

Summary of Public Input

Value and Benefits of Mayfair Pool

Community members agreed that the pool has provided many benefits to the catchment area, as well as to the city as a whole, and surrounding area. This included:

- bringing the community together by having a safe, supervised place for children and families to recreate, as well as a place where diverse groups of people can get to know each other;
- having fun and learning skills;
- the pool is part of the history and character of the neighbourhood, and is a landmark;
- it is within walking distance for many, provides water activities for those who don't have cottages or can't afford to drive to other facilities, and is a financially accessible form of recreation;
- providing activities for schools; and
- having a pool can be a draw to the neighbourhood, attracting new residents, and retaining current ones.

Want an Outdoor Pool to Replace Mayfair

At both meetings, attendees stated clearly and emphatically that they wanted an outdoor pool rather than any other kind of facility.

Some additional amenities were suggested, but it was stated that these should not be at the expense of a pool. Most wanted a somewhat bigger pool, though there was not complete agreement on whether it should be as large as Riversdale and whether it should be rectangular or not.

Equipment In and Around the Pool

Most people wanted a water slide, diving boards, and also seating around the pool. Some wanted lanes for adult swimming, a beach area (i.e. zero depth) with the pool gradually getting deep enough for diving, bubbles, and jets.

For the green space and other areas around the pool, suggestions were made to have barbecue pits and stands along with picnic tables for family outings. Other suggestions included areas for volleyball and space for free play, such as Frisbee.

Environmentally Friendly

A number of attendees suggested that the new pool be environmentally sustainable, meeting LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standards. This could include solar panels for heat and light, possibly extending the operating season and length of day for the pool, geothermal heating, and recycling bins. Suggestions were also made for low chlorine alternatives, such as ultra violet technologies or other state of the art sanitization.

Target Groups and Activities

Although children and teens were seen as primary target groups for activities (e.g. water play, swimming lessons, pool camps, teen pool parties, learn to swim clubs such as synchronized, and speed swimming), people also wanted activities for all age groups, including early morning swims for adults, aquasize classes, water safety programs, canoe and kayak safety, community activities, and rental of the pool and area for special events.

Design Considerations

Besides wanting an environmentally friendly pool, attendees at the meetings wanted showers, family change rooms, lockers, as well as a concession with affordable and healthy food choices. They wanted the pool to be accessible to people with disabilities. Some suggested a hot tub, a sound system for music, and spray features, though not everyone agreed with all the ideas.

Affordability

In general, people said it was important to keep pool entry fees affordable. They liked current initiatives such as loonie and toonie swims and free swims. Some thought the regular entry fees should be lower than they are currently.

Other Comments and Suggestions

It was suggested that the City of Saskatoon start actively looking for funding from other sources such as grants for environmental and ‘green’ design, “Let’s move as quickly as possible so we aren’t waiting so long for the (new) pool.”

A few people suggested that when Harry Bailey Pool closes for its annual maintenance, Mayfair Pool could be used to take up the slack in programming. The question was asked, “Can a new pool be built on another piece of property while the old pool is still in operation?” Ashworth Holmes Park was one suggestion.

Conclusions

Community members who attended the public meetings want an outdoor pool with additional amenities such as water slides and diving boards. Most people expressed a desire for an environmentally friendly pool, meeting LEED standards. They also want some green space around the pool.

Getting consensus on details of size, shape, the pool building, and other amenities will need further discussion with the community.