



MEMORANDUM

TO: Comprehensive Plan Citizen Advisory Committee

FROM: Laura Weigel, Associate Planner
Sarah Selden, Associate Planner

DATE: February 17, 2012

SUBJECT: Follow-Up Discussion of Recreation Policy on Swimming

ACTION

Conduct a final review of the proposed recreation policy that addresses swimming at the City and School District swim parks on Oswego Lake, and either confirm the CAC's recommendation from January 25, or propose amendments to the policy language to forward to the February 27 Planning Commission hearing.

BACKGROUND & DISCUSSION

On January 25, the CAC met and reviewed the draft Community Culture goals and policies as revised based on feedback from the January 9 Planning Commission work session. The CAC made additional revisions, and recommended a proposed set of Community Culture goals and policies for consideration at the February 27 Planning Commission hearing. No additional revisions were made to the proposed Recreation policy regarding the swim parks, which reads:

"Continue to provide swimming access on Oswego Lake through the City's swim park and through coordination with the Lake Oswego School District to preserve the Lake Grove Swim Parks."

(For reference, the existing Comprehensive Plan policy states: "Work with the Lake Oswego School District to preserve its rights to the existing swimming easement in the Lake Grove Area Swim Park.")

At the January 25 meeting, the CAC also received and supported the recommendation from the Lake Access Work Group for the CAC not to address the issue of public access to Oswego Lake as part of their work. Following the meeting, a CAC and work group member shared concerns with the CAC via e-mail, that the proposed swim park policy above was not consistent with the discussion and recommendation of the Lake Access Work Group. At the January 25 CAC meeting, the committee agreed on a recommendation that "the CAC establish goals and policies that are at such a level that they do not require a position on the specific issue of lake access (i.e. whether lake access should be enhanced from the current level)." The proposed policy language makes a statement about lake access for swimming at the two swim parks, which could be too specific for long-term policy needs. In response to these concerns, alternative language was suggested for consideration by the CAC.

Following are three options for addressing swimming in the Comprehensive Plan. Staff requests that the CAC make a motion to either support one of these options, or to support an alternative swimming policy option as may be proposed at the meeting.

Options for CAC Consideration:

- The CAC may confirm the proposed policy language from January 25 regarding swimming access at the swim parks: “Continue to provide swimming access on Oswego Lake through the City’s swim park and through coordination with the Lake Oswego School District to preserve the Lake Grove Swim Parks.”

***Staff Comments:** This is the only policy that calls out a specific recreational activity and facility. The CAC may find that this is too specific, or alternately that the swim parks deeded to the City and to the Lake Oswego School District should be called out because they address unique opportunities for the public to access Oswego Lake for swimming.*

- The CAC may recommend the following alternative swimming policy language: “Provide for public swimming access and appropriate recreation amenities. Coordinate with other recreation providers where possible.”

***Staff Comments:** This policy does not mention the lake specifically, but rather swimming opportunities in general. Indoor swimming has specifically been identified as a community need/desire during community conversations. The CAC may find that other specific recreation activities have not been mentioned in the proposed goals or policies. Alternately, the CAC may feel that swimming is a unique enough recreational need to be called out in the policies.*

- The CAC may recommend removing any policy language about swimming.

***Staff Comments:** CAC may decide that policy language specific to swimming is not necessary that swimming opportunities should fall under the umbrella of recreational facilities and opportunities already mentioned in the plan. Alternately, the CAC may decide that swimming is a unique need and desire in Lake Oswego and deserves specific policy language.*

NEXT STEPS

The Planning Commission hearing for Community Culture goals and policies will begin on February 27. The staff report for the hearing has already been distributed, and contains the policies as recommended by the CAC at the January 25 meeting. If the CAC develops a revised recommendation, staff will provide a supplemental report to the Planning Commission for their consideration at the hearing.