The following comments were submitted to RCC for consideration by the Board of Governors between the dates of March 4 and March 30, 2017. All text in red is Executive Director Leila Gordon’s response to input.

Lisa Groves, Reston Resident, submitted the following comments via email:
South Lakes Swim & Dive - Congrats on your fabulous season and achievements. Hope you had fun, learned more about your sport, and worked together as great, supporting, smart people. I am sure the Winter Sports Banquet was a nice opportunity for recognition. This past Monday evening, I attended and spoke at the RCC Aquatics Facility Capital Project meeting. I listened, took notes, and stated openly some particular needs of team swimmers. These swimmers come from three organizations: SLHS, RSTA and RMST. All of them train at RCC, and range broadly from ages 6 to 86 years old. Additionally, all of them must share space with competing programs for facility time. There were many types of pool users at this meeting. The deep water aerobic groups have a very strong voice in the renovations. We need to ensure that team swimmers needs are provided in feedback to RCC and are not less than those expressed by other groups. Below are summary points that I took away from the meeting. I also attached some design proposals. I’m asking Scott to forward appropriately. Feel free to send me any questions. Please also send your thoughts, concerns and input with RCC Contact <rcccontact@fairfaxcounty.gov>

Core Plan as of Monday, March 6:

• The meeting began with level setting. Bottom line: Money, resources, and time are not available for significant expansion.
• Renovations will focus on the existing aquatic area space.
• Renovations cannot be postponed any longer. No more bandaids will work. The pool must close Summer 2018.
• Renovations are estimated to take ~9 months and cost ~$4 million. During this time, everyone must go elsewhere.
• All changes are being worked into the current building shell.
• Even when renovation is done, all constituencies will still have to share the space -- demand is not going away or being directed to other facilities. (The Reston Town Center North Recreation Center will not be done until ~2024+)
• No Diving (standard for 1-meter board instruction & competition) is included.

Pool Details:
• The renovation will include state-of-the-air HVAC and filtration systems with UV & oxidation. Air and water quality will improve. The perimeter gutter system will be replaced and fully functional. During comments, I stated that churn from many swimmers working hard in the water will naturally cause chloramine buildup over the top 18 inches of pool air AND must be evacuated efficiently.
• The pool depth will be graduated to accommodate far-end starting blocks (10 ft) and turn-end depth of (4 ft).
• The current dive well will be separated and re-designed for warmer water, therapeutic, and class instructional use with graduated depths. There is concern by the deep water aerobics groups that the re-design and size of this pool is inadequate. They specifically asked about the 10 ft space in the lap pool...

Key Discussion Items for SLHS:
• The length of the pool is still being debated -- 25 yards vs. 25 meters. I emphasized that SLHS competition is in "yards" and related training is helpful in that standard. Any changes on length may be based on the level of cavitation that has to be addressed on the current pool.
• There is no plan to remove the exterior building wall at this time. I said it would be very beneficial to all teams and lap swimmers to have eight training lanes...and asked if that could be considered given that an additional lap pool is not an option...
• Currently, there is a concrete ramp planned for the turn end. It separates the main lap pool from a planned "beach" for swimmers who want to walk gradually into the pool. If no closure of any type is placed between the beach and the lap pool, there will be turn issues for swimmers in that wall lane. I pointed out that swimmers who are circle swimming in a team practice will not be able to effectively turn in that lane. Going from a six lane to a five lane pool == Not good.
• Finally, the beach area will naturally stay warmer based on shallow depth. It is also mostly separated from the lap pool. However, this area should not be a reason to keep the lap pool warmer than 81 degrees max. HOTTER POOLS ARE MORE DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN, AND ALSO ENSURE EXCELLENT WATER AND SURROUNDING AIR QUALITY.

Thank you for sending this information. We will include it in the materials we are collecting of input to the RCC pool capital project planning. It’s very helpful and I am greatly appreciative of the thoughtfulness with which you briefed your constituents and the care you gave to your feedback to us on Monday evening. I hope to see you at the Monday, March 13 meeting.

Gloria Michau, Reston Resident, submitted the following comments via email (see attachment as well):

Dear Leila, Many, many thanks for the chance to not only dialogue face to face with Wayne and Lynn about their pool designs, but also the very organized manner in which you ran the meeting on Monday night! Leila, I would like to make the following suggestions:

1) Please invite Wayne and Lynn back to see (or even participate in) a specific morning deep water class that is announced in advance to the instructor and the class so that we can demonstrate the full range of what we do in these classes, including standing on noodles for balance and core work, as well as use of the width/length of the space for aerobic challenges, the work we do on the wall for stretching, etc. This way they can have a better idea of what our space/depth and other requirements are.

2) Have Lynn come back and see the women's locker room when there are both adult and children's/tot classes trying to use showers and changing spaces at the same time! It's just chaos when both these populations are in the locker room at the same time, especially when there are moms with toddlers, strollers, diaper bags, older siblings and sometimes grandma too, while adult exercisers are just trying to get a little bit of space to sit down and put on pants, shoes and socks! Currently, I feel, that there is a need for more women's locker room space, not less.

However, I feel that the pool design is definitely making progress, but we would like to further massage the final design. With great respect for you and the Board and appreciation for all that you do to be responsive to our needs, Gloria Michau

Thank you for your note; we will incorporate it in our input records. In addition, if you have another copy of the material you shared with us on Monday evening (and handed to Lynn) I’d love to have it for our records as well. If you had only one copy, I will ask Lynn for a copy. Regarding your most recent note—I offer these cautionary replies:

1) Wayne and Lynn are on a very limited engagement agreement for us at present. It may not be possible to schedule more visits to our programs. However, I assure you that we share everything people are sending us about their ideas and needs in addition to sharing all the participation data we have from our history of offerings. I again caution you (as I have everyone) that we are not going to arrive at the best or most desired outcomes for all our user groups in the process of deciding how to use our resources to significantly improve our facility. We will do our level best to balance all the competing needs of various constituencies.

2) The sizes of the locker rooms are likely not to change at all. In thinking about where to allocate the limited financial resources we have to use, we will be focused first and foremost on the swimming environment. Recognizing how important the locker rooms are, it still is the case that they have been renovated twice, have code requirements that limit our possibilities, and they serve a secondary purpose to those served by the pool conditions. I just provide you with this reality check – I totally understand that the locker rooms continue to present challenges for the pool users.
For your information, I have included and attached a copy of the survey of the deep water exercisers that I presented to Wayne Hughes on Monday, March 6, 2017. If you could also forward it to him so he has a digital copy as well as a hard copy, I would be most appreciative.

3) The design is not final yet – and massaging will continue. Your feedback has been very helpful in that regard.

Thanks very much for staying involved in this process and do let me know if you can send or drop off the documents you gave Lynn.

Thanks very much for sending me the information. It will all be included in our materials and shared with the architects. On the face of it, I can assure you that we are not going to be able to satisfy every one of those desires. We could satisfy all the needs of the space/size configuration but would likely have to do so in the main pool and we are definitely NOT setting that temperature to a warmer temperature than 82. I am confident in the main pool we will have accomplished these outcomes:

1) depth - the 10’ depth area will be able to accommodate up to 12 people
2) class configuration allowing for movement in the manner you describe
3) temperature - we heard from a number of people last Monday night that 84 is way too warm for them when they are doing vigorous exercise; the target temp for the main pool will be 80-82.

The warm water pool will be able to accommodate exercise for as many people but in shallower and graduated depths, warmer water, and there would need to be a slight modification to how people circulate during the exercise class - but it doesn’t seem to me that it would be so significantly different as to be unsatisfactory - it would depend on the nature of what kinds of classes are taught in it. We can't currently really teach any warm water therapeutic classes because of the existing pool conditions. With reference to the space between the zero-depth entry and the lap pool, it won't be enlarged because of the need for the touch pad/wall at the end of that lap lane for the team swimmers in their swimming routines. People will need to be patient and courteous - and of course there will also be ladders that can be used to enter the main lap pool body of water. As I say repeatedly, the main outcomes of our renovation effort will be to greatly improve air, water and flexibility conditions. I hope that each of our different user groups will have something new that delights them in the final outcome. And I am really looking forward to being able to serve the people who don’t have the time to participate directly in meetings - these are largely families who want more family-friendly lessons options and fun-time swimming options. Their views are important too. I believe we are getting close to the right mix of trade-offs; but I would also be less than truthful if I didn't keep repeating that we have neither space nor money to realize the ideal outcome - two full-size pools - at this point in time. One of the many things I am happy about with this renovation is that it doesn't preclude our expansion at some future point if the inhibiting conditions (space/money) become more favorable. It is possible to do something measurably better now, so we should proceed to maximize the return on the inevitable investment our aging infrastructure and systems require. The involvement of all swimmer constituents has made a terrific difference in what the outcome can be and I hope that is also an outcome we will rightly be proud of and celebrate. Thanks again so much for all you have done to help us reach that goal! See you Monday!

I would like to clarify something that may have been confusing to you, Wayne and Lynn about the two surveys. Though the two surveys used the same criteria they were scored differently. Survey one was a simple check if you agree with this pool criteria. The number of people (N) taking this survey was 25 (N=25). Liz Hambrick used the same criteria but changed the scoring system. She asked each of her eight respondents (N=8) to weight each criteria as to its importance to them on a scale of 1-10. Thus on her survey of eight people the top score for each criteria could be 80. But that did not mean that 80 people took the survey. It simply meant that eight people scored this criterion as a 10. Thus it is difficult to compare the daytime (first) survey with the second nighttime survey. So I did some further calculations to try to make things more understandable. (I am not a statistician!)

Thus,

- Survey one (a.m. exercise classes) N= 25
- Survey two (p.m. exercise class) N=8

For Criterion One: Water temperature of at least 84º

- Survey One: 20 out of 25 people (or about 4/5 (or 80%) of those responding) felt that water temperature of at least 84º was important.
- Survey Two: 8 people weighted water temperature at least 84º as being on average about 6.25 (out of 10 points) of importance to them. So this results really means 6.25 out of 8 people (or about 78%) felt that warmer water was important to them.

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Thus, it seems that the importance of warmer water was a bit more important to the morning exercisers than the night time exercisers, perhaps because the daytime people are retired and perhaps older than those who exercise at night. Perhaps...

For Criterion Two: Depth of at least 6.5 - 8 feet
- Survey One: 100% agreement about the importance of this criterion.
- Survey Two: 100% agreement about the importance of this criterion.

For Criterion Three: Space for a class of 12-15 people to exercise without bumping into others
- Survey One: 24 out of 25 people in agreement or 96%.
- Survey Two: 8 out of 8 or 100% agreed with this criterion.

For Criterion Four: A shape that would allow exercising in a circle and crossing from side to side without kicking, bumping, etc.
- Survey One: 23 out of 25 people agreed or 92% agreed with this criterion.
- Survey Two: 8 out of 8 or 100% agreed with this criterion.

For Criterion Five: Access not only by ladder, but also by chair lift, stairs and ramp.
- Survey One: 23 out of 25 people or 92% agreed with this criterion.
- Survey Two: 6.7 of 8 people or 84% agreed with this criterion.

For Criterion Six: Ability of the instructor to teach a deep water class from the deck.
- Survey One: 20 out of 25 people or 80% agreed with this criterion.
- Survey Two: 7 out of 8 people or 88% agreed with this criterion.

I hope this clarifies people’s attitudes towards each criteria in the two surveys and shows the actual number of people expressing their views about these criteria.

Again, thanks for all that you do to keep RCC a meaningful place for the whole community!

P.S. Any word on when Lynn Reda will be coming to participate in one of the deep water exercise classes?

P.P.S. When will final decisions be made about the renovation of the pool?

Thank you for sending the information; I am copying Cristin so she can include it in our feedback from patrons. Regarding your first question at the end of your message, I am not aware of Lynn’s schedule. I will pass this information along to Wayne and Lynn, but she is not obligated under the terms of our agreement with HGA to attend a class. I just want to make that clear – if she chooses to do so, it will be of her own volition. I am very confident that she and Wayne both have a robust idea of what different groups of swimmers are seeking and how the programming fits in pool space, even if they aren’t able to squeeze further visits into their schedules as we complete our work. With regard to your second question, as I explained at the outset of our process in February, we will need to determine our course of action in the Board’s April and May meetings to be able to put together a budget outline for FY19 to present to the community in June at our Annual Public Hearing for Programs and Budget. The calendar of meetings will always be updated on our website. Presently, I anticipate that the Board will meet in April on the evening of Monday, April 3 – we will likely have a Long Range Planning Committee meeting at 7:00 p.m. prior to our regular monthly meeting at 8:00 p.m. I haven’t confirmed that meeting schedule as yet with Board members so the LRP meeting is not on our calendars yet. We will have a Finance Committee meeting on April 17 at 6:30 p.m. I hope that helps you and thank you again for providing us with so much information to guide our decision-making; it is truly appreciated.

Joanna Milder, Non-Reston Resident, submitted the following comments via email:

Hi. Saw the plans for the new pool. Very exciting as I use the pool for lap swimming with RMST as well as for mommy and me swimming lessons. I’m a former HS and college swimmer and coach. If you plan on having swim meets at RCC (which can bring in great revenue!) you’ll need all 6 lanes to be usable for safe flip turns so each team can have 3 lanes of equal quality. There’s concern about the 6th lane not having an adequate wall for turning. Also, I’m hoping the small pool will be large enough to run the mommy and me classes and other lessons. This would free up more lanes/time for lap swimming. When I’m looking for places to swim on my own, the first thing I check are the amount of lanes available at peak times. I imagine this is the goal but I also heard concern the small pool will not meet the needs of the programs hoping to use it. If there are not enough lap lanes I choose to go elsewhere rather than risking the available lanes being too crowded. As a side note, it’d also be great to have a lane line along the wall in both lanes 1 and 6 so the swimmers in those lanes are not at a disadvantage with the water bouncing off the wall slowing them down. I’m not sure if the pool can do that now bc I’ve never seen lane lines there. Thank you for listening!
Thanks so very much for sending your thoughtful ideas for us to consider regarding the Terry L. Smith Aquatics Center. We will include them in our official record of input and share them with our Board and architects.

**Brian Evans, on behalf of RMST**, submitted the following comments via email (see attachment as well): Please find the attached comments from Reston Masters Swim Team, regarding the latest progress of the RCC aquatics facility.

Thanks very much for sending us your comments; we appreciate the thoughtful way that you and the Masters swimmers are participating in our investigation of how to best renovate the TLS Aquatics Center – rest assured they are shared with our Board, included in the official record of input and passed to our consulting architects. I remain very certain that the result of this consultative process will both vastly improve our facility and – continue to frustrate folks! I wish we had the freedom and money to build the aquatics center that would make every swimmer happy. While I know we won’t have that ideal outcome, I remain confident that the good will, creativity and community-minded efforts of everyone will get us to the right solutions for the resources we have. Stay involved so we can be sure of that.

**Sheryl Katsaros, Non-Reston Resident**, submitted the following comments via email:
Thank you very much for your informative presentations on then pool renovation at RCC. While not a resident of Reston, I am a 14-year member of the Reston Masters Swim Team and RMST Board Member. I am very hopeful that a plan will be put in place that will accommodate the needs of all user groups at RCC, however, based on what I have heard at the first two meetings I do have concerns. The biggest concern is that we will go through this very lengthy shut down and not have better pool conditions for the lap swimmers, specifically the water temperature. The current water temperature (84-85 degrees as posted on Tuesday) are too high for lap swimming. This needs to come down to 80-81 degrees. The therapy pool sounds like a perfect solution, but if the needs of the therapeutic and deep water user groups are not met, they seem very open to using the deep end of the lap pool and my fear is this will in turn cause the water temperature to be increased for their needs. Also, it was mentioned that the zero-depth beach area will be maintained at a higher temperature than the lap pool. Given that there is an opening from this area to the lap pool, how will this not impact the temperature of the lap pool? As a solution, I believe strongly there needs to be a temporary enclosure for the 6th lane this will help to maintain the lower temperature of in the lap pool and provide a wall so lap swimmers can safely turn in this lane when multiple swimmers are in this lane at one time. Finally, we need to continue to have a working evacuator to help reduce chloramine buildup at the water level. I think this has not been mentioned as a component of the renovation. I know this is a process and it was encouraging to see the changes that were made from the first meeting and look forward to see how this all evolves to the final product. (RMST Treasurer)
Thank you so much for sharing your views with us. We will provide them to the Board of Governors and our architects as we continue our discussions.

**Lucy Manheim, Non-Reston Resident**, submitted the following comments via email:
Responses to latest RCC pool redesign (3-6-17): To accommodate deep water needs of aerobic exercisers: make the end away from the entrance to the warm water pool >7 ft deep. To accommodate lap swimming in every lane, install a hinged bulkhead “gate” on the temporary wall to close off the lap pool as needed. Chloramines would not be noticeable if the filtration system used uv as primary disinfectant and chlorine as backup. The current system is 1-3 mg/l free chlorine; primary uv systems are 0.1-0.3 mg/l free chlorine. A good evacuation system would be needed mainly to control humidity, not chloramines.

Thanks very much for your feedback. We continue to discuss the options with Hughes Group and your ideas are appreciated.

**Kim Brightwell, Reston Resident**, submitted the following comments via email:
Please make an adjustment to the latest (Mar 6) design of the lap pool so that it can have 6 fully available lap lanes where circle swimming and flip turns can happen. Reston Masters NEED all 6 lanes (and could even do better and accommodate more people with 8). The new design basically reduces the usable circle swimming lanes to 5. I'm sure that the SLHS and RSTA teams have the same need.
Please find a different solution/location for the ramp. This latest design also means that any coach on deck must coach from the deep end of the pool in order to talk to the swimmers in each lane. That means
the swimmers are hanging onto the wall or lane ropes or treading water while waiting for instructions. Not an easy situation . . .especially for our older team mates and handicap team mates!
Again, please find a better solution/location for the ramp. (RMST)
Thanks very much for sending us your feedback. We will include it in our records and share it with the Board and our architect team.

Nick Nobbe, Reston Resident, submitted the following comments via email:
Suggestions about the pool. I join my teammates in supporting the option for a 25 yard, 6 lane competition pool. The yards is better option because it affords local teams a place for legitimate competitions (25 yards is the indoor high school and college standard during the indoor/winter season). I would urge swimmers who feel shortchanged by swimming 2.3 yards less per length in a 25 yard pool just swim extra laps to make up the difference. And by the way, if they're concerned with the difference in meters vs yards times, there are tools for converting meters times to yards times. I also recommend the following solutions to the problem of opening part of a lane to the family area:
1. extend the bulkhead to close off the family area to the lap lanes, or
2. extend the bulkhead and add a bump-out to allow access between the lap lanes and the family area.

The proposed design poses problems with lap swimming in one lane pool, control of water temperature, water turbulence, and lap lane closures due to "baby accidents." I would like to add my hopes that the design of new lap lane pool would avoid the problem of turbulence in lanes caused by water jets.

Thanks very much for the thoughts you share regarding our pool capital project planning. We will include it in our materials and assure that it's seen by the architects.

Sandra Helig, Reston Resident, submitted the following comments via email:
I hope the locker room configuration is not changed! There are already too few showers when classes are in session and the lockers area cannot stand to be made smaller/fewer lockers... the two changing areas almost give room to move around the benches; and, there are almost enough lockers (although sometimes when I have been there between the number of people changing and the aisles in front of the lockers I have a hard time finding an empty full length one). I would be hard pressed to use a smaller locker than the full size one — especially in the winter with my jacket. Showers with changing/benches built in — too "frufru" not really needed -- save for the new 'center' by the police station. I suppose there are the more modest ladies who would use them but as far as I can tell — there is no issue/conflict now. I have gotten used to changing in the common area over the years. It would only encourage people to stay longer in the shower stall while others wait in the cold air (freezing) after coming in from the pool! For the 28 years I have used RCC pool off and on, the locker room is perfect except for coming in to the cold (the sensation of being cold goes away after a hot shower!)

RE POOLS: It was clear to me that the main pool would still be used in the manner it is today — that the ropes can be modified to accommodate laps + classes. :ISSUE: if a class in the deep end, not everyone can enter the water via a ladder. but so far...... everyone seems to manage the way the current configuration is.

PERSONAL STORY : RE: the pool classes: I have osteoarthritis and am surprised to learn how many people want the deep water because they have similar ailments, the same as I do! I have painful capsulitis due to hammertoes and no fat pad in the balls of my (feet), therefore, for me, walking is like being on stones; I do take the shallow water aerobics but I need about a 4.5-5 ft depth to avoid the direct impact on my feet and my arthritic - no cartilage knees (1 knee replacement). You might wonder why not take deep water aerobics —I have taken the registered evening classes but do not get the TOTAL BODY joint stretching benefits that I get in Maggie’s morning shallow water aerobics classes with the huge variety of well-planned classes. Only one instructor in the time frame I took the evening classes, Kathy, gave a class that was of any real benefit to me because it (they were) was structured and she was focused on exercise not just socializing with the swimmers and losing count or place in exercise routines (though swimmers were at various levels of participation/paying attention, I was there for structured exercise).

DEEP WATER / Registered classes: I have done those and still might (but stopped when I could no longer get into the classes because they filled so quickly). Now I have adjusted my schedule for the morning M,W,F morning classes.

[FYI: I am quite at ease in the water - swimming or diving below the surface, swim laps although not a lot anymore. oh, I am 5.5. I think that is the median height as quite a few women (and men) are taller than I am and more are shorter. I can be relatively active/outdoors activities: do my own gardening/tree
trimming/snow shoveling, and hope to get back on my road bike, and have volunteer to muck stalls at a non-profit therapeutic riding program — I just do them at my own speed with frequent breaks.
P.S… I thought there are 5 existing showers.
Thank you for your thoughts. We appreciate your involvement in our considerations for renovating the aquatics complex very much.

Mary Ann O’Connor, Reston Resident, submitted the following comments via email:
I am handicapped and use the changing stalls. I need the support of the walls and the seating area to be able to get dressed after deep water aerobics. I use this exercise as my physical therapy. Have you considered folks like me in the redesign of the locker areas. Are all ADA requirements adhered to. A crowded room without adequate handicapped changing spaces would eliminate a number of RCC users. Please think of the seniors and handicapped as you redesign the pool area. Thank You.
Thank you for sending us the input regarding the locker room. If you could please also send your full name and address it would be appreciated. We will include the information in our record of feedback on the possibilities for a renovation of the aquatics area.

Sally Beth Fellers, Reston Resident, submitted the following comments via email:
I’m unable to attend Monday night, and while I think the meeting is going to be focused on financial concerns, I do want to voice continued concerns re the pool and locker room design. I read one suggestion that Wayne attend a deep water aerobics class scheduled in advance so that Pam could plan exercises that accurately show just how much traveling we do in our classes. He jokingly refers to us as the noodle ladies which makes me wonder if he truly understands how vigorous the classes can be and how much room is needed in water at least six feet deep. Also, I join others in being concerned about reducing the number of shower stalls from five to four. Indeed, when toddlers and children exit the pool at the same time as adult classes, it can be quite chaotic with too many people vying for showers and bench space amid the myriad pieces of equipment, towels, clothes, etc. required to get dry and dressed in the current locker space. My main personal concern is a reduction in the number of shower stalls. Thank you all once again for your hard work on this complex project.
Thanks for sending your thoughts to us. I can assure you that we won’t reduce the number of showers from the current 5. Wayne and Lynn heard loud and clear that fewer showers is not a welcome change. I plan to drop in during the weeks ahead on a number of different classes and swimming times in the pool. I look forward to seeing how various teachers and groups use the water. Thanks again very much for all your participation.

Gordon Gerson, Reston Resident, submitted the following comments via email:
I am a member of the Reston Masters Swim Team. I was president of the team for 15 years. I have been an active member for 33 years. I attended the RCC meetings concerning the design of the wearing-out swimming pool. I have a few comments regarding the “final design” which was presented last Monday.

1) The final design of the lap pool will allow only 5 usable lap lanes. The opening at the end of the first lane will preclude usable turns. I suggest that the ramp (“family area”) which necessitates the bulkhead between it and the lap lanes be extended beyond what is currently the end of the ramp for another few feet. That would also allow the extension of the added bulkhead so that the top lane could be fully used.

2) The redesign of the men’s locker room to include separators between the showers has been tried before. We requested that the separators be removed since they were unnecessary and impeded the flow of traffic. I suggest that they not be implemented.

3) The depth of the lap pool which goes from ten feet to four feet would be simpler to implement and offer more choices for users if it was simply a straight slope from wherever it starts going less deep rather than the designed changes. This would allow groups using the pool for other than lap swims to be able to select an area which provides the best depth for their purposes.

I appreciate the hard work which has gone into the design as well as the absolute necessity to do something. Since we of the Reston Masters Swim Team really need this pool I hope that the repair/replacement work can be done very quickly.
Thanks so much for sharing your input with us. Regarding your concern about the 5 lanes, I can reassure you that the width of the pool in the latest iteration of the concept has widened by 2 feet in order to accommodate a full turn for that 6th lane. The opening from the zero-depth entry area to the lap lanes is beyond the 6th lane and that lane would have lane marking to assist lap swimmers in making the turn.

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hope that allays that concern. I will pass along the note about the shower separators; we have however heard the opposite. So...like so much involved with this effort, there are contradictory views to reconcile. The depth issue is one that in its present configuration allows for lessons and classes in the 4-5 depth area and for the appropriate 10 foot depth in the other end for starts, deep water exercise etc. I hope that helps clarify at least where the ideas have landed so far.

Kimberly Driscoll, Reston Resident, submitted the following comments via email in reference to Gloria Michau’s above input:
I completely agree with Gloria’s comments about the suggested Pool Improvements below. Those of us who exercise in deep water and need a warmer pool need water much deeper than 5.5 feet; we need the depth to do the type of exercises we do. Also, our class is very energetic – we move around constantly and need enough space that we don’t run into each other (the shallow water class exercises are less energetic and movement is largely in a line back and forth). Because there is such a large aging population with various physical limitation/disabilities, there is a need for more people to take these types of classes. That means both a larger class area in the pool and more sessions of the class. There is always a waiting list for both the shallow and deep warm water classes. The locker room needs to be larger, not smaller. As it is with the current configuration, there is not enough changing space and not enough shower stalls. That means that someone like me who cannot stand for more than a few minutes has no place to sit while waiting for a shower and no place to sit to change. If there is room to create a patio area that suggests that there is room to make the entire pool area larger by moving the exterior wall and the lap pool out. That could provide the space necessary to make both the ladies dressing room and the warm water pool larger.

Thanks for taking the time to write to me to share your views. If you send us your address, we’d like to include it in our record of input to this project. Regarding the information in the email, I want to share that the water surface of the renovation will increase. We are not able to afford bumping out the wall and building a second pool. We explored that option and we have neither the financial resources nor the parking needed to support that type of renovation at this time. The comments regarding the locker room were taken well heed of by the architects. But like with the pool, we have to be compliant with code requirements and the available space. The architects heard loud and clear that the number of shower and changing areas stalls needs to be as many as possible within our footprint and code requirements. I am confident that the number of showers won’t be decreased after all is said and done. Additionally, while we are striving to meet the needs of our older exercise participants, we are also trying to meet the needs of fitness swimmers and team swimmers better as well as provide features that are critically needed to improve family access to and enjoyment of swimming and swimming lessons. Obviously, meeting the needs of all these different groups is going to require trying to find the right compromises to address as many of the existing pool complex’s deficiencies as possible. Please do continue to stay involved as we work to develop a plan we can afford that will improve important features for everyone.

Victor Toth, Reston Resident, submitted the following comments via email:
I could not make the meeting. But please consider including a saline (chlorine free) system for the purification system (i.e. About 30% salt system.) they are therapeutic and wonderful! Kid friendly, no goggles needed. So much simpler to maintain and cheaper to operate than chorine. Next, at least a solar heater.

We will pass along your idea to the Hughes Group folks; thanks for sharing it with us.

Dee Wassenaar, Reston Resident, submitted the following comments via email:
I was able to attend the meeting regarding the proposed new pool at the RCC on March 6 but was unable to attend the last meeting which was held on March 13. However, I have been brought up to date on the revised plans. The one thing that I would really appreciate being considered is putting in changing rooms for those of us that need to sit down (due to joint problems and/or balancing issues) to put their clothing on and would appreciate privacy in doing that. Not everyone wants to show off their surgery scars (wherever they may be on their body) while getting dressed. It makes me uncomfortable to have to even bring this issue to your attention, but I do hope that it is considered when you are trying to devise the final plans. Is it possible to put in hooks and a bench in a couple of toilets? I don’t know, but I did want to bring this subject up for more consideration. I’m very happy to hear that you may be able to get a deeper area in the proposed therapy pool and give that area a bigger space. That’s great. The warmer temperature will definitely be appreciated. Thank you for trying to accommodate so many requests and for taking the time to hear all of them! It is very much appreciated!!
Thank you for sharing your thoughts regarding the Terry L. Smith Aquatics Center. We will include them in our official records of community input.

Thank you so very much, Leila for including my note in the official community input. I really do appreciate it and hope, somehow it will work. I attend two of the drop-in evening classes every week and often try to use the pool around 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM in the afternoons or around 5:30 in the evenings whenever I can. It is the ONLY exercise that I do consistently, as my joints are much happier in the pool.

Of course, Dee. And I am so glad you come to swim when the pool is less crowded – that 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. time is the absolute sweet spot for a leisurely and crowd-free swim isn’t it? I am very hopeful that once the pain of the construction is over, the resulting pool project results are going to be wonderful for all our users and many who haven’t considered us before. The great participation of the community in this process has assured that could be the case!

You know Leila, when you were speaking (at the March 6 meeting) about the 1 p.m. to the 3 p.m. time being so great, I wanted to say how true! I’ve told a number of people about that. When I do it, without a friend joining me, I bring my Iphone shuffle and often Linda (that works at the RCC front desk) and I will paddle along doing our thing to our own music. It truly is a great time. I go to bed late and get up late so I don’t have any desire to attend the morning classes. But going at 1 p.m. I can get in a good hour and maybe even the hot tub before the South Lakes Swim Team arrive. Again, thanks so much for taking all of these considerations into the future pool project. I felt that everyone that brought up opinions were heard that evening and I’m very happy about that. Truly, that’s all we can hope. The best to you too!

Clark Rumrill, Reston Resident, submitted comments to Leila Gordon (see attached document):

(Leila response) The document you gave me a week or so ago is attached. For the record of input to our process, I am providing you with these comments that echo what we discussed the day you provided me with the document.
1. Hughes Group Architects were not the 2008 project architects for our work that year; SWSG was our A/E contractor.
2. Hughes Group at no time represented that the only cost-effective solution to our existing equipment and structural issues was the renovation concept they are proposing. They are responding to our request to present concepts that would enhance our ability to serve disparate aquatics users and to assist us in engaging with those users to arrive at the best-informed solution to our desired end: a safe pool environment that serves us well into the future.
3. As I have noted to you, while it’s not necessarily the case that all groups of swimmers who use the pool are represented at all our meetings, we have considerable input and study from prior years to support our understanding of our current users’ frustrations with our pool conditions and the potential audiences for a pool environment here in the future.
4. As we noted at the meeting on March 13, we are anticipating many further steps to obtain a thorough understanding of our soil conditions, existing pool attributes and other related information prior to extensive capital project execution. This will be a lengthy and detailed process. Hughes Group is helping us determine the magnitude of what can be done and what our timeline/costs roughly might entail.

We look forward to your continuing participation in our process, Clark.

Joe Leighton, Reston Resident, submitted the following comments via email:

Candy the Bridge Director told me that you are going to double the rent of the bridge group. I hope you will change your mind. Bridge is a very good activity for both the young and old. For the seniors who are retired it is an excellent way to exercise your brain. Also it gives Seniors another activity to do. One of the purposes of RCC is to provide activities for the over 55 group. As you know RCC does a great job for the over 55 crowd keeping the bridge group makes the over 55 even better. Because of the bridge one of your former Directors became an active bridge player on Wednesday night while she was still a Director. Maybe you could keep the bridge at the same cost by using rooms 1 through 4 instead of the main hall. When I was on The Board of Reston Association they usually avoided having meetings on Wednesday night so that I could play bridge. I have been playing bridge there since 1980 and as a result I have developed many bridge friendships. Because of those numerous friendships I was able to get a lot of yes votes to approve the Reston Association Governing Documents in 2006 when I was on the RA Board. The current President of Northern Virginia Bridge Association who lives on Lake Newport Road is a regular at the game. One woman I know she was not interested in the activities her husband was in she took bridge lessons and became a regular on Wednesday night bridge. Also developed a strong friendship with her favorite partner. If you double the rent there will probably be no more Wednesday night
bridge. Here is hoping you can keep the rent at the same level. Could you please do me a favor and forward this e-mail to the other Six Board of Governors. Thanks.

Hi Joe. We are not doubling the rental fees. Rental fees have been gradually rising in order to support our financial requirements and to be better aligned with similar providers of rental space. We are exploring the challenges with Candy and I am confident we will arrive at a solution that will be good for all parties. I will share your message with the Board - thanks for sending your thoughts to us.
Criteria for Deep Water Exercise Pool
(Please initial and write importance to you on a scale of 1-10.)

53 out of 80 • Water temperature of at least 84º

80 out of 80 • Depth of at least 8 feet to allow for balancing with feet on a flotation device and not touching the bottom, and other typical deep water maneuvers, in SAFETY.

80 out of 80 • Space for a class of 12-15 people to exercise SAFELY without bumping into each other OR being accidentally kicked.

80 out of 80 • A shape that would allow the class to exercise in a circle and also be able to cross from one side of the pool to the other or being accidentally kicked for a more robust workout without bumping into each other (such as the current rectangular shape allows and the proposed triangular shape would not)

67 out of 80 • Access not just by ladder and hydraulic chair lift, but also by ramp.

70 out of 80 • Ability of the instructor to teach/demonstrate for a deep-water class from the pool deck (if the deep water is only in the middle of a larger pool, the instructor cannot teach from the deck.)

Please add any other criteria you think might also be necessary below, then on the back.
65 out of 70 • Enclosed hot tub is a peaceful, quiet oasis. Open access would make it much less so—keep hot tub enclosed.

80 out of 80 • Increase space between entry pool to lap pool to avoid congestion and conflict in that small space.

The following people signed/initialed this survey:

Liz Hambrick (instructor)
Jeni Dillon
Pat Coshland
Joyce Dadant
Dee Wassenaar
Sharon Gurtz
Eveline Marquardt
DR
March 9, 2017

Dear RCC Community Relations & Staff,

Thank you for holding the March 6th meeting at RCC to show the latest progress of the RCC aquatics facility renovation.

The current design of two separated pools to accommodate all types of aquatic fitness is a good use of the existing space. This allows the various user groups with varying water temperature desires to have space that can be controlled. The latest design of the 25-yard pool does address some of our desires, but I would like you to consider the following issues with the overall design.

- Reasonable water temperature for the 6-lane lap pool should be 81-82 degrees (currently we are at 84-85 degrees as posted by RCC on Tuesday)

- A separate pool is planned for the therapeutic and deep water user groups. From the meeting, the current design does not appear to meet their needs, based on their comments. They could eventually migrate back to the lap pool 10ft area and impact (increase) the water temperature if their needs are not met. RMST is encouraging RCC to make sure their needs are met in the second smaller pool.

- The wall separating the zero-depth beach area only extends 5 lanes and makes it impossible for circular swimming in the 6th lane – this would reduce our swimming space. There needs to be a temporary door/wall that can be activated to close off the lap pool during team-based or fitness swimming so the space is not reduced to 5 usable lanes.

- The zero-depth beach area will have warm-water supply jets, if the plan is to have 2 pools with separate temperatures, a temporary door/wall in the 6th lane will help keep the lap pool area at a reasonable temperature.

- We need to continue to have a working evacuator to help reduce chloramine buildup at the water level. This was not mentioned as a component of the renovation and it needs to be powerful enough to accommodate the activity in the pool (not sure the current version operates optimally)

Some of these issues surface based upon the way team-based or a heavily occupied lap swimming uses the pool and might not be recognized when there are a few swimmers using the pool. The overall air and water environment is much different during practices than it is during the afternoon, for example, when the pool is lightly occupied.

Thank You for your consideration,
Brian R Evans / RMST President
Comments on Changes to the Reston Community Aquatic Center

March 14, 2017

There appear to be two main considerations concerning plans for the RCC aquatic center. First, as presented at the March 6th meeting of the Center’s directors with residents, the facility would be closed for nine months. (The last closure, eight years ago, was eight months for a smaller job. Knowledgeable observers have suggested this time it could be closed for as much as a year) There is a major cost here to the swimming public. Swimmers, an estimated 200 per day, would be deprived of a unique resource for many months.

1) Proposed plans call for two water areas; a lap pool for Masters swimmers at 76 to 83 degrees and a non-lap area at 86 to 88 degrees for other pool users. The requirement for two different temperatures is a major determinant of pool design, requiring three temperature regimes (the Masters lap pool: the rehab pool - which is not suitable for laps: and the semi-attached kiddie pool). An important consideration is whether these disparate temperatures are really either necessary or cost effective, given the limited capabilities they offer or the extended closure time and expense they require.

2) As noted above, some 200 people a day use the pool. Roughly 100 are regular lap swimmers, 35 are Masters swimmers, 35 are therapy/exercise users and the balance mostly mothers and children. A majority of the regular (non-Masters) lap swimmers seem satisfied with the current temperature (about 84 degrees), but very few of them have attended the pool policy meetings. These include the Fellowship House residents; the male and female unattached swimmers; and the women and children who swim throughout the day.

3) The underrepresented (at the board’s meetings, at least) swimmers above are a majority of those using the pool. They may favor the present single temperature arrangements -- polling them at the pool could easily check this. In the March 6th plan they would no longer have either lap lanes or comfortable water in which to swim. Would this be fair to the majority? Could the tail be wagging the dog here?

The presentation by HG Architects on March 6th seemed flawed. It implied (but did not directly say) that the only cost effective solution would be a virtually new facility, and it cited numerous problems to prove its case.

1) The pool’s foundation might have eroded. But there is no evidence that it actually has. The foundation lasted for 33 years the first time and to close the
pool to the public for an extended period because of a "might" could be unwise. Prior to taking that risk, might it not be prudent to examine the 2009 technical report of action taken and perform a ground penetrating radar survey to look for voids? An independent soil engineer (who sometimes swims at the pool) advises that the most reliable indication of foundation damage is increasing water leakage. The leakage at the RCC pool has not increased since the 2009 rebuild.

2) HG Architects said a major pool renovation would allow an upgrade to diode lighting in the pool itself. However, this could also be accomplished by simply changing the bulbs in the present pool. In fact, about half of the pool lights already are diodes.

3) HG also suggested a new air intake system as part of the overhaul. We believe a reliable independent survey should first establish a need. After all, the pool has just had a $100k exhaust system installed for just this purpose. HG suggested an ultra violet water purification system for the new pool. But the present pool has a recently installed ultra violet system.

4) The projected plan includes upgrades for men and women's locker rooms. These facilities do not seem to need any upgrading and the suggested changes might not be cost effective.

5) In Olympic competition, 82 degrees is legal. Might not a single temperature be acceptable to all. Each side would need to compromise only two degrees and the result could save several million dollars and many months of pool outage.

HG Architects performed the last pool modification; they made the March 6, 2017 presentation; and they will presumably be awarded the contract to do the modifications it has recommended. Is this not a classic conflict of interest? It may be noted that the HG presentation contained no consideration whatsoever of the continuance of the present pool (with necessary mechanical upgrades). And, curiously, it mentioned neither a project timeline nor cost except when questioned.

Clark Rumrill

clark.rumrill@aol.com