

CITY OF RICHLAND CENTER - AGENDA ITEM DATA SHEET

Agenda Item: Report on Aquatic Center Maintenance Concerns

Presented by: Jasen Glasbrenner

Meeting Date: Public Works Committee on 06-19-2025

Background: The City has identified several maintenance concerns at the Woodman Aquatic Center, including visible surface damage within the pool basin, deteriorating pool wall finishes, and deferred structural upkeep of the waterslide and related infrastructure. Notable issues include:

- Surface deterioration on the river floor and pool interior, where delamination and rough patches are becoming increasingly visible and may present long-term maintenance and safety concerns. (*Exhibit A*)
- Cracking and joint failure along the pool perimeter and walls, requiring evaluation and potential repair to prevent further structural degradation or water intrusion. (*Exhibit B*)



Exhibit A



Exhibit B

- The splash pad heater is currently non-functional and will not be repaired until after the season ends. While the exact scope of repair is unknown, preliminary indications suggest it may be extensive.
- The pump house has no insulation which exposes critical and very expensive equipment to harsh climate conditions. This should be addressed prior to winter. Staff obtained quotes estimating cost of insulation and heater system to range between approximately \$19,000-\$32,000.
- A recent Waterslide Structural Evaluation Report conducted by Ramaker & Associates confirmed the slide is currently structurally adequate but identified several items needing attention, including:
 - Corrosion on slide support columns and platform hardware.
 - Missing sealant between slide flume sections.
 - Dirt/algae buildup contributing to accelerated wear.
 - Safety improvements such as installing bolt caps and a lockable gate at the tower base.

The Aquatic Center has presented several unexpected and potentially costly challenges this year, largely due to the facility's age and a history of inconsistent maintenance. As a technically complex operation, it requires regular year-round upkeep and detailed seasonal opening and closing procedures.

In preparation for the 2025 season, the Parks and Recreation Director contributed approximately 120 hours to facility preparation, with another 60 hours provided by the Buildings and Grounds crew. Additional support came from Wastewater staff and other departments, along with contracted services from Neuman Pools. Despite these combined efforts, the maintenance demands continue to exceed current staffing capacity.

To ensure the long-term viability of the facility, adjustments to staffing, maintenance planning, and workload prioritization should be considered.

Action Plan: The department is developing a phased maintenance plan for the Aquatic Center, starting with surface and slide repairs in 2025 and targeting larger structural work in the 2026 Capital Improvement Plan. Vendor quotes are being gathered for sealant, patching, and corrosion treatment per the Ramaker report. Staff are also exploring the creation of a Pool Technician role to support long-term maintenance and oversight.

Financial Impact: Forecasting 2026 budget request for these items to be approximately \$30,000.

Attachment(s):

Woodman Aquatic Center Slide Evaluation Report