



**CITY OF KIRKLAND**  
Department of Parks & Community Services  
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## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Kurt Triplett, City Manager

**From:** Jennifer Schroder, Director  
Linda Murphy, Recreation Manager

**Date:** January 10, 2014

**Subject:** RESOLUTION REGARDING SITES AND USES TO BE CONSIDERED FOR A POTENTIAL FACILITY TO REPLACE THE JUANITA AQUATIC CENTER

## RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council adopts a resolution which identifies sites and uses to be considered for a potential facility to replace the Juanita Aquatic Center and directs staff to solicit community input.

## BACKGROUND

In September of 2013 the City Council amended the City's 2013-2014 Work Program to explore options for replacing the Juanita Aquatic Center at Juanita High School. In December 2013 staff provided Council with information about current operations at the Aquatic Center, trends in aquatic facilities and programs, and an initial list of potential sites to be considered. The Council provided direction to staff on sites to undergo initial examination.

A preliminary analysis of the selected sites is scheduled to be presented to the City Council at their study session on January 21. Following the study session, Council will consider adoption of the attached resolution which will specifically identify those sites the Council would like to further consider as well as determine the potential uses of the pool facilities and directing staff to initiate public outreach on pool sites and user options.

As drafted, the resolution identifies **Juanita Beach Park** and the **North Kirkland Community Center** sites as the two locations to move to the next phase of analysis. Council may add or subtract sites to the resolution. The resolution also directs staff to design a pool to accommodate the needs of the Lake Washington School District as well as the broadest possible mix of public use, including competition, recreation, and wellness/fitness/therapy opportunities. Council may modify the proposed mix of users.

Finally, upon approval of the resolution, staff will develop a public involvement process seeking input from residents and potential project partners on the identified sites and desired program components for a new facility. Tentatively, staff will plan to provide a report with recommendations from the Park Board to the Council on March 18, but no later than April 1, 2014.

Attachment

cc: Park Board  
Dr. Traci Pierce, Superintendent, Lake Washington School District

RESOLUTION R-5029

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND SELECTING SITES AND USES TO BE CONSIDERED FOR A POTENTIAL FACILITY TO REPLACE THE JUANITA AQUATIC CENTER AND DIRECTING THE PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO SOLICIT RESIDENT INPUT.

WHEREAS, research indicates that swimming is an activity that provides considerable individual and community benefits: it improves general health and wellness; it can be continued for a lifetime; it allows those who are unable to walk or run the opportunity for exercise; it fills a recreational need for both individuals and families across all economic and social strata; and it improves community safety by enhancing water safety for our children; and

WHEREAS, the benefits of swimming promote an active and fit community that, in turn, ensures that Kirkland remains attractive as both an economically vibrant city and as a recreational destination; and

WHEREAS, aquatic facilities have been an essential part of the Kirkland community and culture for over 45 years, beginning with construction of Peter Kirk Pool in 1968, followed in 1971 with the construction of the Juanita Aquatic Center at Juanita High School; and

WHEREAS, since 2001 the City of Kirkland's Comprehensive Park, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan has identified the need for more multi-use recreation space in the community; and

WHEREAS, the 2007 Kirkland Indoor Recreation Feasibility Study described a prototype multi-use recreation center which would respond to community needs and interests and which included an aquatics facility component; and

WHEREAS, according to the standards of the National Recreation and Parks Association, the current aquatic facilities do not meet local needs; and

WHEREAS, Kirkland lacks aquatic facilities to more broadly serve its general population, especially in comparison with national statistics and trends; and

WHEREAS, in August of 2013 the Lake Washington School District Board of Directors adopted a resolution to place a school bond measure on the February 2014 ballot; and

WHEREAS, the proposed 2014 school bond measure does not include funding for the replacement of the Juanita Aquatic Center, located at Juanita High School in Kirkland, and therefore the Aquatic Center will close as early as 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Juanita Aquatic Center is the sole public indoor, year-round aquatic facility in the Kirkland community which provides a variety of critical recreational, educational, competitive, and health and wellness activities for residents of all ages; and

WHEREAS, in September of 2013 the Lake Washington School District Board of Directors adopted a resolution affirming its intent to enter into future pool partnerships with cities and/or other entities and resolving to authorize a portion of unspent existing school capital funds for potential pool partnerships should the 2014 school bond measure pass; and

WHEREAS, the City is committed to partnering with the Lake Washington School District and other interested public and private organizations to explore options for replacing the Juanita Aquatic Center by 2017; and

WHEREAS, in September of 2013 the City Council adopted a resolution amending the City's 2013-2014 Work Program to include studying options for replacement of the Juanita Aquatic Center and subsequently allocated funding for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Community Services Department has completed a preliminary evaluation of potential sites and presented its findings and conclusions to the City Council; and

WHEREAS, the City Council believes a new public aquatic facility must meet the needs of the Lake Washington School District as well as serve all members of the public from children to seniors and must provide programming including swim instruction, recreation and competition opportunities as well as wellness, fitness and rehabilitation options; and

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to better understand the aquatic siting options, interests, and level of support by residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Kirkland as follows:

Section 1. The Parks and Community Services Department is directed to:

1. Conduct further investigation and analysis of Juanita Beach Park and the North Kirkland Community Center

as locations for a facility to replace the Juanita Aquatic Center.

2. Design a facility to serve needs of the Lake Washington School District as well as the broadest possible general public population.
3. Conduct outreach with the community and potential project partners on possible facility components as well as siting preferences.
4. Provide a report to the City Council with recommendations from the Park Board on facility components and siting by no later than April 1, 2014.

Section 2. The City Manager is authorized and directed to implement steps necessary to achieve these tasks.

Passed by majority vote of the Kirkland City Council in open meeting this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2014.

Signed in authentication thereof this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2014.

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk