

City of Newton



David B. Cohen
Mayor

HEALTH DEPARTMENT
J. David Naparstek, Commissioner
1294 Centre Street
Newton, MA 02459-1544

Telephone
(617) 796-1420
Fax
(617) 552-7063

October 7, 2004

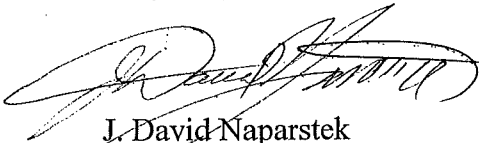
Fran Towle, Commissioner
Parks and Recreation Department
70 Crescent Street
Newton, MA 02466

Dear Fran

The Newton Health Department is delighted that your department is seeking CPA funding for a shade structure to cover the baby pool at Gath Pool. Public health officials strongly recommend sun protection measures for children under the age of 14 years. The proposed shade will serve to protect the young users of the pool from the principal source of skin cancer. It also will give a public health message for parents to take to other venues where there are direct sun exposures.

I enthusiastically support your proposed use of CPA funds for this purpose.

Very truly yours



J. David Naparstek
Commissioner of Health

Cc: Tom Cahill

Email: dnaparstek@ci.newton.ma.us

480 Albemarle Road
Newtonville, MA 02460

October 7, 2004

Dear Members of the Community Preservation Committee,

We are writing in support of the proposed changes to Gath Pool to improve disability access, including benches, shade, a permanent wheelchair ramp, and accessible water fountains. Aside from issues of ADA compliance, we feel strongly that sending a message of welcome to all Newton residents is very important. Our daughter, Mamie Rose, used a wheelchair for the last ten months of her life, and would have so appreciated improved accessibility at Gath Pool. She was a student at Horace Mann Elementary School, and the Gath Pool was an important part of her neighborhood community. In addition, she had a metabolic disorder that made her intolerant of temperature extremes, and she required shade in the summertime.

We appreciate your attention to this proposal.

Sincerely,


Margaret Orr and Patrick Mullane

To Whom It May Concern:

My children are old enough to be at the Gath pool by themselves now, but I still have vivid memories of sitting on the scratchy concrete next to the pool, hot sun baking down on me, my towel scrunched up behind my back as I leaned against the metal fence for support. I always wore my sandals through the locker room because I felt as if there were fungi or creatures growing through the slippery tile floor in there.

Still, I love the Gath. I call it our Country Club. It's the only country club I would want to belong to because it's open to all. On a visit to the Gath you can see friends from the neighborhood, friends from school, the girl who babysits and teaches your children swimming, black children, white children, Asian children, those in wheelchairs, those who are using sign language, those who are speaking Polish, Chinese, Creole, Spanish and more.

When I read the proposal for the changes to be made at Gath I was ecstatic. We could make visiting Gath actually be a comfortable experience as well as a friendly experience. I could go and sit on a bench, in the shade, with a water fountain nearby and I could get through the locker room without needing to de-contaminate myself afterwards. Please, please, please consider these very fine suggestions. The Club is in need of some improvements.

Thank you.

Joan M. Abbot
j.abbot@comcast.net

VIA E-Mail

Dear Newton officials: I am writing today in support of the Playground Project at Albemarle and the Friends of Albemarle who are interested in partnering with the Department of Parks and Recreation to seek Community Preservation Act funding to make enhancements to Gath Pool, including: installation of benches with shade canopies on both the main deck and the kiddie pool deck, ADA compliant drinking fountains, a permanent ADA wheelchair ramp from the main pool deck to the kiddie pool, and grab bars in both the mens and women's locker rooms.

As a Newton resident for 11 years now, I always wondered why we didn't have a more comfortable, spruced-up swimming pool for the hot weather. Our family have used the Gath pool, but it wasn't ever the big draw that I thought it could be for my children and us. These improvements would allow even more of our residents to take advantage of the pool and be safe while they are doing it.

Please support and approve Community Preservation Act funding for this project.

Beth Fredericks
Lee Joseph
Mae Joseph, 15 years
Will Joseph, 18 years
bfred@aol.com

VIA E-MAIL

October 14, 2004

I am a Newton mother of 2 small children and am writing in support of the 'Proposed Enhancements to the Gath Pool'.

The lack of shade and insufficient seating can make the pool at times a safety hazard. I have friends that jokingly refer to the pool as the 'prison pool' because the conditions resemble those at a Spartan, uncomfortable, and unsafe prison. It is a convenient pool that we are lucky to have, but it could be so much more to everyone.

Thank you for your consideration of the proposal.

Sincerely,

Michelle Curran
27 Wildwood Avenue
Newton, MA 02460

VIA E-MAIL

11 North St.
Newton, MA 02460
October 10, 2004

The Playground Project
119 Fair Oaks Ave.
Newton, MA 02460

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing in support of the proposal for improvements to the Gath Pool. As neighbors of the pool and parents of young children, we welcome the proposed measures, which we feel are critical to making the pool safer and more accessible to Newton residents.

Protection from the sun has been our major concern when using the pool, and a reason we've often opted for less convenient swimming spots—much to our children's chagrin. Currently the pool decks offer no relief from the sun, increasing the risk of sunstroke and skin damage to pool users. Sun awnings will provide relief from the heat as well as the damaging rays that can lead to sunburn, sun-poisoning and skin cancer.

New nonslip flooring is critical to injury prevention, especially in light of the many elderly and very young pool users who may be unsteady on their feet. More than once our children have slipped and fallen while making their way eagerly through the locker rooms to the poolside.

Additional enhancements—new drinking fountains, benches and grab bars—are clearly necessary to make the Gath Pool a safer and more comfortable place for people of every age and physical ability.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Marcia Tabenken and Jeff Kolodney, M.D.

-----Original Message-----

From: MAYOR DAVID COHEN [mailto:DCohen@newtonma.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, October 06, 2004 1:26 PM
To: Thomas, Arline
Subject: Re: Department of Parks and Recreation to seek Community
Preservation Act funding

Dear Ms. Thomas:

Thank you for contacting me about the Gath Pool. I have had a chance to look into the proposed improvements and think they would really make a big difference for the users. I have let the proponents of the plan know of my support and I will also let the Community Preservation Committee know of my support as well.

Very Truly Yours,

David Cohen

On 23 Sep 2004 at 9:22, Thomas, Arline wrote:
Subject: Department of Parks and Recreation to seek
Community Preservation Act funding
Date sent: Thu, 23 Sep 2004 09:22:28 -0400
From: "Thomas, Arline" <athomas1@babson.edu>
To: <dcohen@ci.newton.ma.us>

Dear Mayor Cohen,

Please support The Playground Project at Albemarle and the Friends of Albemarle by approving their grant request. Funds from the Community Preservation Act could go a long way in making significant enhancements to Gath Pool. I strongly support: installation of benches with shade canopies on both the main deck and the kiddie pool deck, ADA compliant drinking fountains, a permanent ADA wheelchair ramp from the main pool deck to the kiddie pool, and grab bars in both the men's and women's locker rooms. The Gath pool is well utilized by our community members and is in desperate need of the above mentioned enhancements. I thank you in advance for your support!

Respectfully,
Arline Thomas
7 Perry Road
Auburndale, MA 02466
617-527-8274

DeRubeis Bob

Received: from SpoolDir by NEWTON (Mercury 1.44); 23 Sep 04 09:31:14 EST
Return-path: <athomas1@babson.edu>
Received: from pollux.babson.edu (155.48.8.111) by ci.newton.ma.us (Mercury 1.44);
23 Sep 04 09:31:13 EST
Received: from postoffice1.babson.edu ([155.48.9.208]) by pollux.babson.edu with Microsoft SMTPSVC(5.0.2195.671
Thu, 23 Sep 2004 09:18:59 -0400
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft Exchange V6.0.6556.0
content-class: urn:content-classes:message
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: multipart/alternative;
boundary="-----=_NextPart_001_01C4A16F.E2DF82D2"
Subject: Department of Parks and Recreation to seek Community Preservation Act funding
Date: Thu, 23 Sep 2004 09:18:59 -0400
Message-ID: <E69E925D792C3E448D7289C3BAAE0F23FC6ACE@postoffice1.babson.edu>
X-MS-Has-Attach:
X-MS-TNEF-Correlator:
Thread-Topic: Department of Parks and Recreation to seek Community Preservation Act funding
Thread-Index: AcShb5hVZkvSHxr1QgSRkqbfedapPAAACNxQ
From: "Thomas, Arline" <athomas1@babson.edu>
To: <bderubeis@CI.NEWTON.MA.US.>
Return-Path: athomas1@babson.edu
X-OriginalArrivalTime: 23 Sep 2004 13:18:59.0619 (UTC) FILETIME=[E310D730:01C4A16F]
X-PMFLAGS: 570950016 0 1 Y075D7.CNM

Dear Deputy Commissioner Derubeis ,

Please support The Playground Project at Albemarle and the Friends of Albemarle by approving their grant request. Funds from the Community Preservation Act could go a long way in making significant enhancements to Gath Pool. I strongly support: installation of benches with shade canopies on both the main deck and the kiddie pool deck, ADA compliant drinking fountains, a permanent ADA wheelchair ramp from the main pool deck to the kiddie pool, and grab bars in both the men's and women's locker rooms. The Gath pool is well utilized by our community members and is in desperate need of the above mentioned enhancements. I thank you in advance for your support!

Respectfully,
Arline Thomas
7 Perry Road
Auburndale, MA 02466
617-527-8274

<<mailto:ftowle@CI.NEWTON.MA.US>>

DeRubeis Bob

Received: from SpoolDir by NEWTON (Mercury 1.44); 23 Sep 04 19:55:08 EST

Return-path: <Bfred101@aol.com>

Received: from imo-m20.mx.aol.com (64.12.137.1) by ci.newton.ma.us (Mercury 1.44);
23 Sep 04 19:55:03 EST

Received: from Bfred101@aol.com

by imo-m20.mx.aol.com (mail_out_v37_r3.7.) id 1.cf.17bfc2da (3924);
Thu, 23 Sep 2004 19:42:45 -0400 (EDT)

From: Bfred101@aol.com

Message-ID: <cf.17bfc2da.2e84b975@aol.com>

Date: Thu, 23 Sep 2004 19:42:45 EDT

Subject: Improvements to the Gath Pool

To: ftowle@CI.NEWTON.MA.US, bderubeis@CI.NEWTON.MA.US, dcohen@ci.newton.ma.us,
marcia@marciajohnson.org, slinsky@thenewlawcenter.com

CC: info@newtonplayground.org

MIME-Version: 1.0

Content-Type: multipart/alternative; boundary="-----1095982965"

X-Mailer: 9.0 for Windows sub 5000

X-PMFLAGS: 570950016 0 1 Y0CD97.CNM

Dear Newton officials: I am writing today in support of the Playground Project at Albemarle and the Friends of Albemarle who are interested in partnering with the Department of Parks and Recreation to seek Community Preservation

Act funding to make enhancements to Gath Pool, including: installation of benches with shade canopies on both the main deck and the kiddie pool deck, ADA compliant drinking fountains, a permanent ADA wheelchair ramp from the main pool deck to the kiddie pool, and grab bars in both the mens and women's locker rooms.

As a Newton resident for 11 years now, I always wondered why we didn't have a more comfortable, spruced-up swimming pool for the hot weather. Our family have used the Gath pool, but it wasn't ever the big draw that I thought it could be for my children and us. These improvements would allow even more of our residents to take advantage of the pool and be safe while they are doing it.

Please support and approve Community Preservation Act funding for this project.

Beth Fredericks
Lee Joseph
Mae Joseph, 15 years
Will Joseph, 18 years

Board of Aldermen

2004-2005

City of Newton

1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459



Chairman, Doug Dickson
Community Preservation Commission
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, Massachusetts 02459

November 8, 2004

Dear Chairman Dickson:

I am writing in support of the enhancements to Gath Pool project which is a joint effort between The Playground Project at Albemarle, the Friends of Albemarle, and the Department of Parks and Recreation. The primary goal of this project is to enhance the user-friendliness of the pool by providing sun-protection and accessibility.

Over the past several years, there has been a significant change in the demographics of those who use the Gath pool. Seniors are now a large and frequent user group which the City is attracting with its classes specially targeted to this group. In addition the number of developmentally and physically challenged youngsters, through the Albemarle Acres summer camp as well as municipal swim classes has increased. In summary the number of users of all ages who need special accommodation has increased since the pool was originally designed and built.

The way in which this project will address these changing demographics is to complete the following:

- Shading parts of both the kiddie pool area and the main pool deck with a custom super-span sun port.
- Installation of fourteen backed benches with armrests to be installed in both shaded and unshaded areas
- Replacing drinking fountains with those that meet ADA standards
- Adding additional grab bars -- especially in the shower enclosures
- Installing non-slip floor surfacing in the locker rooms and public passage areas

I truly believe that this project will go a long way to enhance our only outdoor pool recreational facility in one of our largest and most used parks.

Sincerely,

Marcia T. Johnson
Alderman-at-Large, Ward 2