

MEETING MINUTES

AQUATICS FACILITIES BUILDING COMMITTEE

Trumbull Town Hall – Council Chambers
5866 Main St, Trumbull, CT 06611

Wednesday March 2, 2022

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jason Marsh at 7:00 pm.

Attendance:

Present

Jason Marsh
Mark Block
Jay Orenstein
April Lang
Dennis Mucci
Chris DeCruze
Brian Moore
Mary Markham

Also Present:

Dmitri Paris, Superintendent of Parks & Recreation
George Estrada, Director, Public Works
Atty. Schopick, Town of Trumbull Attorney
Lori Hayes-O'Brien, Chairman-Community Facility Building Committee
Lucinda Timpanelli, Chairman-Trumbull Board of Education

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

Cindy Penkoff, 101 Columbine Dr. – Against considering a facility at Hardy Lane location. Residential neighborhood will be ruined. Would rather see money spent on schools.

Liz Parenzan – Meadowview Drive – Against facility--think about schools before pools. Students are impacted by covid – increasing mental health issues. Should deal with this in our schools first.

Jeff Yeoman – 33 Firehouse Dr. His child is a swimmer and understands pool dilemma.

Resident- Woodland Hills Dr. – Supports the pool. Daughter swims and it is beneficial to physical and mental health.

Pat Kelly – 15 Gibson Avenue. Not against pool – has many benefits but need to have a priority – work on fixing Hillcrest. Don't put this in residential neighborhoods. Consider revamping Hillcrest.

Approval of February 9, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Moved by Mr. Block, seconded by Ms. Lang to approve the February 9, 2022 meeting minutes.

Vote: 7-0-0 (M. Markham abstained)

Discussion regarding Hillcrest Pool

Mr. Marsh stated that at the last meeting the committee reviewed a presentation from architect on pool options.

Mr. Marsh asked Mr. Paris, who has done research, what is bare minimum cost to open Hillcrest Pool. Mr. Paris estimates approximately \$3 million to put back on-line, such as address mechanical needs, structural failures, minimum health code and HVAC. Will take about one year to do repairs. The cost does not include any defects that haven't yet been discovered. Will not get longevity with \$3 million investment. Will become more costly to repair in the future. In short, will cost \$3MM to fix, but no guarantees.

The alternate discussion is a bridge to allow resumption of swimming activities while a new pool is being constructed. Suggestion is to put a giant tent over outdoor pool (Tashua)—sprung tent. But would still need locker rooms, bathrooms, heating. Cost to do this is approximately \$3 million. The benefit is speed of erecting this. It would carry us for a couple of years until a solution is reached. The cost of \$3MM is just to cover pool. Does not address repairs that are also needed at Tashua pool.

Mr. Marsh asked Mr. Estrada what is being done to give pool access to students in the meanwhile. Mr. Estrada came up with using alternative pools in other towns but knows this is not optimal. Mr. Estrada said they are working on various options, including use of pool in Stratford, but has nothing to report at this time.

Mr. Block discussed a pool structure that was set up in a town in Ontario—a sprung structure. Thinks there might be long term feasibility to do this in Trumbull and is worth researching further.

Mr. Marsh reminded everyone that the Committee's charge is to develop a concept for future aquatics facility and come up with recommendations for Town Council's approval and then bring to voters via referendum. Mr. Block feels we should be mindful of costs. Discussion took place on this.

Ms. Timpanelli, BOE President, gave input on the security issues of public coming onto school property during school hours. Board members want to stick with the 7:00-2:30 pm schedule for school kids only. Board would oppose opening up school grounds to general public. Knows community wouldn't like this, so she suggested the pool should go somewhere else. She suggested the committee contact R. Seamans, who could give more details on security issues encountered at the pool in the past.

Mr. Block feels that the BOE's security issues are not the only thing to take into consideration when looking at Hillcrest location because the land belongs the Town of Trumbull. He wants to keep exploring putting an aquatics facility at Hillcrest. Mr. Estrada explained the importance of security at schools and said it is under the BOE's discretion of who gets to come onto school grounds. Mr. Estrada recommended that the committee talk to the schools' head of security.

The Committee took a five-minute recess.

Mr. Marsh stated that the committee's time is better spent on focusing on places other than Hillcrest to put a new pool and discussion ensued.

Moved by Mr. Moore, seconded by Ms. Markham to move away from exploring Hillcrest location and examine other options on the table. Vote: Six for (Marsh, Moore, Markham, Mucci, Lang, Orenstein), two against (Block, DeCruze). **Motion passed 6-2**

Discussion regarding feasibility of Hardy Lane for project site

Mr. Marsh discussed the possibility of combining the Community Facility Building Committee with The Aquatics Facility Committee. Ms. Hayes-O'Brien said her committee is discussing Hardy Lane as an option and gave the reasons. She also said that the committee is requesting more guidance from Town Council and looking at pursuing working in tandem with Aquatics Facility Building Committee.

Mr. Block discussed the community survey that was going to go out 2 years ago (pre-Covid)—wants to know if we are going to do one and if not, why not? Mr. Marsh said a lot has changed since 2020, and the scenario is now different because Hillcrest pool is in failure.

Mr. Estrada stated they would like to bring this to referendum in November 2022. But that means we would be on an aggressive schedule to do this. If the two committees come together the synergies would help with the timeline. Mr. Estrada envisions that the recreation department would be a hub supporting senior activities and the aquatics component of a combined pool/senior/community facility—all residing in one building. This process is moving forward so we can arrive at referendum in November. August 15 is date for conceptual design so can begin communication to residents in time for November referendum. If there are any delays in this schedule – whoever is not at table will roll over to following year. Mr. Estrada thinks it's achievable, but time is of the essence.

Mr. Marsh asked Attorney Schopick if the Aquatics Committee wants to explore joint project with the Community Facilities Building Committee, what is the mechanism to make that happen? Mr. Schopick said that this question has to go back to the Town Council. Mr. Schopick recommends that the two committees combine their work or they could work in parallel, but this would be more cumbersome.

Moved by Mr. Moore and seconded by Mr. Mucci to combine the Aquatics Facility Building Committee with Community Facility Building Committee. Vote: Six for (Marsh, Moore, Markham, Mucci, Lang, Orenstein), two against (Block, DeCruze). **Motion passed 6-2**

Mr. Marsh commented that we have opportunities to address aquatics and senior center at the same time and this presents efficiencies and economies of scale. Revenue generating opportunities are greater. Mr. Block felt that this decision was already pre-determined and he called the question.

Vote: 8-0-0

New Business

None.

Adjournment

Moved by Ms. Markham, seconded by Mr. DeCruze to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 pm.

Vote: 8-0-0

Submitted by

Marisa Petriello