

March 12, 2021

A Letter to the Community on the Urbandale Swimming Pool,

The recent decision by the Urbandale City Council to not re-open the Urbandale Swimming Pool was a difficult decision to make. Council members heard from proponents who value the pool, those that appreciated its history and residents that strive for expanded aquatic opportunities. During the community dialogue, it was evident that Urbandale residents and patrons of the pool are actively engaged in our community. We are lucky in Urbandale to have such passionate residents that care about the City they live in.

We also wanted to provide a little historical context and to expand a little on what discussions will take place in the coming months on future aquatic/recreational opportunities in Urbandale. Historically, the pool opened in 1975 and has been a staple in the community for over 45 years. For decades, the pool provided patrons a place to recreate, learn to swim, participate in fitness programs and P.E. programs, and a place for area swim clubs to practice and compete.

In the last decade, the City Council has taken several important steps to mitigate the age of the facility and to expand aquatic programming. Structural improvements provided some additional time, but the continued age of the facility and its associated problems could not be overlooked any longer. When the community decided to build the pool 45 years ago, it was done to meet the needs of the community at that time. Urbandale has flourished since 1975, and has doubled in size and population. We have become a vibrant suburban city and our residents have provided important insight into what aquatic and recreational opportunities are desired in Urbandale, in both the 2016 Aquatics Facility Feasibility Study and the 2018 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan.

Understanding the importance of aquatics in our community and having the continued desire to do what we can to provide these services to our citizens, the City has worked with area aquatic facilities to offer Urbandale residents discounted rates for aquatic programs. Swim lesson programs are available at the Goldfish Swim School in Urbandale, as well as at the Walnut Creek and Waukee YMCA. Additionally, both the YMCA locations are offering water fitness classes. The Council also recently approved a partnership with the City of Clive to provide season passes to the Clive Aquatic Center at the discounted Clive resident rate. We understand these opportunities may not be right for everyone and are committed to expanding our partnerships where possible. To learn more about these aquatic opportunities please visit the website [www.urbandalepool.org](http://www.urbandalepool.org). In addition, any patrons who have an existing credit at the pool will receive a refund in the mail by April 30<sup>th</sup>.

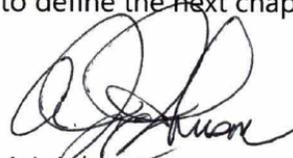
In the coming months, the Mayor and Council will form a committee to start a dialogue into what aquatics in Urbandale should include in the near and long-term future. We encourage all to participate when you can and to share your ideas.

In closing, we appreciate your understanding even though you might not agree with the end result. We welcome your input as we work to define the next chapter of aquatics in Urbandale.

Respectfully,



Robert Andeweg  
City of Urbandale, Mayor



A.J. Johnson  
City Manager



Jan Herke  
Parks and Recreation Director