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memo

to: Gath Pool Working Group

from: Tom Scarlata

date: September 24, 2021

project name & number: Gath Pool Project
BH+A Project No. 3457

subject: Notes from 9/23 Community Meeting

cc: Clara Castro
BH+A File

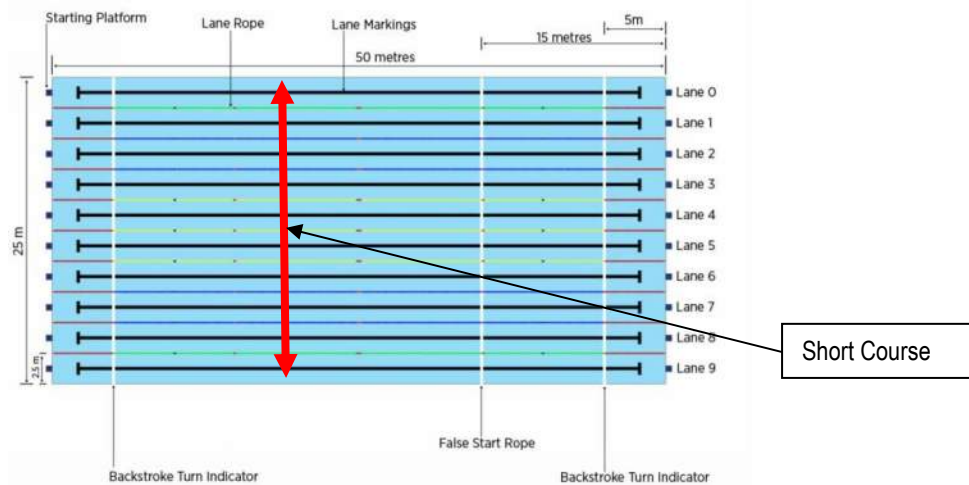
The following are notes taken during the September 23, 2021, Community Meeting. The notes summarize comments, questions, and observations from the community. This does not capture the number of times certain comments were repeated by the 120 registered attendees.

Many speakers mentioned other pool facilities; photos of those facilities have been inserted into this summary.

1. Is the project a rehab of the pool or a new pool?
2. Pool must be senior friendly. Pool needs laws space, allow people to bring their own beach chairs.
3. Pool should be year-round indoor pool. Pool needs to be 10 lanes to provide long and short course swimming.

BH+A Commentary: Many speakers mentioned a 10-lane pool. 10 lanes allow measured racing lanes in two directions. Many pools are 50-meter-long with 25-meter or yard across the pool. 10 lanes also reduces the number of heats and shortens the length of meets.

Traditionally 50-meter-long course season is in the summer months. Many programs swim 25 yards due to the lack of 50-meter pools.



4. Pool must accommodate groups like Athletes Unlimited
5. Need more recreational elements; multiple pools for different activities
6. Newton North is not a community pool. Newton needs a year-round pool.
7. Susan Albright: Address if this will be a year-round facility. Look at the Wayland Pool.

BH+A Commentary: The Wayland Community Pool started as an indoor pool, built by a private non-profit. During the early 2000's the pool was purchased by the Town for 1 dollar. The pool continued to fail and fell into disrepair. In 2010, another non-profit took over the pool complex, built a 10-lane pool with a removable inflatable cover. The cover's end arch supports remain in place year-round.



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8. Tarik Lucas- Should be a year-round pool; use pandemic relief funds.
9. Julia Malakie- Pool needs an extended season preferably a year-round pool
10. Emily Norton- City is listening to all suggestions
11. Pool needs family changing, warmer water, shade, wading pool connected to main pool, slide and diving access at the same time, more 3ft. deep water
12. Who is Harry Gath?- City should add a name to be more inclusive.
13. Provide a snack bar.
14. Unisex family changing rooms
15. Look at the Charles River Aquatics

BH+A Commentary: The pool is part of a large sports complex including two skating rinks. The pool is run by a private organization; commitments for use of the pool and ice by Wellesley were part of the approval process. This pool is a stainless-steel structure that was purchased and relocated to Wellesley.



16. Look at the Boston College Pool



50-meter , 10 lane with short course

17. Cedar Pruitt (Friends of Albemarle); Pool must take flooding into consideration
18. Jaqueline Freeman: How will the pool be integrated into the masterplan of the park
19. Extend the pool season
20. Will existing pool be torn down and rebuilt?
21. The culture and the experience of the pool must be upgraded
22. Wading pool should not be separated
23. Look at the Weston Pool

BH+A Commentary: The Weston Pool is very large pool set in wooded area with large lawn areas and tree cover. BH+A is starting on the design of improvements at the pool which are focusing on new filtration, improvements and repairs to the pool, replacing the entry/concession building and upgrading the bathhouse.



Memorial Pool in Weston, MA

24. New pool should have a bubble cover.
25. Pool should accommodate adults with disabilities; pool and bathhouse
26. Provide walking and exercise lanes
27. Provide solar panels and geo-thermal heat
28. Contact USA swim teams to determine if potential rental income exists.
29. Existing lap lanes are too congested.
30. Debbie Sussman
 - JCC Pool- Zero depth is important for all ages
 - Shade
 - Splash Pad
 - Expanded season
 - Geo-thermal (need warmer water)
31. Carol Ann Shea? Long time swimmer
 - Extend the season
 - Accommodate adult swimmers
 - People use pool to relax

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32. Kathleen Grieser?
 - Footprint of existing should not be a constraint
 - Swimming lessons need to be offered year around
 - Senior Swimming must be a priority
 - Bluefish needs must be addressed
 - Think big! Use land

33. Swim Team Parent- Set up pool to separate lap swimming and recreational swimming
34. Needs Concession; Sell bathing caps, earplugs, sunblock, not just food and drink
35. Newton needs pools in two locations; Weeks Field?
36. Limits on Footprint should include tennis courts and fieldhouse
37. Project should be an Aquatic Center for all of Newton
38. Asher Kaufman, renovate the existing pool
39. Swim lessons are needed for every child and offered year around
40. How does this project relate to the park masterplan? Town needs a second pool
41. Include fieldhouse as part of the project
42. Provide a year around heated pool
43. Wading area needs space for strollers and baby carriers.

44. Look at the St. Petersburg Northshore Aquatic Center



Northshore Aquatic Center, St. Petersburg, FL

45. Provide seating and shade
46. An outdoor pool does not meet the needs of all
47. Consider busing to pool from housing and senior center
48. Can part of the fields be taken for the pools?
49. Please consider the trees/landscape surrounding the pool
50. Provide solar panels over the parking area; City noted that they evaluated this before and will look at it again

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51. Look at the Portsmouth NH Pool

BH+A Comments: There are two pools in Portsmouth:



This is the City's indoor pool that has a retractable Kalwall roof. This was "Structures Unlimited" structure, a NH based company.



Pierce Island Outdoor Pool in Portsmouth, NH

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- 52. Budget: Has a budget been established. An indoor pool will require a different budget. How does the design affect staffing?
- 53. Relocate the basketball courts
- 54. Can Newton support two City pools?
- 55. Provide space for birthday parties and events
- 56. Look at the MIT pool.



MIT Pool, 10 lane 50-meter natatorium

- 57. Pools in Iceland are open year-round and not covered.
- 58. Build an indoor pool at Newton South
- 59. Look at Smith Playground in Allston



Large Park Complex; playground has an integral splash pad component.

- 60. A splashpad should be a priority.
- 61. A masterplan for the park must be in place and include Albemarle Road

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- 62. The existing pool is too small for the Bluefin program
- 63. Pool should be accommodating for young seniors.
- 64. Recreational swimming should not conflict with competitive swimming
- 65. Athletes Unlimited, currently moving to Newton North, should be accommodated.
- 66. Look at the YMCA in Waltham



Waltham YMCA Pool

- 67. Please consider a public/private process.