

## **Recent Pool Committee Actions and Background for Upcoming Townhall Meeting**

The City of McCook conducted a Swimming Pool Survey during August and September of 2021. The McCook Swimming Pool survey was closed on September 30, 2021. Following the completion of the survey, Lamp Rynearson compiled the data into a McCook Aquatics Master Plan Community Feedback Survey dated October 4, 2021. The results of the Survey were reviewed by the McCook Pool Committee at a public meeting held on October 19, 2021. Following the McCook Pool Committee meeting, the City of McCook made the Survey results public via its Facebook page and the City of McCook's website. Traditional media sites like the McCook Gazette, Hometown Family Radio, and High Plains Radio ran stories and conducted interviews with City of McCook personnel regarding the survey results. Kyle McCawley of Lamp Rynearson presented the findings of the Survey to the McCook City Council at the McCook City Council Meeting held on November 1, 2021. Additional McCook Pool Committee meetings were held on November 2, 2021, December 7, 2021, and February 2, 2022. At the most recent meetings, the Pool Committee utilized the data gathered from the Survey to begin charting its preferred course of action. In addition to using the Survey to narrow the focus of the City of McCook's pool project, the Pool Committee used verbal reports provided by Kyle McCawley from communications he had with representatives of the McCook YMCA. Also, the Pool Committee was aware of recommendations made by the engineering firm that has been contracted by the McCook Public School District to assist the school with its future capital projects. Specifically, the engineers advised the McCook Public School District to maintain possession of the land it owns west of the Ed Thomas YMCA.

Based on the quantitative data provided by the survey and discussions held by the Committee after the Survey results were finalized, the McCook Pool Committee continues to maintain that a public, outdoor swimming pool is the preferred municipal swimming pool option. Additionally, the McCook Pool Committee recognized that the survey data supports prioritizing a new municipal pool as a recreational pool. The McCook Pool Committee acknowledges that water features and recreational amenities will be a primary focus of a new swimming pool project. The Pool Committee continues to assert that Kelley Park remains the best location for a new municipal swimming pool. Other land options were identified by the McCook Pool Committee, but none of the other options considered by the Committee proved to be practical.

The McCook Pool Committee reviewed outdoor swimming pool concepts drafted by Lamp Rynearson at public meetings held in November and December of 2021 and February of 2022. The concepts incorporate the data pulled from the McCook Swimming Pool Survey. The concepts prioritize amenities such as water slides, a lazy river, diving boards, a zero-entry location, children's play areas, and fountains. The concepts also include an open swimming area. Lap lanes have been discussed as a potential amenity. The pool committee has considered whether lap lanes should be a priority of a Municipal Pool Project, and if so, what the appropriate number of lap lanes should be. The McCook Pool Committee is prepared to share the concepts drafted by Lamp Rynearson with the public to gauge interest in each of the potential projects. The Pool Committee will be holding a townhall meeting to discuss items such as size, scope, price, and preferred amenities.

In conjunction with the McCook Pool Committee's ongoing efforts, a funding questionnaire will be prepared for the public to answer. The Pool Committee would like to measure the public's interest in funding a pool project through sales tax, property tax, and/or a restaurant tax. The public response to this questionnaire will aid in determining the size and scope of a pool project. The questionnaire will be made available at the next townhall meeting. It will also be available on the City of McCook's social media sites.