

Worthington Pools Community Meeting Feedback - December 3, 2019

- I see the pools as an invaluable community asset - something that requires an investment. I support the tax request - this is an entirely reasonable request. A stand-alone "ask" to support the pools would be successful in my view.
- We use the pool for swim lessons, WAVE Team, Water Polo, and summer fun. It is an asset to this community when fully functional. Creating a funding solution for the pool is very important to our family to maintain our quality of life and create more memories and an additional outlet and source of exercise for our children. We would support a tax request for both the pool and Natatorium. We believe the community, us included, should and would support the Natatorium through school taxes if necessary. This is just catching Worthington High School up to the level of other suburban schools in the metro area. We should not sacrifice either the schools or the natatorium/swim programs. Reducing other city initiatives is acceptable to us...There are other options for parks and biking, but only one community pool. We believe it is best for the city to run the pools so that they are professionally maintained and budgets are set appropriately.
- What kind of efforts/fundraising events could be organized to help subsidize the cost of new pools? Getting in front of local businesses to share the vision and value that current and future pools have in the community. For sure in support of the tax request to fund pools. New pools will only strengthen and improve the already desirable community of Worthington.
- Appeal to the Worthington businesses to contribute to the community for better employees and way of life. Look for endowments.
- Creating partnerships with local hospitals/healthcare facilities to utilize the natatorium during the day. Any capital fundraising campaigns to raise money?
- Worthington needs to move forward aggressively with the Wilson Bridge corridor/Holiday Inn site redevelopment. The city needs to fill its vacant commercial real estate. One aspect of marketing the city would be a prominent, central(?), 1st class aquatic facility year round recreation and competition pools and capacity to serve the entire school district.
- I am in support of an additional property tax throughout the Worthington school/recreational area (ie include City of Columbus, Perry Township in tax).
- No more quick fixes. Let's please do it right. It seems we can do city "rainy" day \$ and joint rec district to allow us to have something we can be proud of. Personally the leisure/outdoor is my priority but its clear the natatorium has quite a following.
- We use pools for lessons, recreation and now swim team. Look to Hilliard, UA, Dublin pools design, management, funding. Natatorium does not currently serve any aging/united mobility person - increased revenue if it did. Joint Recreation!! Our table consisted of leisure and swim team - from Worth Hills, Bluffsview, Colonial, and Estates.
- How would operation of pool work under joint rec. district? Would it extend or replace Swiminc. operating model? Would joint rec district extend beyond aquatic solution? What else would fall under this concept? If broader context covered Rec Center, McCord Park, etc. it might gain better support.

- Joint Recreation District - with Dublin? Cautionary tale - what happened in Dublin - ask Emily Schneider
- Please research what little Wooster, Ohio did to build their new high school, natatorium(50M), indoor track with 4 courts inside it 20 years ago. What I remember is that there was a school levy for the school. There were big donors for the pool/track including to YMCA helped pay and they maintain it. They recently had to raise money to repaint the pool.
- I have been a resident of Worthington for 31 years. I have 2 sons that were educated in Worthington schools both participated in swimming and water polo. I generally swim laps 5 days a week. I would absolutely support a tax increase as part of a funding solution to keep the schools and pools serving the people of our city and school district. I think it would be important to seek corporate sponsorships and funding to show business commitment to keeping Worthington strong. Sell naming rights for elements of pool funding. Let those of us committed to the continued support of the pools help in searching out alternative funding sources. Publicize the severity of the problems and the urgency to support schools, pools, bike paths and pedestrian walkways.
- I would like to see ALL the city expenses/projected plans that could be considered for the “taking Peter to pay Paul” scenario. Ex. McCord Park, bike/pedestrian, etc. The city has money that is not just for new sewers, infrastructure, etc...How can we be SMART on the ROI of the city \$ spent on the “other”. BE SMART. This is an investment in our value as a city. Westerville, UA, Dublin ...City pools matter to communities.
- I think that it would probably be in the best interest to do the joint recreation district idea as many of the members that use the pools are in this greater Worthington area. I think it needs to be made sure that if its the schools part the pool can't become the bottom of the barrel when it comes to priority.
- Start a crowdfunding options on websites like kickstarted, go fund me, indiegogo. This option could lead to tremendous community support from people in and out of Worthington. People could donate as little as money and it could still help. The school district would own the page but community representatives would compile the information on the fundraiser. We can't put all of our eggs in one basket but definitely put some faith into crowdfunding. It may seem silly but it's much better than taxes and encroaching on community projects. There's no harm in seeing what would happen. Or it could be on the district website to make it more direct. If we over raise we will only have room to improve. And make the pool 50M.
- Why 25M pool? Can we do 50M or keep 25M. Can't complete HS meets in a “M” pool. Also consider 10 lanes vs 8. Definitely not only 6 lanes.
- The pool complex should be viewed as an important and invaluable asset to Worthington to be viewed as a competitive community in Columbus to keep people living here and moving here as our city of Columbus grows. Losing the pools will lead to lost value in our community.
- Why would the school be responsible for indoor repairs if it is owned/operated by Swiminc? Usage is only 2010(?) total hrs. Why aren't we approaching the pool as a business opportunity as well as civic/community asset?

- Indoor facility vs outdoor = year round revenue. Bigger than community center to replace when the pool life there dies.
- How do you use the pool? Kids are members of WKHS water polo/swim team. Would you support a tax request for the outdoor pool/indoor pool or both? Both Would you be included to delay renovating an elementary? Yes-because the pool has a broader reach than an elementary school.
- The pools add so much value to our experience of community in Worthington. If it helps put the natatorium at WKHS to help pass the levy!!
- Do not do joint rec levy. It will fail. Treat the pool like any parks and rec project - paid with city money for what the city uses most and the schools for what they use most.
- What is Swiminc's plan for future improvements-past anything agreed upon/paid for by city/school/joint rec or other? Swiminc should be able to sustain but can they "save" for improvements 10+ years in the future post these improvements - all to avoid a second request for significant revenue. How important is creating a funding solution for the pool? Very but with priority to infrastructure first (and only) and then the "extras" like splash pads only if funds support. Would you support a tax request for outdoor/indoor or both? Yes - both - both are necessary.
- Delay renovating an elementary so the district can fund renovations? No-Schools first but ideally this isn't necessary and both can be completed. Swiminc in good position as does the city or school district really want to lose an outdoor pool or indoor pool? How would you react to reductions to other city initiatives? I would be fine without reduction of McCord or bike/ped over possible improvement to the pools.
- Would the recreation district have any impact to access and resident status for the community center or other city programming of facilities?
- As a parent with many years of pool membership(14), children who swim competitively, play water polo, have taken lessons, etc. I would absolutely, 100% vote for expanding the district/voting boundaries to the whole district. Put it on a ballot. We will vote yes!!
- I would like to see more insight into the actual operating costs of the facilities. What is operations cost of natatorium?
- I suggest forming a committee to raise private money to defray some of the cost. There is a dedicated population of swim team/water polo parents and a close network of former swimmers from both schools. We need usable facilities, not luxurious new facilities like a lazy river, which will need maintenance money, too.
- Our family uses the pool - swim team year round and recreation in the summer. I expect we will change our usage as our kids age. I am supportive of reductions to bike and pedestrian investments. I suspect it will be easier to raise money through taxes, instructive financing, bonds, loans, business investment for the pools than for the necessary sidewalks and bike lanes. So while I am pro-pool, it is not at the expense of overcrowded or unsafe elementary schools or safe movement through our neighborhoods and around cars.