

Elsen, Nikki

Subject: FW: 10 Businesses Supporting Memorial Pool Letter...

From: jacobsciammas@gmail.com [mailto:jacobsciammas@gmail.com] **On Behalf Of** Jacob Sciammas

Sent: Wednesday, May 04, 2016 5:05 AM

To: ski@yahoo.com; Sheehan, Gregory; Jim Webb; Mark Terpstra; Marvin Wanders; scleary@cmclax.com; Carlyon, Steve; Kabat Tim; ZZ Council Members; GENA Grandview Emerson Neighborhood Association; Odegaard, Jason; Trussoni, Dan; Gloede, Kerry; Turtenwald, Randy; Hexom, Dale; Lehrke, Teri; Gilman, Jason

Cc: Jourdan.Vlan@lacrossetribune.com; Ginna Roe; kdimke@wkbt.com; WIZM-Mitch Reynolds

Subject: 10 Businesses Supporting Memorial Pool Letter...

Dear Council, Mayor & City Leaders:

The 10 neighborhood businesses of the State St & Campbell Rd area, immediately across from Memorial Pool, asked us to share their note with all of you.

They feel, like many in the neighborhood, that closing the pool this summer will lead to closure forever. Our research as a neighborhood association and a committee indicates the same: **pools that close, do not reopen.**

We have experience with that already - Forest Hills Pool in 2005. Soon after, our GENA neighborhood plan was finalized and adopted by Common Council (June 9th, 2006) with the following inclusion: **"in the event that there is only enough funding to operate one of the two pools [Forest Hills & Municipal Pool], the Neighborhood Association will work to ensure that Municipal Pool remains open"** - a responsibility assigned to GENA, the Board of Park Commissioners, the Common Council and the Parks & Recreation Department.

We look forward to discussion at tomorrow's Finance & Personnel meeting - *we hope as many council people as possible will attend* - when the reduction to 1 public hearing was adopted, it was described that getting more participation at J&A and F&P by the whole council would be critical for success and efficiency. As a courtesy, given the number of public members we anticipate attending, we hope you will consider putting the item near the beginning of the agenda.

Thank you for taking this into consideration and working on getting detailed, cost-effective solutions from experts & pool consultants to the long-standing issues the pool has - *in time to open to the pool as planned, budgeted and described in the Fall to GENA and others.* Improving Memorial Pool was our #2 ranked request by residents, for our GENA \$375k capital improvement money, and we were told it was not eligible.

As Mayor Kabat recently told a GENA resident who met with him recently about Memorial Pool, to paraphrase: **When something is important, we always find a way.**

Let's find a way to **MAKE MEMORIAL POOL GREAT AGAIN!** Together.

Their signed copy is attached as a photo, and below is their letter:

Dear All,

Our 10 businesses in the State & Campbell business district (that's what we like to call ourselves) are writing to express our shared support for keeping Memorial Pool open. Our businesses, families, employees, patrons and the neighborhood love Memorial Pool and we will outline our opposition to the closing of the pool in order of priority.

(1) Our business is greatly dependent on business from UWL students, staff and faculty, many of whom also live in the neighborhood. While this is generally good, it does pose one business challenge - the dreaded summer slowdown when UWL is not in session. For many of us, our proximity to the pool allows us to avoid some of that. All of us provide full and part-time staff and we pay thousands of dollars annually in assorted city fees and property, sales, and employment taxes. The closure of the pool will diminish the value of our property and hurt our businesses.

(2) This is a beautiful neighborhood and we have an equally beautiful neighborhood pool and we would like to keep it. Memorial Pool is also the primary outdoor pool for the entire community in this area. We are more willingly to pay rather steep property taxes in the hope the city uses our money wisely, such as keeping up with deferred maintenance on a much-loved neighborhood institution like Memorial Pool. This small business area of the neighborhood is thriving and growing despite challenges in the past, we don't want to see actions like this that can reverse the trend - it is in the best interest of everyone in the City.

(3) Erickson Pool, the Northside Pool or a pool at Forest Hills are not viable alternatives for those of who live in the interior neighborhoods - both generally require one to drive, which seems to work in conflict with our City Transportation Vision to improve access to neighborhood assets like Memorial Pool (even a few UWL people stick around in the summer such as students attending summer school and most faculty as well as staff). The only remaining university pool is an indoor pool, and therefore, Memorial Pool is the only outdoor pool within walking distance of UWL - we should be working harder to capitalize on this opportunity, rather than giving up.

(4) Lastly, Memorial pool is an old fashioned "swimming" pool with wonderful historic qualities. It is a place for neighbors and City residents to connect and build community - it strengthens our neighborhoods. It's a more relaxed, leisurely, family pool where one can

actually swim laps and take classes to improve the fitness of children, adults and seniors alike - it actually improves the health of our community.

Memorial Pool is valuable, historic, unique, and irreplaceable. Please fix it and keep it open.

Thank you.

Greengrass Café

Gracie's Gyros & Wraps

Mc Caffrey's Coffee LLC

The Eagle's Nest

Apex Hobby Shop

J Company Studio

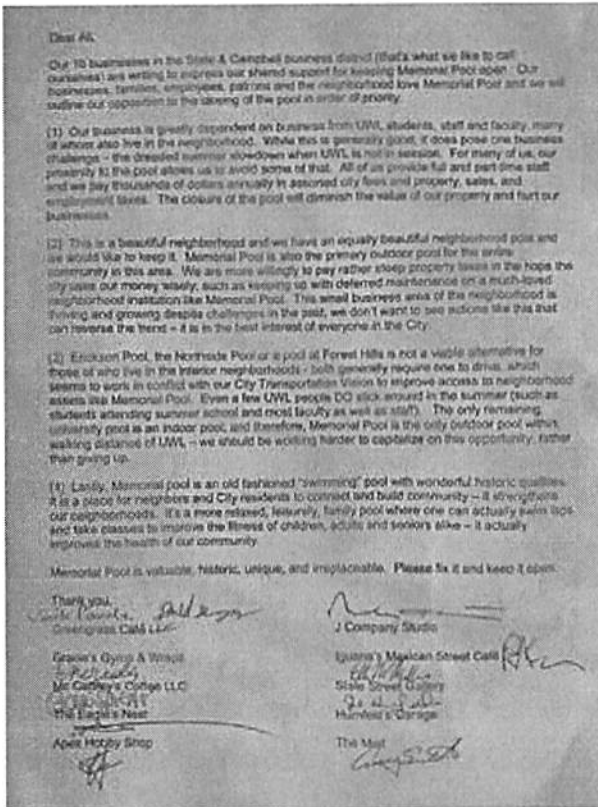
Iguana's Mexican Street Café

State Street Gallery

Humfeld's Garage

The Mint

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*text of the original signed copy modified above to eliminate grammatical errors (we are all indeed human!)

Grandview-Emerson Neighborhood Association (GENA)

Co-Chair **Barb Janssen**, of 762 22nd St N 608-317-4311 BluffViewHouse@gmail.com

Co-Chair **Jacob Sciammas** of 320 24th St N 608-519-2518 jacobsciammas@gmail.com

Treasurer **Casey Meehan** of 2325 State St 608-334-0263 caseyr.meehan@gmail.com

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Meetings at Emerson Elementary, 2101 Campbell Rd - at 6:30PM usually the 3rd Tuesday of the month depending on the school schedule and holidays.