

**Como Aquatic Center/Pool Replacement and Study Area Board Report  
Submitted by Marsha Milgrom, District 10 Task Force Representative**

- Base items favored for the area are: lap pool, diving well with boards, zero depth entry wading pool with play features, bathhouse, family change area first aid office, and decking with shade and grass areas (the grass would likely be new artificial but looks real – style like soccer fields).
- A lazy river concept is still being promoted. Although only one community member appears to favor it; Parks likes a unique marketing attraction. USAquatics recommends a lazy river an average of 350-400 feet long, 9 to 12 feet in width and 3 to 3.5 feet deep. USAquatics had sketched a concept to demonstrate scale; a portion of the river could be zero-entry plus a portion is segmented for a rapids-like ride, referred to as the “Crazy River.” When asked if any lazy river exists in a neighborhood within a park within an urban city, consultants pointed to Owatonna.
- Task Force members questioned Parks’ responsibility given the overcrowding already in effect with ComoTown, Zoo Expansion, etc. One was told not to “dumb down” the pool, just for the sake of traffic. A separate traffic and parking group should be considering overall impact.
- Of the various design and use features being carried forward to the March 18-19 public input meetings, only the lazy river could take considerable land in addition to the current pool’s footprint. Other options under consideration are a drop slide (only 10 feet or less in height, stairs), climbing wall with cliff jumping, sand lot and zip line (a thing you grab and ride).
- Concession sales would preclude (not allow) visitors from bringing in their own food. There seems no way around this. Privatization is an option. Parks Director Mike Hahm has commented that concessions and lighting are critical to aquatic center sustainability.
- Traffic changes: traffic engineers have been hired to study impact and recommend changes. A projected 100-200 buses a day will be rerouted. The 1-way currently at Jessamine is negative; hopes to turn that into a 2-way. Beulah may or may not close. Main change is proposed Aquatic Center entrance at Como, not Horton, with a shuttle stop at Horton & parallel road to Lexington.
- 500+ stalls are anticipated for the Aquatic Center study area, not including a separate lot. These are to accommodate traffic at McMurray fields, which will include new upgrades/regulation softball areas. Net increase of at least 50 parking spaces expected.
- Don Ganje said that we should anticipate a high need for parking when shuttle funding is gone in 3 years. When asked whether we could consider fee for parking options, no answer was given.
- The Aquatic Center should become its own destination, with an intricate drop off area, and a separate parking lot. This is to accommodate handicapped visitors and children.
- Public input is March 18 & 19, 5 – 7 p.m. at the Como Park Visitor Center. *Como Park Alliance members should attend/bring others.* Parks have been asked by Task Force members to collect names, addresses and zip codes of persons attending, as this is a community meeting.
- The USAquatics and consulting design team will work on designs at the Visitor Center from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. on March 18, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on March 19. Observation is welcomed, but public comment will only be taken during the evening sessions.
- The task force meets March 26 and April 20, from 4-6 pm at Como Streetcar Station. A final proposal/design will be passed for recommendation to the City in May.
- The deadline for District Councils, including District 10, to submit recommendations to the CIB committee for 2010-2011 funds for Como Aquatic Center is Monday, March 30.