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# Lake Oswego City Council approves deal with school district for aquatic center

Corey Buchanan February 17 2022

The city will pay over \$21 million for the project while the district will pay \$15 million.  
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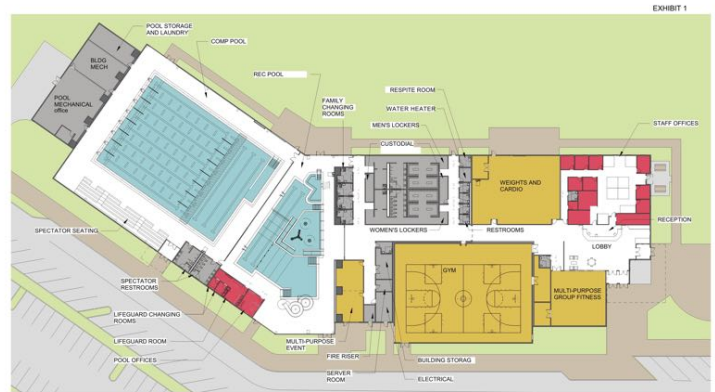
The Lake Oswego City Council voted to authorize Mayor Joe Buck to sign an intergovernmental agreement with the Lake Oswego School District for the construction of the Lake Oswego Recreation and Aquatic Center during a meeting Tuesday, Feb. 15.

Some of the amenities of the facility will include a 25-yard competition swimming pool, a warm water recreation pool, dry activity and exercise rooms, Parks and Recreation classrooms and offices, a cardio/weight room and a gymnasium. The agreement stipulates that the city will pay \$21.8 million while the school district will pay \$15 million for the project. The city also will manage the facility.

"This has not been easy to put together — an intergovernmental agreement between two entities that have similar but different needs. I think it's a fair agreement, and I would say more than anything else it's going to be a good ... agreement we can live with for a long time," Council President John Wendland said at the meeting.

The school district has been working to replace its aging and deteriorating pool since 2017, when \$7 million was allocated to the effort with the approval of a \$187 million capital investment bond. After the city passed a parks and recreation bond in 2019, the district and the city signed a memorandum of understanding to build the pool on city property at the Lake Oswego Municipal Golf Course.

The two sides initially had agreed to pay \$15 million each, but the price was increased after staff enhanced the scope of the project based on council direction. Those extra costs were attributed to portions of the building beyond the competitive swimming pool, Parks and Recreation Director Ivan Anderholm said at the meeting.



Lake Oswego Recreation and Aquatics Center CONCEPTUAL BUILDING PLAN  
 17825 Stafford Rd Lake Oswego, OR 97038 Project # 20138

COURTESY PHOTO: SCOTT EDWARDS ARCHITECTURE - This is an initial rendering for the yet-to-be built aquatic center.

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Following construction, the city is planning for maintenance expenses to cost up to \$20 million in the next 20 years. In turn, the district agreed to provide up to \$10 million in subsidies to help out with that. Anderholm said maintenance figures were based on other similar facilities the city looked at, and that the staff felt comfortable with them.

The district will pay a minimum annual fee of \$265,000 for operations and use of the facility. Students within the district will not have to pay fees for competitive events, school-sanctioned practices or training, but may have to pay a fee to use the weight room or other facilities.

Buck wondered why the contract didn't leave maintenance costs more open-ended, noting that the city, not the district, would have to foot additional bills if costs were to rise above what is earmarked.

"We did have conversations and negotiation over that point, and they (the district) wanted the confined number in the negotiation," Anderholm said

City Manager Martha Bennett added: "They also want predictability. To be fair, they have to program the costs for a facility that we run. I think they want to make sure they can plan for what those costs are going to be."

After being asked about it by Buck, Anderholm explained that alcohol will be allowed to be served at the center, in large part, because the facility will include a clubhouse for the golf course. However, he said alcohol will not be served at school-sponsored events and that drinking will be confined to the clubhouse space, which includes a patio.

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"In public outreach, one thing that has been very popular is when we mention we will have adult beverages available," Anderholm said.

Wendland added that he felt the space could be a suitable venue for events like weddings, and that renting out the space could be a good way to help offset expenses.

Buck, for his part, said the new facility would provide a healthy and beneficial environment for residents.

"These facilities are such a great way to provide public spaces to help people physically, mentally and nurture our community culture," he said.

Anderholm said the center would be built by 2024.



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