

TO: James L. App, City Manager
FROM: Joseph M. Deakin, Public Works Director
SUBJECT: Signage at Barney Schwartz Park Reservoir
DATE: January 21, 2003

NEEDS: For the City Council to consider additional "No Swimming" signage at the Barney Schwartz Park (BSP) reservoir.

FACTS:

1. At the City Council meeting of September 17, 2002 Gary Perruzzi, Recreation Services Manager, presented a report to the City Council regarding swimming and/or wading in the BSP reservoir. In addition, Mr. Perruzzi commented on current BSP lake safety practices and compared those of other local jurisdictions.
2. The City Council directed staff to continue enforcing the current City code prohibiting swimming at Barney Schwartz Park Lake, post additional signage, and investigate and evaluate the feasibility of roping off a wading area perimeter.

**ANALYSIS
AND**

CONCLUSION: To answer the question of whether the lake could be "roped off" past the wading area or otherwise create a physical barrier, staff contacted the lake designer Jeff Alderman of Alderman Engineering. In a two-page reply Mr. Alderman documented that the lake design is safe and the reasons to avoid adding physical barriers within the lake (see attached).

In summary, Mr. Alderman's letter emphasizes:

- good water clarity, gently sloping sides and the gradual increase in depth as components that make the Lake "very safe"
- as long as the lake circulation and filtration systems are in good working order the lake will remain attractive and safe
- physical barriers in the water will present a hazard to persons entering the water
- physical barriers in the water represent an attractive nuisance to challenge children attempting to enter the premises
- barrier devices might encourage the growth of undesirable aquatic plants such as algae mats

Specific to signage, staff investigated alternatives to both bolster notification while maintaining aesthetic consistency and unobstructed views. The attached graphics provide two alternative sign choices and a siting map provides a placement pattern for Council's consideration.

POLICY

REFERENCE: Municipal Code Section 9.42.020 prohibiting swimming at BSP reservoir.

FISCAL

IMPACT: Approximately \$3,000 for 4 new signs and additional text added to existing signs from the Barney Schwartz Maintenance Budget Account No. 100.310.5221.171

OPTIONS:

- a. Authorize staff to add NO SWIMMING text to existing BSP reservoir signs and add four signs at the locations noted on attached diagram.
- b. Amend, modify or reject the above option.

Attachments: (3)

- 1) Sign designs
- 2) Sign location map
- 3) Alderman letter