



City Council Memorandum

To: Mayor Fasbender & City Councilmembers
From: Chris Jenkins, Parks & Recreation Director
Date: May 18, 2020
Item: 2020 Hastings Family Aquatic Center Season

Council Action Requested: Consider canceling the 2020 Hastings Family Aquatic Center Season.

Background Information: The Hastings Family Aquatic Center is a seasonally operated outdoor aquatic facility which offers lap swim, open swim, swimming lessons, private rentals and employment for 60+ individuals annually. HFAC is a prominent feature in our Parks & Recreation System, and has many positive impacts within our community.

The current pandemic has certainly given staff an opportunity to take pause and thoroughly evaluate the feasibility of operating HFAC this summer. I believe we have waited long enough and have contemplated more scenarios and possibilities than we ever imagined in an effort to come to an informed decision.

For the following reasons, staff believe the best decision is to cancel the 2020 season at HFAC:

- Staff training: both pre-season and routine in-season trainings are rigorous and require staff to be in contact with one another and instructors. We cannot deliver the necessary training for our staff to be effective in their duties.
- Staff safety: our staff execute 50+ active rescues each season. Rescues require staff to enter the water, come face to face with a distressed patron, physically take control of that patron and return them to safety out of the water. There is no ability to protect staff from COVID-19 while they would perform these job duties.
- Use of locker rooms and restrooms: could require a “one in – one out” operation with staff sanitizing between each use. This is not practical/feasible.
- Inability for patrons to shower prior to entering pool: this is a requirement from Minnesota Department of Health, and would not be practical/feasible.
- Social distancing requirements: while it is possible the standard may change, current requirements of 6ft between individuals will impact HFAC’s operations drastically. Staff would be required to enforce social distancing, likely requiring additional staff so that lifeguards are not distracted. The

capacity of the facility would fall from approximately 800 people to just over 100 people. This severely impacts revenue potential. It is anticipated that social distancing requirements will be in effect in MN throughout the summer season.

- Pool slides, play structure, climbing wall, lily pads, diving board: these amenities would not be available as they would require sanitation between individual uses, which as noted earlier, is not practical or feasible.
- Financial feasibility: with severely limited occupancy it is not realistic to propose that HFAC would be able to operate in a fiscally responsible manner.
- Employee experience: we take great pride in providing a safe, fun, and fulfilling environment for our many employees each season. With the many variables, requirements, added risks and unknowns, we cannot confidently provide our employees with the experience they deserve or the experience we want them to have.

Financial Impact: HFAC would be facing an inability to generate revenue of acceptable levels with the social distancing requirements and occupancy limitations.

Advisory Commission Discussion: None

Council Committee Discussion: None

Attachments:

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