

February 10, 2006

To: FOGPP Exec Committee

Re: Facilities Meeting With City of Atlanta Aquatics – Curtis Winston

Hey All:

I met with Curtis and Schecky Benham on Tuesday, February 7 to discuss how the Opportunity Bond money allocated to the Grant Park Pool would be spent. It was a productive meeting in many aspects. I'll first outline what we discussed regarding the facility improvements, then discuss a couple of other matters regarding programming and staffing.

FACILITIES:

To begin with, the FOGPP have roughly equal input with the city as to how the funds should be spent. This comes in part from the relationship we've built with the city over the past 14 months, and in part b/c as to facilities our goals are very similar. So, if there is a difference of initial opinion between FOGPP and the City as to a certain facility issue, then we could likely prevail by invoking "community" preferences.

We used the Dynamo-generated list as our blueprint as to the facility improvements, and I will put our discussions in *italics* below the original section from Dynamo. Moreover, we classified each piece as either a Long Term **LT** (sometime after the '06 season) or a Short Term **ST**(before the '06 season):

DIVE POOL:

-Fill in the dive pool and sod the area \$38,600

LT

Recognizing that this is perhaps a Conservancy issue and not ours, we discussed it anyway. Curtis suggested that if the goal is to eliminate an eyesore, that we consider filling the dive pool in and turning it into a sundeck. We tossed around the possibility of filling it in, and using that portion for the non-swimming portion of all scheduled pool parties, such as cooking, presents and cake eating. The idea being then that the general rule would be that all non-swimming activities would take place on the upper deck. We discusses perhaps routing a separate entrance to the upper deck past the pump house once the old equipment is moved, to allow for more controlled access.

The city does not see this as a priority, but is willing to do it if we think it is.

50 METER POOL:

-Replace all the mechanical equipment for the 50. meter pool \$195,000
-includes new pumps, motors, filters, associated piping

ST

The City is committed to replacing the entire pumping system, excepting the under-pool plumbing unless necessary, and replacing the current gas chlorine system with a saline system prior to the '06 season. Obviously this would be huge in terms of water quality and consistency, and is good news. The saline

system would run only about \$18K, and no hard numbers on the new motor, pump, and sand in the filter. A new electrical box and wiring from the main line have already been installed.

The only caveat to the installation of the saline system is the water level in the main pool. If there is any water loss, the saline system will not work, so the first hurdle is making sure there is no water loss. We're all aware of the water loss from the small pool, which should be cured by re-plastering. Chico reported low, but consistent water loss from the main pool last season. They believe this comes from a "backwash valve" being stuck open, but at this point aren't sure. If that is the cause, then it can easily be replaced and the saline system installed. This work will also include a new roof on the pump house.

-Plaster the 50. meter pool \$75,000

LT

This is a for-sure thing, but will be done after the '06 season. Generally, re-plastering includes re-tiling the appropriate lane lines. (See Below) The city plans to get use the plaster that has a 15yr guarantee, rather than the shorter 2-4 year plaster.

-Install pool tile for the 50. meter pool \$20,000
-would only be 1/2 of the pool (the width direction for competition-8 lanes)

-Install a saline chemical treatment system for the 50. meter pool \$25,000

ST

See above under "Mechanical Equipment"

-Install a fiberglass, movable bulkhead for the 50. meter pool \$33,000

LT

This is doable, if we want this. However, the City believes it to be unnecessary, and not likely to be used too much in the designed fashion, i.e. for swim meets where you need both a 25m and a 50m competition pool.

-Install a winter, mesh safety cover for the 50. meter pool \$20,000

LT

The City agrees this is a good thing to have, especially considering the tree line around the pool and the associated staining of the plaster. It would be put in place after the re-plastering would take place.

DECK:

-Install black vinyl, chain link fence \$22,000
-would replace existing area of fence

LT

The city agrees that new fencing is a good thing to do. We discussed a wrought-iron fence along the interior park road, and vinyl-coated chain link along Park Ave., along with a low (~3ft) wrought iron fence encasing the animal area.

-Coat pool deck with KOOL DECK \$84,000
-non slip product, choice of color, will fill in voids/cracks

LT

The city agrees that a deck coating is appropriate. KOOL DECK, and similar coating products require approval from Fulton County as well as the Parks Dept., because of the nature of the chemicals involved, which make this a Long Term project.

-Replace (6) light post along with the light heads \$8,000
-30' aluminum poles

LT

The City agrees this is a good thing, both for aesthetics and safety. We wondered if the Dynamo price of \$8k was per pole, or for all 6. The city would expect the price to be higher than \$8k total to fully replace the 6 poles and lights.

BATH HOUSE:

-Reduce size by 50% \$36,000
-includes all new plumbing fixtures, lockers, interior finish

LT

The City agrees that a renovation of the Pool House is in order, although that will obviously be a LT project and not finished before the '06 season. We discussed how to best utilize the space inside the building, including turning some of each side into usable storage, which would be nice to have. We thought that a more serious/professional review of the building with suggested possibilities was in order before deciding on what to do with the interior and how to do it.

EXISTING SPLASH PAD & SHALLOW POOL:

-Demo existing and install a zero depth pool \$265,000
-SQF of 30'x60' (could adjust up to 5' on the width and up to 10' or 15' on the length)
-includes aquatic play features
-depth from 0 to 3.5' deep

LT

The City is interested in having a zero-entry pool, but we weren't sure from this list as to precisely what the Dynamo price included. It was our collective though that spending 1/3 of our available funds on this one item would certainly be a significant choice. We discussed the possibility of renovating the current pool, bringing it to a zero-depth at the East end of the pool (Park Ave. side), rather than demolishing the entire thing and starting over. If this is possible, then it should be considerably cheaper. Of course, if the suggestion in the Dynamo list is to demolish the animal area as well, and create a zero-depth pool that runs

across both the current animal area and the small pool area, then such a significant change would need some more detailed support from the community.

TOTAL

\$821,600

STAFFING

We discussed staffing issues at some length. I asked about the City's commitment to having Chico and Jose back as managers, as well as how FOGPP could have a better relationship with the staff this summer.

1 - The City has a new commitment to management skills for their on-site aquatics staff. This is a program-wide focus, and manifests itself in the outdoor pools in the form of the City recruiting summer pool managers from outside the system, specifically from local Colleges and Universities, seeking applicants with formal management training. That is not to say that Chico and Jose will not be back, but that management skills are the priority, and seen as the critical factor in improving the quality and morale of the summer staff, and thus the patrons.

2 - Curtis has pressed the Commish for a better focus on management training for the staff. The pre-summer training will increase this year from a one-day session to a three-day session, with the majority of the additional time focusing on management skills and techniques.

3 - Curtis has no objection to our hosting a Meet The Staff cookout prior to the summer season, and hopes that it would go a long way towards developing a good relationship between FOGPP and the staff.

PROGRAMMING

The City is willing to do several things we asked regarding programming:

1 - The City will again commit to having a FOGPP morning swim lesson time, 2xweek throughout the summer. The days and times will be determined after Camp Best Friends submits their schedule, which is due March 1, 2006. Based upon the times not used by CBF, the city will schedule FOGPP swim lesson times.

FOGPP commits to handling the booking of these swim lessons, similar to last summer, in groups of no less than 4 parents/kids, done in advance. The details need to be worked out, but I informed the city that the sooner we had the dates/times established, the sooner we could post the information and take reservations.

2 - The City will commit to having at least one 50m lap-swim lane open during the entire day. This means when the pool opens in the morning for CBF and swim lessons, the 50m lane rope will be in place and lap swimming allowed. Should we regularly get more than 8 people swimming at the same time, the city will provide another 50m lane rope to open another lap-swim lane in the mornings.