
Meeting Date: August 04, 2025

Subject: Metropolitan Park District

Attachments: Resolution 2025-51, 7/29/2025 Email from City Manager Ford

Presented by: Adam Vaughn, Finance Director

Approved for Agenda by: Dan Ford, City Manager

Discussion:

Information continues to develop with outside groups and their involvement with the City's Swimming Pool. After adoption of resolution 2025-50, placing the Metropolitan Park District on the November 2025 ballot, City staff met with representatives from the Friends of Toppenish Pool and worked on a plan to meet the needs of both City Parks, and recreational/aquatics services. This group is interested in taking ownership of the pool as well as working with the City in reconsidering the Metropolitan Parks District to both include the pool and expand the voting boundary to that of the school district. A larger area involving more participants would allow the group to lower the taxable amount from .75 to .50 but also include the pool. This would allow the Friends of Toppenish Pool (CSN) to promote this effort providing a higher, we believe, opportunity for success.

The School District's boundaries have an assessed valuation of \$1.2 billion compared to the City's at \$581 million. At a levy amount of \$.50 per \$1,000 the district would generate about \$600,000 if it included the school district's boundaries. We would see support for the initiative from an outside entity (Friends of Toppenish Pool) that could advocate and promote the measure in ways that City staff and Elected Officials could not.

We continue to work with Dan Heid, our City Attorney, to understand the various obligations we need to follow if we were to sell the swimming pool. He has also talked about the interlocal agreement as being a means to allocate funding to the pool through the district, even with the City potentially no longer owning it. We believe this can work well for everyone involved and we have also had a brief discussion with Yakima County Commission Linde, and he is in support of taking this to the voters. Farm Workers and the Friends of Toppenish Pool (CSN) representatives will take this to Yakima County to gain their support.

This path would remove the current measure from the November 2025 election, and a new measure with the combined area would be considered at either the February or April 2026 election.

Recommendation:

Approve Resolution 2025-51 repealing City council resolution 2025-50 in its entirety.

Alternatives:

Do not approve, leave the Metropolitan Park District ballot measure as is for consideration at the November 2025 election.