

ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

340 S PIONEER STREET • ASHLAND, OREGON 97520

COMMISSIONERS:

Mike Gardiner
Joel Heller
Rick Landt
Jim Lewis
Julian Bell



Michael A. Black, AICP
Director

541.488.5340
AshlandParksandRec.org
parksinfo@ashland.or.us

May 15, 2020

To the Members of the Southern Oregon Aquatics Community,

As many of you know the Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission (APRC) made the decision to close the Daniel Meyer Pool for the Summer 2020 recreation season amid the COVID-19 pandemic. This decision was difficult and involved a lot of research from APRC staff and multiple meetings with public health and aquatic professionals to determine the best course of action. APRC staff and commissioners agreed that operating the Daniel Meyer pool under the anticipated timelines for phased reopening plans and coinciding public health guidelines would not be manageable for the safety of the public and not within our current staff resources and limited budget.

We recognize the significant impact this decision has on our community that rely on the Daniel Meyer Pool to stay healthy and active in the summer months. While we believe it is the most appropriate decision, we share the disappointment that we cannot provide swim lessons, lap and senior swimming, and give the community a safe enjoyable atmosphere to cool off and have fun. APRC staff is focused on building a new pool at the site of the current Daniel Meyer Pool and Director Michael Black continues to push forward with the planning. The Parks and Recreation Commission along with our APRC staff is working to address budgeting challenges including reprioritizing projects that will continue meeting the needs of the Ashland community for years to come. It will be imperative for you to remain actively engaged and we look forward to sharing new information as it becomes available.

In closing, I want to express to you that while the Daniel Meyer Pool is closed during the summer, I will be working to support the aquatics community throughout Southern Oregon. I continue to have regular engagement with Starfish Aquatics Institute, StarGuard Elite, Oregon Recreation and Parks Association and our local Southern Oregon pool partners to stay updated in developments throughout the aquatics industry. I will continue working on ways to support the aquatics community with information and opportunities that help experienced and inexperienced swimmers enjoy the water safely as we approach Summer. I look forward to engaging with SOAC and work towards a shared vision of expanding and promoting the value of aquatics in our area.

All of us at APRC want to let you know we understand and sympathize with the impacts caused to our community and our world during the COVID-19 pandemic. We will face this challenge together and be stronger and more agile into the future and I look forward to collaborate with SOAC to strengthen aquatics in Southern Oregon.

Sincerely,

Lonny Flora, CPRP
Recreation Manager, Ashland Parks and Recreation
541-552-2250
lonny.flora@ashland.or.us