



# CITY OF West Linn

## Memorandum

Date: May 16, 2018

To: West Linn Planning Commission

From: Jennifer Arnold, Associate Planner

Subject: Public Testimony submitted for the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan update  
(PLN-18-01)

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On May 15, 2018 Staff received written testimony from Roberta Schwarz expressing concern about draft Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan presented. Mrs. Schwarz also requests that the plan be presented to each Neighborhood Association and requests support for smaller community centers to be added to this plan.

On May 15, 2018 Staff received written testimony from Ed Schwarz expressing concern about draft Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan presented. Mr. Schwarz also expresses concern over the expense related to a community center/aquatic center.

## Arnold, Jennifer

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**From:** Boyd, John  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 15, 2018 7:16 PM  
**To:** Arnold, Jennifer; Shroyer, Shauna  
**Subject:** FW: Regarding Public Hearing: Parks Master Plan Update, PLN-18-01

**From:** Ed Schwarz [mailto:ed.schwarz@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 15, 2018 5:51 PM  
**To:** Boyd, John <jboyd@westlinnoregon.gov>  
**Cc:** Zak, Teresa <tzak@westlinnoregon.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Regarding Public Hearing: Parks Master Plan Update, PLN-18-01

Resending.

Please add the below email to the Planning Commission packet for tomorrow evening's meeting.

Thank you.

Ed

**From:** Ed Schwarz <ed.schwarz@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 15, 2018 5:42 PM  
**To:** Planning Commission (planningcommission@westlinnoregon.gov) <planningcommission@westlinnoregon.gov>  
**Cc:** West Linn City Council (citycouncil@westlinnoregon.gov) <citycouncil@westlinnoregon.gov>  
**Subject:** Regarding Public Hearing: Parks Master Plan Update, PLN-18-01

Please add this email to the public record for the subject Planning Commission agenda item.

Dear Planning Commission,

I am concerned about two items in the staff report for the Parks Master Plan Update:

1. Support of a large community center/aquatic center and
2. Lack of support for smaller, community centers.

I would like to remind the commission that the aquatic center idea has already been "floated" and it sank like a rock. Measure 3-432 was voted on by West Linn citizens in 2013 and it failed miserably with 76 percent voting against. This measure asked if West Linn should "sell bonds to refinance land and construct, equip and furnish a new indoor aquatic and community center." The most recent community survey conducted in preparation for this master plan update also saw scant support (22% of those polled) for a community center. And, I would like to point out that the survey did not include the initial construction and ongoing maintenance costs of such a facility. I believe that if costs had been included in the survey, the "support" would have been even lower. I know that there are some vocal citizens who would like to see an aquatic/community center, but the overall West Linn community has shown, time and again, that it is opposed to this idea. Please remove consideration of the aquatic/community center from the master plan update.

What I do support and hope you will consider in the master plan update, are smaller, local community centers using already existing buildings. Constructing new facilities from scratch is prohibitively expensive so why not better use what we already have in our community? Currently, we have three building which could be converted to fully ADA-compliant

community centers for much less than new construction – I am speaking of Robinwood, Bolton, and Sunset. These buildings are former fire stations and are well-dispersed across West Linn making them easily accessible to all our residents, whether or not they live in Robinwood, Bolton, or Sunset Neighborhood Associations. There is significant neighborhood support to finish what the citizens have already started – converting these three building into community centers.

I ask that you please change the focus of the master plan update from one, large, expensive aquatic/community center to smaller, more financially-friendly facilities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ed Schwarz  
West Linn

## Arnold, Jennifer

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**From:** Boyd, John  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 15, 2018 7:16 PM  
**To:** Arnold, Jennifer; Shroyer, Shauna  
**Subject:** FW: Planning Commission May 16th Meeting testimony for the public record regarding Parks Master Plan Update PLN-18-01

**From:** Roberta Schwarz [mailto:roberta.schwarz@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 15, 2018 6:42 PM  
**To:** #Board - Planning Commission <PlanningCommission@westlinnoregon.gov>; City Council <citycouncil@westlinnoregon.gov>; Boyd, John <jboyd@westlinnoregon.gov>; Zak, Teresa <tzak@westlinnoregon.gov>  
**Subject:** Planning Commission May 16th Meeting testimony for the public record regarding Parks Master Plan Update PLN-18-01

**Please enter this email into the Public Record for the Planning Commission agenda item listed as Parks Master Plan Update PLN-18-01**

Dear Planning Commission,

I just reviewed the information available online for the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan. There has been very little citizen input on this plan because there has not been much outreach. This should have been discussed at all eleven Neighborhood Associations and at the most recent meeting of the NAP since it will impact all of the people who live in West Linn.

I am very much opposed to the large community center/aquatic center which is once again being proposed in West Linn. Check page 156 for this proposed 16,500 square feet of pool space. How many times does a unified "No" need to be heard? In November of 2013 the people of our city spoke very forcefully when they voted "No" on this idea on Measure 3-432. In an article the Tidings headlined "Pool Measure Sinks by Large Margin" the 76 percent vote against spoke volumes. A recent Poll done by the City in December of 2017 and January of 2018 once again showed support of only 22 percent. That makes it twice in the past 5 years that the people have said that they oppose this idea and by almost exactly the same numbers.

In the past nine years more than 2,000 pools have closed throughout the US. This is according to Mike Nelson, facilities development director for USA Swimming. The substantial expenses that accompany public pools include lifeguard wages, training, and insurance. Construction, maintenance and PERS contributions are also major costs.

Instead, I am in support of smaller community centers which are already existing facilities that just need to be updated and made ADA compliant. The three that fit the bill are Robinwood, Bolton Fire House, and Sunset Fire Hall.

Neighborhood support for all three of these facilities is solid.

I respectfully ask that you who will vote on this Parks Master Plan reflect the vote of the people and say “No” to the large community center and pool. Please say “Yes” to reusing what we already have in the three community centers.

Thank you for considering this request,

Roberta Schwarz  
West Linn