



SIOUX FALLS AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Progress is everyone's business

Sioux Falls Area Chamber of Commerce
ISSUE BRIEF: *Spellerberg Pool*
February 2014

Background

In 2013, the City of Sioux Falls hired a national aquatics consulting firm to conduct a study which would provide the framework for the Citywide Aquatic Facility Master Plan. This plan includes recommendations on the types, sizes and locations of the public aquatic facilities within Sioux Falls for the next 10 years.

Phase 1 of the Master Plan recommends adding a centralized indoor aquatics facility by 2016 at the existing Spellerberg Pool location to replace the existing outdoor pool at an estimated cost of \$19.4 million.

After the Sioux Falls City Council approved designs for an indoor aquatics facility, "Save Spellerberg", a group of residents concerned about an indoor pool at Spellerberg Park, gathered the necessary petitions to put the issue on the April 8, 2014 ballot. The ballot issue has since been designated "Initiated Measure 2". If a "yes" vote prevails, the City will build an outdoor pool (at an estimated cost of \$7.5 million) at Spellerberg Park. If a "no" vote prevails, it would pave the way for the indoor facility at Spellerberg.

Indoor Pool Amenities

The indoor facility provides for a warm water therapy pool, two waterslides, current channel, three 25 meter lap lanes, zero depth pool with spray nozzles and play features, 50 meter pool with 10 lanes (20 lanes for the 25 meter length), an outdoor spray ground area and sundeck for warmer times of the year, two 1 meter diving boards, one 3 meter diving board and seating off of the swim deck for 500. The parking lot will allow for 203 spaces.

Outdoor Pool Amenities

The outdoor facility provides for two waterslides, three 25 meter lap lanes, current channel, zero-depth pool with spray nozzles and play features, plaza area and bath house. The parking lot will allow for 179 stalls. The outdoor pool would be roughly the same size as Laurel Oaks without the greenspace and sand play area.

ISSUE BRIEF: *Spellerberg Pool*

Proponents of an indoor aquatics option have outlined the following reasons to encourage a NO vote on a new outdoor pool being built at Spellerberg Park:

- Spellerberg Park is an excellent, centralized location for a public indoor aquatics facility
- Currently, Sioux Falls is without a public, indoor aquatics facility, yet has ample outdoor pools at the present time
- If another outdoor pool is built, it will be many years before an indoor facility may be considered
- Green space at Spellerberg Park will be preserved, including the sledding hill
- Because pool use will be over the course of the entire year and not concentrated only during the summer months, traffic load is likely to be reduced

Opponents of an indoor aquatics option at Spellerberg Park have outlined the following reasons to encourage a YES vote on a new outdoor pool being built:

- An outdoor pool would better preserve the park ambiance and preserve the neighborhood feel and accessibility
- An indoor facility with expected higher use rates than an outdoor pool, would result in traffic load pressures for Spellerberg Park's residential location
- Increased use of an indoor facility would lead to parking constraints
- Higher traffic flows would adversely affect the VA Hospital's accessibility