

## ADDITIONAL AQUATIC CENTER INFORMATION

Please let me provide additional information to the community concerning the decision to move the Aquatic Center out of the immediate downtown area. The City and the School District issued a joint press release on September 4, 2015 but based on comments I've heard, the press release did not adequately address all questions. If you or your friends still have questions after this release, please contact me at [dbuttery@city-woodlandpark.org](mailto:dbuttery@city-woodlandpark.org) and I'll work hard to answer them.

The citizens of Woodland Park voted to allow the City to go into debt for \$10.1 million to design and build an Aquatic Center and the associated infrastructure. It was never intended by the City that the \$10.1 million would fund it all. The \$10.1 million is what the City could afford to borrow. The City knew that it would be using some cash savings that had been accumulated over the past few years in addition to the \$10.1 million.

The vote for the Aquatic Center had nothing to do with a location for the Center. There were several locations in mind and it was necessary to keep options open based on variable costs. Yes, the initial plan was to build in downtown Woodland Park as part of the Downtown Development Authority's Woodland Station. After receiving cost estimates derived from more detailed engineering that far exceeded the very preliminary estimates, I could not in good conscience continue to recommend to our City Council that the City proceed with constructing at that location. The major infrastructure work included rerouting Fountain Creek and extending Saddle Club Drive from Center Street to West Street and would cost several million dollars above the cost of the facility.

With this new reality, I asked the City Council to let me enter into discussion with the School District to revisit a site on existing school property that the City had looked at before. They gave me direction to do so. The area currently being considered is between the bus turnaround at the east end of Midland Avenue and the High School parking lot to the north. There is sufficient space at that location and based on early visits by architects, engineers, and our general contractor, should be significantly less expensive to build on. The Aquatic Center has not been reduced in scope to go into this location. The originally proposed amenities for the Aquatic Center remain a part of the plan.

This will be a community Aquatic Center, not a High School pool. Yes, there is a desire to have a high school swim team that would call this aquatic center their home pool just like the artificial turf baseball field at Meadow Wood Sports Complex is the home field for our Woodland Park Panthers baseball team and where many other City Park and Recreation activities occur.

With the Aquatic Center leaving Woodland Station, better retail/housing opportunities exist there. The Aquatic Center would have taken up prime retail/housing property. Now Woodland Station has the chance to develop more in line with the original vision.

I hope this more detailed explanation helps the community understand the logic behind the decision. It's a wise decision that will save money, taxpayer money, and that is what we are called to do: to be good stewards of your hard-earned dollars. Again, please contact me at [dbuttery@city-woodlandpark.org](mailto:dbuttery@city-woodlandpark.org) if you have additional questions or comments.