



ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3E

TENLEYTOWN, AMERICAN UNIVERSITY PARK, and FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS

c/o Lisner Home 5425 Western Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20015

RESOLUTION REQUESTING AN OUTDOOR POOL IN WARD 3 BE MADE A PRIORITY

Whereas:

For many years the residents of Ward 3 (and therefore by inclusion the residents of ANC3E) have been the only residents in DC without an outdoor pool in their Ward.

There are no public outdoor pools north of Volta Place and west of Rock Creek Park in the District (please see map on attached link).

Many residents of the area in which there is no outdoor pool must travel to other jurisdictions and use either a private outdoor pool or pay fees to another local government for access to an outdoor pool.

Many of our residents rely on and use the local public facilities and services provided, at high rates of utilization, and when services or facilities are not available they simply must do without.

DC residents should not have to spend additional money, or travel longer distances to other jurisdictions to use facilities (as they do now—please refer to survey results collected within one week) that their own government should provide within their community (and does in every other ward in the city).

The case for a public outdoor pool in Ward 3 is about more than simple summer time frivolity and amenity. It is about equity, health, and community.

The existence of an indoor pool does not replace an outdoor pool as evidenced by the fact that in other parts of the city there are both indoor and outdoor pools, and to the extent that there is an indoor pool there is still a shortage of programmed time to serve the community—particularly the younger demographic.

An outdoor pool is a highly desired (please refer to the survey results attached) used facility that attracts a wide spectrum of users, and can be designed to be put to other uses (skating rink, skate park, etc.) at other times of the year (see link to one example of a facility that does just that).

Citywide, DPR facilities do not currently attract a gender-equitable proportion of participants either due to; resource allocation (land and funding) or management of existing facilities.

Studies indicate that high on the list of recreational activities that the highest percentage of girls participate in is swimming (it is also high on the list for boys)—supporting observational data that indicates outdoor pools get a very high rate of usage during the summer months from a wide spectrum of users (young and old, male and female).

The question of gender equity in the allocation of recreational facilities (and their use) should be, and is a major concern not just in DC, but in jurisdictions nationally and internationally, with entities such as the United Nations, The World Health Organization, the White House, and the state of California studying, acknowledging, and implementing legislation related;

The following is a representative example of the sorts of conclusions that have been reached;

Excerpted from the intro of the World Health Organization's report titled "Girls' Participation In Physical Activities and Sports: Benefits, Patterns, Influences and Ways Forward" (linked to here);

"Evidence suggests that from an early age, differences in gender-based attitudes towards and opportunities for sports and physical activities can have a significant influence on children's participation. This may, in turn, affect later involvement in physically active lifestyles, and the social and health benefits that may result for them."

And then the final recommendation in conclusion of the report...

"10. The more opportunities that are available for girls to be physically active, the more they are active. Strategies need to be put in place that ensure activities, settings and facilities are easily accessible and safe."

Excerpted from the United Nation's report of 2007 titled "Women, Gender Equality, and Sport" (linked to here);

"Participation in sport and physical activity can also facilitate good mental health for women of all ages... It can promote psychological well-being through building self-esteem, confidence and social integration, as well as help reduce stress, anxiety, loneliness and depression... Adolescent girls in particular are vulnerable to anxiety and depressive disorders and are significantly more likely than boys to have seriously considered suicide by the age of 15.

In addition to improvements in health, women and girls stand to gain specific social benefits from participation in sport and physical activity."

Excerpted from California's Assembly Bill 2404 which sought to address Gender Equity in City Recreational Facilities (in keeping with the principles of, and undoubtedly intended to work in a complimentary fashion with Title IX), and went into effect in January of 2005 (linked to here)

"This new law identifies twelve different factors for a court to evaluate in determining whether discrimination exists in local sports programming. These factors include:

1. whether the community youth athletic programs effectively accommodate the athletic interest and abilities of both genders"

Facilities should be designed and provided to serve the entire population of the District of Columbia as equitably as possible, and should not simply provide for those already utilizing existing facilities, even as we recognize it is easier to count those that are readily apparent (current users) often to the detriment of those essentially invisible due to a lack of facilities that appeal to them, and

Finally, whereas Councilmember Cheh has recognized the need and begun the process of allocation of funds to bring such a facility to Ward 3.

Now therefore be it resolved:

ANC3E supports Councilmember Cheh's efforts to date, and we request that the Council, the Councilmember, and DPR continue the process as expeditiously as practicable, by; ensuring that all funds needed for this project are allocated, working with the community to identify potential sites, selecting a final site, and then design and

construction of an outdoor pool in Ward 3 commencing so that by the summer of 2016 ward 3 residents have a public pool in their neighborhood.

We further request that sites be considered and then designed on the basis of a number of factors not least of which should be that they are biking/walking/transit friendly, in order to ensure that vehicular pressure is kept to a minimum.

The resolution passed unanimously by a 4-0 vote at a properly noticed meeting held on June 12th, 2014 at which a quorum was present, with Commissioners Bender, Frumin, Quinn, and Serebin in attendance.

ANC 3E

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Frumin', written over a horizontal line.

by Matthew Frumin
Chairperson