phone: 703.383.5108  
Fax: 703.273.2836  
[sandhya@washpost.com](mailto:sandhya@washpost.com)

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**Sent originally and published in the Reston Connection...**

I've actively read recent news on the Reston Community Center (RCC) and its leaders, planning meetings, programs and facilities. While growing up in Reston, I've enjoyed many RCC classes, presentations, and special events. As parents, my husband and I have introduced our children to these wonderful offerings. We appreciate the RCC, its attractive appearance, and its south-Reston location.

My family swims, and uses the pool more than any other area at the RCC. Years ago, I trained and competed in it with the South Lakes High School Swimming & Diving Team. Today, I still use it for lap training. My kids have taken swim classes with RCC, from beginner through Stroke & Turn. It's a nice facility with friendly staff close to our home. Unfortunately, I do not feel the RCC has kept pace with the growth and demand for all levels of indoor swimming in Reston. We have outgrown this current indoor pool site.

Last spring, we were "regulars" at the RCC pool. We shared the busy facility with others in open swim, swim lessons, lap swimming, and water aerobics. My six-year-old had swim lessons after school. We felt very fortunate to have them. Over the last few years, we frequently were not placed in classes due to the high number of applications processed through lottery placements. While my son learned, my eight-year old daughter and I trained together in the designated "fast swim" lap lane. We shared the lane with other swimmers. This routine worked pretty well for all of us even though the pool was quite crowded.

One afternoon, a negative encounter led me to re-think our swimming strategy. Another lap swimmer stopped me to explain that my daughter and I were using the pool inappropriately. "The RCC wasn't meant to be a facility for aggressive or professional swimming. We were disrupting and distracting others." I politely accepted this advice and tried to clarify that we were very much

amateur swimmers. Then, I quietly told my eight-year old that we needed 'to tone it down'. However, we were stopped again and lectured a few more times during our workout. We left the pool trying to figure out what exactly had gone wrong. The experience stuck with me and influenced my future choice in pools.

This winter season, we've done most of our swimming at Oak Marr, a Fairfax County Recreational Facility. While it's not in our neighborhood, it has proven worth the drive. Its pools are large and accommodating to all ages and ability levels. Oak Marr provides classes, hosts numerous swim teams, offers open swim and many lap lanes. Major swimming and diving events are also hosted there.

This summer, my kids will join approximately 900 other swimmers in the Reston Swim League (RSTA). These swimmers will be ready to go in the Reston Association pools because many of them have prepped or trained in indoor facilities throughout Northern Virginia. For example, swimmers have been at Oak Marr, Spring Hill, Cub Run, Worldgate, the Herndon Community Center, the Dunn-Loring and Reston YMCAs as well as the Reston Community Center. This interest and dedication to swimming is outstanding and worth giving attention.

As Reston formulates its future community center, town and recreation plans, I urge citizens to voice their aquatic thoughts. **Why doesn't Reston have a major indoor recreation center that could host year-round developmental and competitive swimming?** The tremendous talent and demand within Reston would support year-round programs. A new facility would also enable Reston to train swimmers close to home, and may help us attract and develop knowledgeable coaches. Please join me in showing that Reston has the qualities to make swimming even more important in our town.

Lisa Hering Groves

Dedicated Swimmer & Swimming Parent

[lisajgroves@yahoo.com](mailto:lisajgroves@yahoo.com)

To: Reston Community Center (RCC) Board of Governors

From: Lisa Hering Groves, [lisaigroves@yahoo.com](mailto:lisaigroves@yahoo.com), (703) 623-6226

Date: June 17, 2013

Re: Indoor Recreation Facility at Baron Cameron Park

I am a long-time Reston resident, strong community volunteer, and parent of age-group swimmers. I am also a nationally recognized swimmer and swimming official. I support an Indoor Aquatic & Recreation Facility at Baron Cameron Park.

This proposal indicates Reston's ongoing commitment to health, fitness, and sporting activities. I'm thrilled that Reston has supported recreation as it has grown and thrived. It's great that the Reston Community Center (RCC), Reston Association (RA) and RSTA (Reston Swim Team Association) have worked together to maximize benefit of pool facilities and aquatics programs.

I learned to swim very well in Reston. Competing with RSTA for many years, I perfected my strokes, starts, turns, and relays. My parents supported the sport by getting me to the pool, working meets and events, and bonding with other swimmer families. It was a great, healthy experience for the whole family.

As I grew, I received many benefits from swimming in Reston. I competed at the national level with Solotar Swim Team (later assimilated under Curl-Burke, now the Nation's Capital Swim Club). I was lucky to train with this AAU/USS team at Reston's Hidden Creek Country Club. While I attended South Lakes High School, I swam conveniently at the RCC. Ultimately, my strong Reston swimming background enabled me to swim on scholarship for the University of Virginia (UVA). Today, I still swim and compete. In addition, I officiate swim competitions for RSTA, South Lakes High & VHSL (Virginia High School League), and USA Swimming.

At all ages, swimmers develop valuable traits in and out of the water including good sportsmanship, team work, and mutual respect. Dedicated, busy swimmers learn strong organization and time management skills that help them throughout life. Yet, friendship is one of the most important benefits from swimming. Many of my closest relationships and people memories are tied to pool experiences.

As you evaluate proposals, I urge you to strongly consider need, usage and payback opportunities for a 50-meter pool facility dedicated to year-round developmental and competitive swimming. For over 40 years, Reston has demonstrated its commitment to swimming. While we have many outdoor RA pools, we outgrew the RCC facility decades ago. Most Reston swimmers access other facilities and swimming organizations during the majority of the year.

There is considerable interest within Reston for year-round swimming. There is also tremendous talent for it in our area, as described in "The Nation's Talent Pool" article <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/02/06/AR2009020603541.html?referrer=emailarticle>.

A new facility would enable Reston to train swimmers as well as attract and develop knowledgeable instructors, coaches, and officials. Growing up, I had the opportunity to visit and compete in many communities dedicated to swimming. I believe that Reston has the qualities to make swimming equally significant in our town.

As you consider options and opposition from other constituencies, I urge you to examine the Oak Marr and Audrey Moore properties run by Fairfax County. By aptly integrating recreation centers with open space, parking and accessibility, they cater well to swimming and other recreational interests of many members. I appreciate your efforts.

Thanks from LisaG - Dedicated Swimmer, Swimming Parent & Official

***As per request, copy sent 5/11/09 by Lisa Groves via email to***

Sandhya Somashekhar  
Staff Writer  
The Washington Post  
Phone: 703.383.5108  
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Larry Butler, [lbutler@reston.org](mailto:lbutler@reston.org)  
Director of Parks & Recreation  
Reston Association  
1930 Isaac Newton Square  
Reston, VA 20190-5093

Dear Mr. Butler,

Fall has definitely arrived! My family and I are really Reston's paths and fields with the leaves beginning to change in the crisp fresh air. We are especially looking forward to this month's nighttime activities in the Walker Nature Center. Thank you for providing great recreation for us here in Reston.

While we are welcoming fall, I want to thank you for a fun summer at the Reston pools. I liked visiting many of them for open swim, swim meets and parties. In addition, congratulations on opening the renovated Glade Pool this season! The slide is definitely worth the wait in line.

From local news articles, I understand that you are busy with a major initiative to update Reston's Recreation Master Plan. This effort indicates Reston's ongoing commitment to health, fitness, and sporting activities. As a resident who came to Reston in 1972, I'm thrilled that Reston has maintained its focus on recreation as it has grown and thrived over the years.

I am particularly impressed with the emphasis that Reston has placed on its pool facilities and aquatics programs. I learned to swim very well in Reston. Competing with the Reston Swim League (run by RSTA) for many years, I perfected my strokes, starts, turns, and relays. My parents supported the sport by getting me to the pool, working meets and events, and bonding with other swimmer families. It was a great experience for the whole family.

As I grew, I continued summer league swimming and moved on to compete at the national level with Solotar Swim Team. I was lucky to train with this United States Swimming (USS) team at Reston's Hidden Creek Country Club. While I attended South Lakes High School, I swam conveniently at the Reston Community Center (RCC). Ultimately, my strong Reston swimming background enabled me to swim on scholarship for the University of Virginia.

On each of my teams, I developed valuable traits in and out of the water. I swam fast, particularly in breaststroke, but also learned the importance of good sportsmanship, team work, and mutual respect. As my commitment grew, I mastered time management and became very organized. These skills have helped me throughout life. Yet, friendship was one of the most important benefits from swimming. Many of my closest relationships and people memories are tied to pool experiences.

As you formulate the new Recreation Master Plan, I urge you to include an indoor aquatic facility dedicated to year-round developmental and competitive swimming. For thirty plus years, Reston has demonstrated its commitment to team swimming. Over 850 children between the ages of six and eighteen swim for RSTA each summer. During the rest of the year, several hundreds of these kids participate in other swim programs at different locations throughout Northern Virginia.

There is tremendous talent and interest within Reston for year-round swimming. A new facility would enable Reston to train swimmers as well as attract and build knowledgeable coaches. Growing up, I had the opportunity to visit and compete in many communities dedicated to swimming. I believe that Reston has the qualities to make swimming even more important in our town.

I appreciate your efforts. Thanks!

Lisa Hering Groves,  
2005 RSTA Registrar  
[lisajgroves@yahoo.com](mailto:lisajgroves@yahoo.com)

cc: The Reston Times

Enclosures:

I have attached some 2004 RSTA photos, including both group and individual selections. Shane Scoggins and Alyssa Avilov are two of Reston's many swimming stars.