

## Meeting Minutes

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Date: August 23, 2021 Date of Issuance: October 5, 2021

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Location: 2000 Denison Avenue

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Project: Manhattan Aquatic Indoor Feasibility Study

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Project No.: 21-010

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Comments, additions, or corrections to this memo should be communicated to Anderson Knight Architects. If no comments are received, this memo will be interpreted accurate and filed as a part of the permanent record for this project.

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### Meeting Minutes

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1. Introductions were made by Tracy Anderson of Anderson Knight Architects starting at 6:30pm.
  - a. Consultant team: Heather Peterson, AKA, George Deines of Counsilman-Hunsaker (via zoom), Jason Hilgers, Deputy City Manager, Brian Fuemmeler and Tucker Peddicord with McCown Gordan Construction, and others from the Parks and Recreation Staff.
  - b. Tucker Peddicord mentioned that one of the reasons they were brought on to this team was because they were a part of the steering committee with the newly completed recreation centers. They are here to help with cost estimating throughout the process.
2. Anderson reviewed the purpose of the current study
3. Anderson reviewed how we got here which included highlights from the past three studies that were completed in 2006, 2014/15 and 2017.
4. The committee needs to decide when the new survey will be sent out.
  - a. Anderson recommended it would likely be after the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.
5. A discussion was held regarding who other stakeholder groups might be in addition to the few that were presented in the presentation. Audience and Committee suggested the following:
  - a. Senior Population
    - i. Agency on Aging
    - ii. Retirement communities
    - iii. Senior center
  - b. Servers of people with disabilities
    - i. Three Rivers
    - ii. Big Lakes Development
    - iii. Special Olympics
  - c. Youth
    - i. Boys and Girls Club
    - ii. Big Brothers Big Sisters
    - iii. USD 383 swim lessons
    - iv. Home Schools
  - d. Military
    - i. Ft. Riley/MWR
    - ii. VFW/Veterans Affairs/American Legion
    - iii. National Guard
  - e. Higher education users
    - i. Swim and dive club at KSU

- ii. ROTC – Reserve Officer Training Corps
    - iii. MATC – Manhattan Area Technical College
    - iv. MCC – Manhattan Christian College
    - v. UFM –
  - f. First Responders Training
    - i. Fire Department
    - ii. EMS
    - iii. Police
  - g. Places of Worship and associated youth groups
  - h. Civic Organizations
    - i. Boys and Girls Scouts
    - ii. Lions Club
    - iii. Manhattan Chamber of Commerce
    - iv. GMCF – Greater Manhattan Community Foundation
  - i. Neighboring Communities – Pott Co, Wabaunsee, nearby school districts/smaller communities
  - j. USA Swimming
  - k. Sports retail stores
6. Next meeting
- a. Consultant group will meet with as many stakeholder groups as possible, gather information and report back information found.
  - b. The group will look at potential sites.
  - c. It will be longer as the Committee digs into site and concept ideas.
7. Additional Comments
- a. Jason Hilgers reviewed how the process started, which was with the ‘MHK Aquatics Group’ which is a group of local community members (including Anderson, John Balman and Tim Steffensmeier who are committee members) who sent a letter to the Commission requesting this study occur. Hilgers mentioned that Kansas State University has been providing aquatics to the city for a long time. It is a tough topic, and the Committee will need to be strategic and gain consensus to make the recommendation a reality. The environment is different now that the KSU Natatorium is closed.
  - b. There were 117 people who applied to be a part of this committee.
  - c. John Balman spoke on behalf of the MHK Aquatics Group [www.mhkaquatics.com](http://www.mhkaquatics.com). The group began having conversations around December of 2020. Refer to the website for more information and photos of the KSU Natatorium.
8. Questions:
- a. All studies will be posted on the website which will be sent out to Committee members and made public.
  - b. Tamas Kowalik is from Hungary where indoor aquatics are very popular. He plans to round up materials that could be helpful.
  - c. It was asked if consultants have visited recently completed indoor aquatic facilities. CH was the designer of some of those facilities and will have vast knowledge to share in the upcoming meetings.
  - d. Why is there not a YMCA in Manhattan? Hilgers responded that they will not come here and we don’t have a square answer; someone reaches out to them every year. They don’t want to be here. Randi Clifford mentioned that they typically do not look at

university communities because they have a hard time competing with fundraising money.

- e. Hilgers indicated that should health ordinances change the meetings will continue and just move to a virtual format. The technological capabilities exist in the City Commission Chambers.
- f. Would the City accept a private donation (for naming rights)? Hilgers responded with yes and that the Flint hills Discovery Center would be a model to follow as rooms have been named by donors. One of the tasks of this Committee will be to decide what the funding mechanism is for the recommendation. It could be by a Bond issue, tax, or private donation, or other means. The decision could be impacted from a timeline standpoint.
- g. Has a bubble been considered: Anderson responded that yes a bubble has been considered as a short term fix by MHK Aquatics. The group looked into putting a bubble over CiCo. They found it was cost prohibitive for the foundations and structure for the bubble. The other issue is that none of the buildings are meant to be operational over the winter and it would be too costly to retrofit them to be. It is also possible since CiCo has not been operational in two years it could have potential mechanical issues. The other concern is that a short term fix could turn into a long term solution. Would a bubble inhibit the desire to get the true aquatic center in place?

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26pm

END OF MINUTES