




MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

THRU: Christopher Shorter, Assistant City Manager

FROM: Kimberly McNeeley, CPRP, Director, Austin Parks and Recreation Department 

DATE: February 27, 2020

SUBJECT: Givens Neighborhood Pool Update

In 2014, the Parks and Recreation Department conducted an Aquatics Assessment that named seven pools as in critical conditions with a life expectancy of approximately 5 years before failure. Givens Pool was one of the pools identified in critical condition. In April 2017, the Parks and Recreation Department (PAR) sent a [memo](#) to Mayor and Council regarding ongoing operational challenges with Givens Pool operations and invested approximately \$260,000 to make continue operations. The complete replacement of Givens Pool was funded as part of the City's 2018 general obligation bond. Specifically, the bond package included the rebuilding of Givens Pool as a named project with \$6.0M earmarked towards the project. The proposed project schedule has the construction phase slated for summer 2022 through 2023. PAR will request City Council authorize the negotiation and execution of a construction manager at risk contract on the March 26, 2020 Council agenda to deliver the construction project in the most efficient and effective manner possible.

Despite the previous investment and regular preventative maintenance work by Aquatics Maintenance Staff, the pool infrastructure has continued to deteriorate. In November 2019 leak test results confirmed Givens Pool continues to lose approximately 120,000 gallons a day. This number was further confirmed by data received from Austin Water showing an increase in water usage from FY2018 to FY2019 of 186%. The water usage reported in FY2018 was 4,932,800 gallons and increased to 9,178,400 gallons in FY2019. Allowing this substantial water leak to continue is fiscally irresponsible, creates considerable water conservation concerns and has undesirable environmental impacts to the watershed. In consideration of water loss, previous attempt to make substantial repairs, regular preventative maintenance and concerns regarding structural integrity of Givens Pool, PAR recommends Givens Pool be closed while a new facility is built.

Pool Maintenance Historical Timeline

Between 2016 and the end of 2019, PAR has invested resources to maintain Givens pool. A brief timeline outlines these events and the ongoing challenges in keeping the pool operational:

2016

- September 2016, the water loss in the pool was significant
 - Funds were secure for pool structure to be evaluated by an engineer firm

2017

- Engineering analysis conducted to determine repair options for visible pool fractures
 - on the side of the filtration containment,
 - on the interior of the swimming pool walls in the deep end of the pool

2018

- Replaced sump pump to eliminate water leaks
- Sealed cracks in shallow end

2019

- In August 12, 2019, staff met with the engineer of the 2017 assessment regarding the continued leaking, and subsequent contractor qualified to make leak repairs. The repair estimate is approximately \$640,000 to make the repairs without a guarantee of life expectancy or that the repairs would be completed for the 2020 swim season. The estimate includes:
 - Repairs to the recirculating pipe system replacement (requiring the removal of the pool deck)
 - Sealing of cracks within the interior pool shell
 - Infrastructure repairs within the equipment room
 - Required testing for lead and asbestos
 - Engineering, planning and permitting services

In absence of the swimming pool, PARD is committed to providing additional recreation programs and activities. PARD intends to conduct community engagement activities with stakeholders to determine the desired alternative temporary programming. Additionally, PARD intends to:

- Expand the free Summer Playgrounds Program. This program provides quality recreational experiences for youth ages 6-12 to participate in fun, supervised, outdoor activities that promote healthy living, character building, and teamwork through collaborative and active play. The Givens District Park location will operate June 8 – July 31, 2020.
- Provide bus passes at no charge to community residents. Bus passes will be made available for pick up at Givens Recreation Center. These seven-day passes, a \$11.25 value per pass, will provide residents the opportunity to visit any PARD facility for swimming, including but not limited to the following neighboring pools:
 - Rosewood (1.8 miles away) – 1182 Pleasant Valley Road Austin, Texas 78702
 - Patterson Pool (2.5 miles away) – 1400 Wilshire Boulevard, Austin Texas 78722
 - Dottie Jordan (3.3 miles away) – 2803 Loyola Lane, Austin, Texas 78723
- Provide free transportation from Givens Park to the Swim Safe and swim team programs (to continue at alternate locations)

Should you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Assistant Director Anthony Segura at (512) 974-9411, or via e-mail at Anthony.segura@austintexas.gov or Jodi Jay, Aquatic Division Manager at (512) 974-9459, or via e-mail at Jodi.Jay@austintexas.gov.

cc: Spencer Cronk, City Manager
Nuria Rivera-Vandermyde, Deputy City Manager