

*Sunday, 15 May 2016
Ridgeside Residents,*

It is with extreme disappointment and frustration that I let our community of Ridgeside know that we will not be able to open the pool this summer season. This decision was made earlier today at an on-site meeting with the Pool Committee, our city engineer, Mayor Jobe and myself. During the process of opening and cleaning, significant rains caused extreme ground water pressure under the pool basin, causing it to break free from its anchors and rise above the pool deck. Concrete has broken, pipes have been severed and we anticipate more damage under the surface. It is unlikely there will be a quick or inexpensive fix.

This damage was only noticed yesterday, so there are a lot of issues we will have to address including: organizing a process to assess damage, finding a home for the swim team, returning pool membership dues and blocking off the pool site for safety purposes.

Several members of the Pool Committee have donated their time to work on soliciting opinions and options from local and regional qualified contractors to assess the damage and collect input for an RFP (Request for Proposal), and ultimately a bid process. There will be numerous updates as this progresses.

Immediate funding for such major repairs or replacement will be challenging due to the city's limited budget and lack of "rainy day funds" which have been used for city improvements several years ago. Various methods for raising funds must

be considered including capital campaigns or even Ridgeside-imposed fee structures. These will need to be discussed in further detail, once we know more about the cost of replacement or repair.

During this time of pool closure, the Pool and Park Committees will be hosting a summer of activities and events in the park for the entire family. In lieu of being our pool manager this summer, Brandon Lowry will be spearheading these activities and will soon post some of these creative plans.

This is a difficult and frustrating situation, but I'm sincerely confident that our thriving community will rally around this process, utilizing the experience and talent of Ridgeside residents to make the pool a gem of our city again. We will send regular communications to keep everyone updated.

Best regards,

*Blane Haywood
Ridgeside Commissioner*