

From: Michael Heyeck [mailto:mheyeck@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, April 25, 2014 3:40 PM
To: Jeffrey Inskeep
Subject: Annehurst Pool Purchase Question

Dear AVRA Board & Residents,

I want to respond to a question raised at the April 24, 2014 meeting regarding the City of Westerville's position on the purchase of Annehurst Pool, and the fact that this purchase was mentioned in a PROS (Parks Recreation & Open Space) plan drafted by the City in 2006 called PROS 2020. The City of Westerville will send a more formal response in May, but I wanted to get out the facts as I know them ASAP as your Councilman and Annehurst Resident.

The initial PROS plan was called PROS 2000 in support of plans for a levy in 1998. The PROS plan was developed with public input over many meetings. The 0.25% levy passed in 1998 and is included as part of our overall 2% income tax rate. This levy expires in 2020.

After the PROS 2000 plan was implemented, PROS 2020 was developed as an update for planning purposes, again with public input over many meetings. This update was completed in 2006, but was not submitted for approval by City Council and therefore not funded. This plan predates the upgrade and expansion of Highlands Park Aquatic Center. **This plan is no longer on the Westerville website, but can be found on the internet.** This was the plan cited at the April 24, 2014 meeting by a resident who correctly stated that the potential for purchase of Annehurst Pool was listed in this plan. **Again, this was a draft plan that was not approved or funded.**

The latest PROS plan on the Westerville website (westerville.org) was developed and recently approved by City Council for planning and funding purposes. This refreshed plan demonstrates the public's desire based on numerous public meetings and citizen surveys to expand the Community Center, to replace the Senior Center (to become part of the Community Center expansion), to add more playing fields, and to address other needs.

Given the significant investment already made at the Highlands Park Aquatic Center, and the **plans to expand the fenced area to the west at this center to accommodate crowds, Westerville's outdoor pool needs from a City perspective are met for the long term at Highlands Park.** This assessment is based on national standards applied for our City population.

Therefore, there are no plans to expand outdoor pools outside the Highlands Park area, and Annehurst Pool is not planned to be purchased by the City. The City of Westerville will formally respond to confirm this in the next few weeks.

Sincerely,

Mike Heyeck
Westerville City Councilman,
Annehurst Resident and AVRA Member Since 1980