



MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC #054-2006

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor David Dermer and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager

DATE: March 2, 2006

SUBJECT: Above Ground Pool - Temporary Summer Installation

The Administration was recently asked to assess options in the event the Normandy Isle Park pool would not be ready for opening at the beginning of summer, 2006. Specifically the Administration was asked to assess the option of installing an above ground swimming pool suitable for use by youth attending the summer programs as well as by residents on the weekends. The Administration has also assessed an option to use existing pools more extensively as an alternative to the above ground pool option. Either option would operate from May 30th to August 13th, 2006, the timeframe of the Parks and Recreation Summer services and Miami-Dade County Public Schools break.

In response to this request the Parks and Recreation Department has completed substantial research, met with various city departments that would need to assist in the process, contacted numerous swimming pool vendors, as well as other municipalities and regulatory agencies to gain information.

Following is a summary of the actions taken by the Parks and Recreation Department in their due diligence as well as other salient points related to the installation of an above ground pool for public use by a governmental municipality.

- Contacted 100 large and small municipalities throughout the State of Florida asking if they had ever installed a similar facility. No municipality had used an above ground pool for use by the general public.
- Researched several vendors of above ground pools to identify what commercial grade pools were available and which one would best meet the City's needs. The research results indicated that there were no commercial grade above ground pools on the market. The largest pool identified had a swim area 24 ft round and 4 ft deep throughout. Due to the depth of the pools the smaller children (under 4 feet tall) would not be able to use the above ground pool and would still transported to the Flamingo pool for lessons and pool play opportunities. Additionally, the 4 foot depth would cause the water to be very hot when heated by the sun. The purchase and installation of a water aerator would be required to ensure no one experiences heat related illness. It was determined that the maximum capacity of the pool at any one time would be 20 children per ½ hour with no more than 100 total per day. This number could double if 2 pools were installed. The total was based on the estimated swimmer load the filtration system could handle and still function properly.

- Contacted the State of Florida Department of Health and Miami Dade County Health Department, Environmental Health and Engineering Division to determine if an above ground pool for municipal use could be permitted.
- Met with the City's Building Department to determine if construction drawings (electrical, plumbing and structural) must be submitted for review, approval and permitting.
- Determined that all related ADA requirements (Americans with Disabilities Act) requirements must be met. These include an accessible route of travel, accessible showers, restrooms and changing areas, a ramp system approximately 48 foot long plus a number of landing areas in between lengths of ramp, a deck approximately 8 ft wide around the pool to permit ADA and pedestrian access. It was noted that there would be no space for deck or lounge chairs, tables, shade structures, concessions or any other amenities that are available and utilized by our residents at the Scott Rakow and Flamingo pools. Additionally, there would be a requirement to install an ADA pool lift. The pool lift, usually designed for permanent pool and deck installation would need to be adapted to proper fitting on the above ground pool deck.
- Determined that the swim area and pool deck would require a security fence to prevent unauthorized usage at night and a security guard would be needed to further ensure the pool is not entered while closed.
- Identified potential issues with the CWA union concerning working conditions for the life guards assigned to the facility due to lack of rest/ break area.
- Determined that the total estimated cost for purchase, installation, removal of 2 above ground pools for the 8 week summer program period was approximately \$87,665.
- At the February Parks and Recreational Facilities Board meeting when the concept of the above ground pools was discussed. At the conclusion of the discussion the Board unanimously passed a motion recommending the children be bused to the Scott Rakow Youth Center & Flamingo Park Pool instead of investing in an above-ground pool. The Board felt that all the emphasis should be made on getting the Normandy Isle Pool open.

On February 27, 2006, the Parks & Recreation Department Administration received a written response from the Miami Dade County Health Department, Environmental Health and Engineering Division stating that the State Health Department can not permit or approve this type of pool under Florida Statute 514.

Alternative Option

As an alternative to the above ground pool and in an effort to alleviate the inconvenience to the residents who would regularly utilize the Normandy Isle Park pool the Administration would offer the following recommend for consideration. Since the closure of the Normandy Isle Park pool the Parks and Recreation Department has transported all the summer camp participants to either the Flamingo or Scott Rakow pools twice per week for an in pool time of 1 hour per visit. This program would be continued for the summer of 2006. This has proven very successful and the campers thoroughly enjoy the experience.

In addition to continuing this very successful program the Administration and the Parks & Recreation Department is proposing to operate a free "Summer Splash" city bus that will operate on Saturdays and Sundays between the hours of 12:00 P.M. and 5:00 P.M. to transport any one from the north end to the Flamingo Park pool. The "Splash" would have Recreation staff on board to sign in and maintain a record of all swimmers to ensure everyone who goes to the pool also returns.

The bus will make regularly scheduled round trips from North Shore Park so anyone interested in going to the pool can. It is estimated at this time the cost to provide this service will not exceed \$10,000 for the summer. We would propose to properly promote and operate this service on a trial basis for the month of June and if it proves successful continue its operation through to August 13, 2006.

Please advise if you have questions or comments.

JMG/BJM/KS

CC: Robert C. Middaugh, Assistant City Manager
Kevin Smith, Parks & Recreation Director
Julio Magrisso, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director

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