



Agenda Item:

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## COUNCIL COMMUNICATION City Manager's Office

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Agenda Date: 03/08/04  
No.: 04-120  
Agenda Item Type: Resolution  
No.:

Communication

Roll Call

Submitted by: Donald M. Tripp, Park and Recreation Director

### SUBJECT—

RFP for an Aquatics Study

### SYNOPSIS—

Approve sending out a Request for Proposal (RFP) for hiring a consultant to complete an aquatics study for three aquatic centers and two swimming pools.

### FISCAL IMPACT—

\$40,000 (estimated). Funds have been budgeted in the Capital Improvement Program, CP040 PKS990000 PKS153

### RECOMMENDATION—

Approval

### BACKGROUND—

Des Moines' three aquatic centers – Teachout, Nahas and Northwest were completed over a decade ago. At that time, they were considered to reflect the state-of-the-art in aquatic center play features and design. Since their opening in 1993, annual attendance and revenues have increased dramatically compared to pre-1993 levels. Attendance at the Ashworth and Birdland

pools the past three years have been low, and unless Des Moines responds to market demand with improvements in aquatics at the Des Moines aquatic centers and pools, attendance will continue to decrease.

In order for the City's aquatic centers to become competitive with the newer facilities, improvement features such as wave action pools, lazy rivers, water slides, and shade structures will need to be installed. Many aquatic customers in today's market prefer shade instead of direct sunlight. A proposal for providing additional shade structures at all aquatic/swimming pool facilities for the 2004 swimming season will be coming to the City Council in the near future. The scope of services in the RFP will request consultants to submit proposals for evaluating and making improvement recommendations for Teachout, Nahas and Northwest aquatic centers.

The key role of the consultant in this process will be to take the design concepts and identify the technical applications to the existing facilities. Examples of this include surge tank capacity, filter capacity; water flow rates and chemical control applications based on the State of Iowa's Department of Public Health standards.

The 2004-05/2009-10 Capital Improvements Program provides some funding in 2006-07 and 2007-08 for installing improvements to the pools and aquatic centers.

On Tuesday, February 24, the Des Moines Park and Recreation Board appointed two members to serve on a citizen advisory committee board to assist the Park and Recreation Department in identifying future opportunities at Des Moines' aquatic facilities.