

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, Bartholomew Pool, built in the early 1960s as part of the Bartholomew District Park, provided the residents of northeast Austin neighborhoods with an opportunity for healthy recreation, heat relief and socializing for decades; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, Austin voters approved general obligation bonds to replace three aging pools, with Bartholomew Pool to be one of the three replacements; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, prior to the initiation of the replacement effort, Bartholomew Pool experienced structural failures that posed a hazard to the public's safety, and the pool was not able to be opened for that or subsequent summer seasons; and

WHEREAS, the Austin City Council approved a design-build contract for a new Bartholomew Pool with a notice to proceed in October 2010, and pool construction began in September 2012; and

WHEREAS, pool construction halted in November 2012 due to an encounter with an excessive amount of groundwater, although no groundwater had been indicated in earlier borings for a geotechnical study performed in 2010, with a similar recent discovery of groundwater at the same elevation at a nearby construction site in the Mueller development; and

WHEREAS, the source of the groundwater has not been conclusively identified yet it is believed to be part of an expansive water-bearing stratum that bisects the site, known as the Taylor geologic formation; and

WHEREAS, additional geotechnical studies to better understand the groundwater source and to identify potential design remedies will push the expected reopening date beyond the Summer 2013 season; and

WHEREAS, staff has recently participated in several well-attended meetings in northeast Austin to provide information to the community and has received wide-ranging feedback: (1) indications of positive support for several aspects of the pool design but with concerns that the pool was designed with limited community input; (2) frustration that the pool will be closed to surrounding neighborhoods for a fifth summer; and (3) a broad-based negative reaction to the pool having no area more than four feet in depth nor diving boards; and

WHEREAS, deep water swimming and diving boards, available at all other district park pools in Austin, provide for a fuller range of recreation and swimming lessons, support water safety education, and build confidence in new swimmers; and

WHEREAS, staff is currently working with the community to identify options for transportation to other pools during the continued closure of Bartholomew Pool and to investigate ideas raised during the recent community dialogue, such as partnering with Reagan High School which is initiating a swim team; and

WHEREAS, staff is working to develop redesign options to include deeper water and a diving board, along with schedule and cost impacts;

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Council affirms its support for the Bartholomew Pool redesign effort and the value of community input in that effort.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to:

- continue to work with the community to revise the current design to include deep water and a diving board;
 - expeditiously develop a final re-design of Bartholomew Pool that incorporates community input and remedies the site's groundwater challenges;
 - consider the ever-changing demographics of the Austin community to create a sustainable facility that meets the community needs, yet is flexible enough in design to accommodate future aquatic facility trends;
- and

- report to the City Council on the cost and schedule impacts of the construction of the Bartholomew Pool re-design as soon as possible, along with options for addressing funding that may be required beyond the original appropriation.

ADOPTED: _____, 2013

ATTEST: _____

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk

DRAFT