

STAFF REPORT
Carr Pool and the 2009 Summer Swim Season
October 14, 2008

BACKGROUND:

At the September 9, 2008 City Council meeting, Council requested that staff explore the possibility of and determine the costs to preserve Carr Pool for one year until it is known how it will be impacted by the Furman Aquatic Center. It was clarified that no use of the facility would occur; it would just not be demolished.

STAFF RESPONSE:

To address this request, staff identified four items for consideration as follows:

1. The opening date of the Furman Aquatic Center
2. Preserving Carr Pool
3. Carr Pool Bathhouse Assessment Study
4. Demolition of the Carr Pool Basin / Bathhouse

**THE OPENING DATE OF
THE FURMAN AQUATIC CENTER**

Currently, the anticipated opening date of the Aquatic Center is set for **early July 2009**. However, this date is subject to weather conditions. As an example, in the event of a rainy fall, significant cold spells during the winter, or a wet spring **the opening could be delayed a month or more**. Therefore, it is not possible to determine a definitive opening date at this time. Given this uncertainty, the City should be prepared to respond with one of the following options:

1. **Keep Carr Pool open until the new facility opens** (either in early July / or at a later date) **and then close it through the remaining 2009 swim season.**
2. **Do not reopen Carr Pool for the summer of 2009.** Rather, encourage residents to swim at **Municipal Pool** until the Aquatic Center opens.

Staff supports Option 1, as we believe it is important to provide an outdoor swimming venue. It has always been staff's intent not to close Carr Pool until the new facility opens.

PRESERVING CARR POOL

The facility was "winterized" in September 2008 and can remain in that state for a year or more with no anticipated facility or costs implications.

CARR POOL BATHHOUSE ASSESSMENT STUDY

The FY08/09 Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) includes \$35,000 for an assessment of two facilities within the Parks and Recreation Department – the Gateway office building and the Carr Pool **bathhouse** facility. The first step in this two phase study will be to assess the long-term structural viability and determine the cost benefit of remodeling these facilities. Based on the preliminary structural study, a second study would then be completed to provide options for how these facilities could be renovated with related cost estimates provided. Based on the second study suggested usages can be determined.

To complete the first study, a structural engineer toured the Gateway office building and the Carr Pool bathhouse in July 2008. Currently a written summary is being compiled and staff anticipates this report to be received in October.

DEMOLITION OF THE CARR POOL BASIN / BATHHOUSE

Currently, **no funding** has been included in the budget to demolish the basin and / or the bathhouse. Based on the uncertainty of the new Aquatic Center's opening date and the long-term viability of the bathhouse, cost estimates were going to be obtained in **FY08/09** with any required work anticipated to occur in the **fall of 2009 (FY09/10)**.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION'S REACTION TO PRESERVING CARR POOL

In light of the Council's request of City staff, at their September 18, 2008 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting members made no formal recommendation on the future of Carr Pool. Rather, they commented that no action confirmed their original recommendation to the City Council that "upon opening the new Aquatic Center, Carr Pool should be closed".

In light of the uncertainty as to when the Aquatic Center may open, Commissioners questioned if Carr Pool had been winterized this fall to assure it could be operational Memorial Weekend. Staff confirmed that in the event Carr Pool is needed for a month or more during the summer of 2009, it would be operational and staff would be prepared to open the facility.