

Multnomah County Democratic Party Central Committee

Resolution: 2020-6 Save Columbia Pool

Whereas, the Columbia Pool in North Portland is a year-round, well-used, historic facility that currently serves some of Portland’s most racially and economically diverse residents.

Whereas, Portland has a dark history of racial prejudice, discrimination, and inequity.

Whereas, in May of 2019, the Portland City Council voted to close the Columbia Pool, noting a \$6.3 million funding gap in the Bureau of Parks and Recreation budget and high operating and maintenance costs at the pool. The pool currently needs an estimated \$5 million in repairs, including a new roof and heating system. In addition, the operating costs of \$768,000 annually exceeds the \$320,000 in revenues.

Whereas, the Parks Replacement Bond invested \$6 million in outdoor pools which operate an average of 11 weeks per year, including \$4 million at Peninsula Pool and \$2.2 million at Grant Pool, which is in a high income and predominantly white neighborhood.

Whereas, Portland Parks and Recreation says it plans on replacing the Columbia Pool with a full-service aquatic center at the Charles Jordan Community Center, however no preliminary design or construction cost estimates exist. As a result, North Portland residents will be without a pool for several years.

Whereas, a new aquatic center would cost \$20 million or more, and would also require ongoing repairs and maintenance.

Whereas, closing the Columbia Pool runs counter to several goals in the Portland Parks and Recreation five-year Racial Equity Plan, which states that “the Bureau will change existing services within the bureau using racial equity best practices” and “provide equitable access to City services to all residents”.^[1]

Whereas, closing the Columbia Pool also runs counter to the Portland Parks and Recreation aspiration “to be a national leader in providing inclusive and equitable parks, nature areas, programs, *public facilities*, and an urban forest that welcomes all Portlanders.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Multnomah County Democratic Party calls for the Portland City Council to keep the Columbia Pool open and fund the needed \$5 million in repairs.

Adopted on

Resolution submitted by: Jil Heimensen and the Platform, Resolution and Legislative Committee

Send to the following legislators: Portland City Council and Portland Bureau of Parks and Recreation leadership.

Platform: Article IV. Equity, Plank #8: We want to dismantle and decolonize systems of oppression (when one group of people benefits from exploiting or abusing another group) such as those related to racism, sexism, classism, ableism, heterosexism to redress disparities.

Platform, Resolution and Legislation Committee
Multnomah Democrats

Article VI. Historical and Ongoing Anti-Blackness in Oregon, Plank #5: We strongly support corrective and restorative justice for past racial harms inflicted by local, city, and state government against American Descendants of Slavery in Oregon.

[1] Portland Parks and Recreation. *Building Racial Equity Together: Furthering Citywide Racial Equity Goals and Strategies*, September 2017. <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/article/623289>