

June 11, 2020

Dear Reunion Residents,

At the June 10th Reunion Metro District Board meeting, the Board discussed the most recent state health and safety guidelines specific to fitness and pool facilities.

Great news is that the Reunion Recreation Center, with some operating restrictions, will reopen this next week and the staff is working diligently to prepare the Center for use! Operational details will be available on the Reunion metro district website.

Playgrounds will reopen beginning next week, again with proposed restrictions.

Also, we have been able to retain many of the summer events, that will begin with the return of the Reunion Farmers Market beginning this Sunday, June 14th in the Recreation Center parking lot. The plan is to host the market every Sunday from 10 AM to 2 PM. An updated calendar of community events will be posted on the Reunion website.

Specific to pools, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) issued the following guidelines in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. CDPHE recommends the following:

- Strongly encourage limiting pool use to lap swim only. If allowing open swim, reducing in-pool interactions through strict social distancing measures.

(Lap swim at the two Reunion pools would allow 5-7 people to be accommodated per hour).

- Limit pools to 50% capacity, or up to 50 people, whichever is fewer allowing for social distancing. *(Due to the size of the Reunion pools, and to ensure proper social distancing, capacity would be closer to only 20-24 people.)*
- Reservation systems be put in place
- Aid in contact tracing if exposures occur, and to allow for equitable use of the facility.
- Close lockers to promote physical distancing and reduce gatherings in restrooms, showers, and locker rooms.
- All frequently touched surfaces and shared objects such as handrails, chairs, and tables should be disinfected every hour between use.
- At least 6 feet distance between members of other households, both in and out of the water.
- Temperature checks
- Face masks while poolside

As these guidelines illustrate, it would be difficult at best to regulate these health and safety guidelines, so for the reasons listed below, the Board made the difficult decision to not open the Reunion pools this summer. The Board feels opening the pools may result in potential spread of infection, and potentially jeopardize the health and well-being of staff and residents.

Additionally, the Board didn't feel that only allowing lap swim would accommodate the needs of the broader community, which is approaching nearly 3,000 homes and some 7,000 residents.

The following factors have been considered by the Board in making their decision:

- The Health, Safety and Wellness of Residents and Staff: During the pandemic we cannot guarantee residents and staff will stay safe and infections will not spread.
- Pools will be Overseen Primarily by High-School Aged Lifeguards. Asking young adults to monitor a complex and vague set of guidelines is difficult given the seriousness of potential consequences.
- Estimated Cost Savings from Operating the Pools for Half a Season Does Not Result in a 50% Reduction in Pool Operating Costs: Allocating District funds to keep pools open for what would essentially be half a season at significantly reduced capacity would not result in a cost savings. The cost to operate both pools for one season is approximately \$350,000. Opening pools for only part of the season would likely cost much more than 50% of that cost. Additional costs to open the pool during this pandemic would include increased staff time in order to establish and monitor a reservation system, cleaning and disinfecting logistics, and additional logistics that need to be considered during COVID-19. There would not be a decrease in maintenance costs due to a shorter season.
- Risk of Fines or Lawsuits if the Pools are Not Operated in compliance with State Agencies and the Governor's Office. Facilities that do not comply with the restrictions established by the CDPHE and other agencies are at risk of being fined and shut down by court order (the legal costs of which would be paid for by the District).
- Additional Financial Implications and Impact on Remaining 2020 Recreation Fees: Once the totality of the pool closures' financial implications are known, staff will present a comprehensive analysis to the board for consideration at the August board meeting. The Board will discuss all options regarding the recreation fees assessed through the remainder of the year.

While homeowners may have differing opinions regarding the health risks posed by COVID-19, the District Board agreed that regardless of the additional health risks that may be created by opening the pools, the other issues listed above create risks and costs that are too significant to allow the opening of the pools this year (many other communities have come to this same conclusion). We know the pools not opening this year is disappointing to many homeowners including the board members.

We wish you and your families the best this summer season.

Regards,

The Reunion Metropolitan District Board