

YC board reaffirms support for pool, names advisory board

Originally Published: October 10, 2003 3:10 p.m.

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At its special meeting Thursday afternoon, in front of a small crowd at the college's Performance Hall, the district governing board voted unanimously to reaffirm the master plan budget it approved in December 1999 that originally authorized construction of the pool on the Prescott campus.

The board prepared a resolution statement that it read to the public, saying "it is the desire and intent of this board, in the absence of major, unexpected change in circumstances, to build the new swimming pool."

Yavapai College President Doreen Dailey said there had been discussions before the board's previous Monday meeting about the possibility of a resolution for the pool. But with the absence of two board members from the Verde Valley at that gathering, a required full board vote was not possible.

"We've continued to work internally and, earlier this week, we met with our architectural firm (DLR Group) and Bob MacMillan, who's doing the construction for the Prescott campus," said Dailey, who expects significant work to be done on the pool's design by November or December. "We gave them some parameters to continue design work, and they're looking at a couple of placement options for the pool."

Board Chair Ed Harris appointed several people to a Yavapai College Aquatics Advisory Committee Thursday.

District governing board manager Paul Madden will act as a liaison between the board and the advisory committee, which will conduct public meetings, to inform the board of the committee's actions.

The advisory committee will offer recommendations on the new pool's design, discerning its primary users and how it will operate, and developing an appropriate fee structure.

In the final analysis, the committee will submit a report to the district governing board about the plans for the pool and the board will vote on whether to approve of it.

Harris named 11 of 13 members to the advisory committee, with local attorney Alex Vakula receiving the nod as chair. Prescott City Council member-elect Mary Ann Suttles, Prescott YMCA's Mal Barrett Jr., Prescott Public Schools' Steven Campbell, and Prescott Valley Parks and Recreation's Pattie Evans also earned spots.

Chino Valley's Lon Turner, Yavapai Regional Medical Center's John Amos, Yavapai College swimmer parent Karen Keller, Yavapai College athletic physician Dr. Daniel Burchfield, Yavapai College Foundation's Jean Phillips, and Yavapai College administrator Bob Salmon also received nods.

However, Harris has yet to name a Yavapai College faculty representative and a representative from the Verde Valley.

"I basically tried to get a good balance of people who knew about swimming pools, people who were swimming in them, people who were community leaders, people who represent a broad spectrum of the community, and people who get things done," Harris said.

Board secretary Herald Harrington said that the board just started to get good numbers about what the utilization rates would be for the pool after a month and a half of research. The area around the campus' Building 2 is not slated for construction for another year and a half, though.

"This issue is more complex than we thought it was," Harrington said.

Board members Jim Holt and Donna Michaels were grateful for the resolution and renewed their commitment to a pool, one that has a target dollar amount of \$2.2 million allocated for it.

Holt, from District 1, said he expects the pool advisory committee to design the best layout that can go on to the west side of Building 2.

Holt added that the facility would be more than just a replacement for the old pool, and he anticipates that an architect's design sketches will be available within four to eight weeks.

"They can help us identify who the users are and the best configuration of the facility," Holt said of the advisory committee's role.

The architect's plans will include a larger pool that accommodates lap swimmers and a smaller pool for the college's Aquafit programs.

"I'm grateful that the board has formally recognized the obligation and responsibility that was established at the time of the master plan," said Holt "I'm a little frustrated that it took us this long to get to this point, but I'm just grateful that we're here now."

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