

Des Moines Pool Metropolitan Park District

September 9, 2025 7:00 p.m. Special "Hybrid" Meeting

Meetings are hybrid: being held remotely using Zoom and in-person at the Des Moines Pool MPD District Office (22015 Marine View Dr. So. – Main floor). If you wish to listen in, please do so at 1-253-205-0468; Meeting ID: 875 7487 4467; Passcode: 697651. Any questions or comments should be directed to Scott Deschenes, District General Manager at (206) 429-3852 or by email at scott.deschenes@desmoinespool.org. Public comment for those who cannot physically attend will be due by email to info@mtrainierpool.com by noon on the day of each meeting. Patrons that can attend in-person will be allotted three minutes during public comment (#5). This is due to the hybrid format of the meetings.

AGENDA

- 7:00 1. CALL TO ORDER ROLL CALL
- 7:01 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 7:03 3. ADOPTION/MODIFICATIONS OF AGENDA (No Modification, Special Meeting)
- 7:04 4. ANNOUNCEMENTS, PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATION

7:05 5. PUBLIC COMMENT (Please Limit to Three [3] Minutes)

Hybrid Meeting: If you are unable to physically attend and wish to make public comment, please submit in writing via email to info@mtrainierpool.com by 12:00 p.m. (noon) on Tuesday, September 9. Please include your name, address, and contact phone number. All timely submitted public comments will be read at the meeting subject to the time limit. Any public comments received after noon, will be read at the following regular meeting

7:10	6.	GENER	AL BUSI	NESS	pp 3
		a.	Event (Overview:	
			(i)	Dedication Outline	pp 4-8
			(ii)	Speeches	pp 9-16
			(iii)	RSVP Feedback	pp 17-18
			(iv)	Invitations to Featured Speakers	pp 19-20
			(v)	Lobby/Site Setup	pp 20-21
			(vi)	Plaque Update	pp 23-26
			(vii)	Equipment Needed	pp 27-28
			(viii)	Other/General Discussion	pp 29-42
7:25		b.	Resolu	tion 2025-08, Declaration on Moving Forward	pp 43-48
7:30		C.	Proclar	mation 2025-04, Proclamation Honoring James Ellis	pp 49-52
7:35	7.	GOOD	OF THE	ORDER	pp 53-54

22015 Marine View Drive South, Suite 2B, Des Moines WA 98198 (Physical Location) 22722 19th Avenue South, Des Moines, WA 98198 (Mailing Address)

To enhance our community's quality of life by providing access to and promoting participation in aquatics programs

The Des Moines Pool Metropolitan Park District is committed to compliance with both the Washington Law Against Discrimination and the Americans with Disabilities Act. The District's meetings are being held hybrid including remotely due to COVID-19. See the information above to join a meeting. If you have any questions, please contact Scott Deschenes, District General Manager, 206.429.3852.

7:40 UPCOMING MEETING(S) & EVENT(S)

- September 21, 2025, 50th Anniversary, 12:00 p.m.(noon), Location: Mount Rainier Pool (22722 19 Avenue S, Des Moines, WA)
- September 23, 2025, Regular Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Location: DMPMPD Office (22015 Marine Drive So. #2B, Des Moines, WA)

ADJOURNMENT

22015 Marine View Drive South, Suite 2B, Des Moines WA 98198 (Physical Location) 22722 19th Avenue South, Des Moines, WA 98198 (Mailing Address)

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Des Moines Pool Metropolitan Park District

AGENDA ITEMS SUMMARY SHEET						
Agenda Item #: 6a Assigned to: District G.M. Meeting Date: September 9, 2025						
Under: General Business Attachments: Yes						
Subject: 50 th Anniversary Overview						
Background/Summary: The Mount Rainier Pool will host its 50 th Anniversary on Sunday, September 21. The ceremony will start at noon with a free special swim from 1-3pm. Attached is general information for the Event Overview including but not limited to: - (i) Noon Dedication Outline - (ii) Speeches - (iii) RSVP Feedback - (iv) Invitations to Featured Speakers - (v) Lobby/Site Setup - (vi) Plaque Update - (vii) Equipment Needed - (viii) Other/General Discussion						
Fiscal Impact: N/A						
Proposed Motion: No motion at this time, but a motion may arise from the discussion.						
Reviewed by District Legal Counsel: YesNoX_ Date: N/A						
Three Touch Rule: Continuous N/A Continuous First Board Meeting (Informational) Second Board Meeting (Action)						
Action Taken: Adopted Rejected Postponed						
Follow-up Needed: YesNox Report back date:						

- Executive Summary (if you do not want to read the entire list of attachments)Other attachments (see sections)

i.	DEDICATION OUTLINE

50th Anniversary Dedication Timeline

	Function	Speaker	Notes
Noon	Welcome & Opening Speech	President Young	Welcome & Opening Speech
12:04	Recognition of Dignitaries and Past Board	Commissioner Dusenbury	Stand-and-wave format
12:06	Keynote Address	City Representative	Keynote
12:10	Reading of Proclamation	Commissioner Campbell	Proclamation for next 50 years
12:13	Recognition of James Ellis & Forward Thrust Movement	Commissioner Thorell	Invite family
12:17	Plaque Unveiling	City of Des Moines Councilmember Gene Achziger	Speech + Unveiling
12:20	Highline School District Remarks	HSD Representative	Speech (Do we want to do this?)
12:24	Next 50-years call-to-action	Commissioner Stender	Speech & Announcement of Advisory Committee
12:28	Group Photo & Ribbon Cutting	All speakers	In front of plaque on easel

TALKING POINTS BROKEN OUT

12:00 PM - Welcome & Opening Speech

Speaker: President Young

Talking Points:

- Welcome guests, dignitaries, and community members
- Acknowledge the significance of 50 years serving Des Moines and South King County
- Brief mention of today's program and gratitude to all supporters
- Statement of pride in the Mount Rainier Pool's legacy and role as a community asset

12:04 PM – Recognition of Dignitaries and Past Board

Speaker: Commissioner Dusenbury

Talking Points:

- Recognize current and former commissioners and elected officials (stand-and-wave)
- Thank them for their leadership and support over the years
- Acknowledge representatives from the City, County, and School District

12:06 PM – Keynote Address

Speaker: City Representative

Talking Points:

- Acknowledge the City's role in supporting public recreation and community health
- Highlight partnership with the Park District
- Emphasize continued investment in infrastructure and equity for future generations

12:10 PM – Reading of Proclamation

Speaker: Commissioner Campbell

Talking Points:

- Read the official 50th Anniversary proclamation
- Emphasize community pride and commitment to the next 50 years
- Celebrate the role of public facilities in community building

12:13 PM – Recognition of James Ellis & Forward Thrust Movement

Speaker: Commissioner Thorell

Talking Points:

- Speak on the pool's legacy as part of Forward Thrust
- Share a brief story about James Ellis and his leadership in the Forward Thrust movement
- Acknowledge the pool as one of the fruits of his vision
- Recognize any attending family or representatives of Mr. Ellis
- Explain why he's featured on the commemorative plaque

12:17 PM – Plaque Unveiling

Speaker: Councilmember Gene Achziger

Talking Points:

- Discuss the community value of commemorating legacy builders like Ellis
- Share a few reflections on how the pool has served generations of Des Moines residents
- Introduce the unveiling and invite all guests to view the plaque

12:20 PM – Highline School District Remarks

Speaker: HSD Representative

Talking Points:

- Highlight the educational and safety role the pool plays in youth development
- Recognize student access to swim lessons and physical education
- Thank the District and staff for supporting youth in the region

12:24 PM - Next 50-Years Call-to-Action

Speaker: Commissioner Stender

Talking Points:

- Reflect on how far the pool has come—and where it must go
- Highlight challenges with aging infrastructure
- Announce the formation of a Community Advisory Committee
- Encourage community input, participation, and vision for future upgrades or new facilities

12:28 PM – Group Photo & Ribbon Cutting

Speaker: All

Talking Points:

- Pose together to symbolize unity, legacy, and a shared future
- Thank all attendees again
- Invite guests to the free community swim and refreshments (if offered)

OUTLINE OF DAY OF EVENT INCLUDING EQUIPMENT NEEDS

OVFRAII:

- O Do we want to work with the chamber or Destination Des Moines?
- Pool closed on Sunday, September 21
- Staff in at 9am to deep clean facility, grounds and other items
- Setup event at 10am

ii. SPEECHES

OPENING SPEECH OPTIONS - PRESIDENT YOUNG

1.	LONGER SPEECH:		

Opening Speech – 50th Anniversary of Mount Rainier Pool

Speaker: President Young

"Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome.

On behalf of the Des Moines Pool Metropolitan Park District, it is my honor to welcome all of you—our community members, families, neighbors, and dignitaries who have joined us today. Your presence makes this milestone celebration truly special.

Today marks 50 years since the Mount Rainier Pool first opened its doors to the people of Des Moines and South King County. For half a century, this pool has been more than just a place to swim—it has been a gathering place, a training ground, and a safe space where children learned to swim, athletes pursued their dreams, and families created lasting memories.

We are proud of the legacy this pool represents, and even prouder of the role it continues to play as a vital community asset. None of this would have been possible without the tireless dedication of our staff, volunteers, board members past and present, our community partners, and of course—you, the residents we serve.

This afternoon's program is both a celebration of our history and a look toward our future. We'll honor the visionaries who helped bring this pool to life, recognize those who sustain it today, and share our hopes for the next 50 years.

On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, I extend my deepest gratitude for your continued support. Together, we will ensure that Mount Rainier Pool remains a place where everyone can learn, grow, and belong.

Thank you—and let's celebrate 50 years of community at Mount Rainier Pool!"

2.	SHORTER SPEECH:		

Opening Speech – 50th Anniversary of Mount Rainier Pool

Speaker: President Young

"Good afternoon, everyone. On behalf of the Des Moines Pool Metropolitan Park District, welcome, and thank you for joining us to celebrate this very special milestone.

For 50 years, the Mount Rainier Pool has been more than a pool—it's been a gathering place for families, a training ground for athletes, and a safe space where generations of South King County residents have learned to swim.

We are proud of this legacy and grateful to our staff, volunteers, partners, and most importantly, our community, who have made it all possible.

Today's program will honor our history, celebrate our present, and look ahead to the next 50 years of service. Thank you for your continued support—and let's enjoy this celebration together!"

Recognition of Dignitaries (Commissioner Dusenbury)

Recognition of Dignitaries and Past Board

Speaker: Commissioner Dusenbury

"Thank you, President Young.

At this time, I would like to recognize some very special people who have helped guide and support the Mount Rainier Pool over the years.

First, I want to acknowledge our current and former commissioners. Your leadership, dedication, and countless hours of service have been vital in keeping this pool strong for 50 years. Would you please stand and be recognized with a round of applause?

- Gene Achziger
- Eric Kasnick
- Nancy Kuehnoel
- Marty Martinson (DO WE WANT TO RECOGNIZE THOSE WHO LEFT AREA?)

I would also like to thank the elected officials and community leaders who have joined us today. We are grateful for your continued partnership and support.

• Will add this when we get closer.

Finally, we want to recognize representatives from the City of Des Moines, King County, and the Highline School District. Your collaboration has been instrumental in ensuring this pool remains a resource for our community.

• Will add this when we get closer.

Please join me in thanking all of these leaders for their vision and commitment to making the Mount Rainier Pool a true community treasure."

Introduction to Resolution – 50th Anniversary

Speaker: Commissioner Holly Campbell

"As we celebrate 50 years of service, it's important not only to look back at where we've been, but also to look ahead at where we're going.

Our theme for this anniversary—'From the First Splash to the Next Wave: 50 Years & Beyond'—reminds us that the Mount Rainier Pool has given generations of families their first swim lessons, their first competitions, and their first memories in the water. It has been a cornerstone of health, safety, and connection in our community.

But it also reminds us that the work is not finished. While we are proud of all this facility has accomplished, we must also acknowledge that the pool is aging. Its systems are deteriorating, its footprint is too small to meet today's demand, and the needs of our growing community are greater than ever.

This resolution represents a promise: that we will carry forward the legacy of the Mount Rainier Pool and prepare for the future. It outlines our commitment to explore land acquisition, conduct a feasibility study, engage our community, and pursue the funding necessary to build the next generation of aquatic facilities.

In short, it's about ensuring that our children and grandchildren will have the same opportunities to learn, play, and grow in the water that past generations enjoyed here.

At this time, I invite [reader's name/title] to present the resolution that will guide us from our first 50 years into the next wave of community service."

Recognition of James Ellis & Forward Thrust Movement

Speaker: Commissioner Thorell

"Thank you.

As we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Mount Rainier Pool, it is important to recognize the vision and leadership that made this pool—and so many others across King County—possible.

The Mount Rainier Pool is part of the legacy of the *Forward Thrust* movement, a series of voter-approved investments in the late 1960s and early 1970s that transformed our region with parks, open spaces, transit, and public facilities. One of the central champions of that effort was James R. Ellis.

James Ellis was more than a civic leader—he was a visionary. He believed that building pools, parks, and community spaces wasn't just about concrete and water, but about equity, access, and civic pride. Thanks to his leadership, over 20 public pools were built in King County, including the one we stand in today.

Generations of children have learned to swim here, families have connected here, and lives have been enriched because James Ellis believed in the power of public investment to strengthen community.

We are proud to feature his name on the commemorative plaque unveiled today, so that everyone who enters this facility will know the story of his vision and the role he played in shaping healthier, more connected communities.

If there are any members of the Ellis family or representatives here today, we extend our deepest gratitude for sharing his legacy with us.

On behalf of the Des Moines Pool Metropolitan Park District, we dedicate this 50th Anniversary celebration to James Ellis and the enduring spirit of the Forward Thrust movement."

Next 50 Years Call-to-Action

Speaker: Commissioner Stender

"Thank you.

As we celebrate 50 years of the Mount Rainier Pool, it's inspiring to reflect on all this facility has accomplished. Since 1975, thousands of children have learned to swim here, families have gathered here, and generations have built memories in this water. The Mount Rainier Pool has truly been a cornerstone of health, safety, and community.

But as we look ahead, we must be honest about the challenges. In 1975, Des Moines had fewer than 4,000 residents. Today, we have more than 31,000—a nearly 700% increase—yet we still have the same single pool, built to serve a much smaller community.

This pool was also built before the Americans with Disabilities Act, before zero-depth entries, before warm-water therapy pools, family changing areas, or the multi-use rooms people expect today. Despite our best retrofits, this 1975 design cannot fully match the accessibility, flexibility, and energy efficiency of modern aquatic centers.

What does this mean? It means that while we should celebrate the past, we must also prepare for the future. Families now expect splash zones and warm water play. Competitive swimmers need 50-meter pools, cooler water, and warm-up space. Seniors need easy entry ramps and warm-water therapy. Our single, aging pool simply cannot meet all of those needs.

That is why tonight, I am proud to announce the formation of a **Community Advisory Committee that will be coming in 2026**. This committee will help us shape the next chapter—exploring options for upgrades or even planning a new aquatic facility that truly reflects the needs of today and tomorrow.

But this isn't just a board project—it's a community project. We need your ideas, your energy, and your vision. The Mount Rainier Pool has always been your pool, and its future should be defined by you.

So, let's honor the past 50 years by working together for the next 50. Let's ensure that when our children and grandchildren stand here at the 100th Anniversary of swimming in our community, they will celebrate not only the first splash, but the next wave of opportunity we created together."

Closing Statement – President Young

"Thank you to my fellow commissioners for your reflections and for helping us honor the past, present, and future of the Mount Rainier Pool.

At this time, I would like to open the floor to our honored guests and dignitaries. If there are any elected officials, community partners, or representatives here today who would like to share a few brief remarks, we warmly invite you to come forward.

Your voices and continued support have been essential to the success of this pool over the past 50 years, and we welcome your words as we look toward the next 50.

And before we close, I'd like to remind everyone that you are welcome to stay and enjoy our **Free Family Swim from 1:00 to 3:00 pm**. It's our way of saying thank you to the community that has supported the Mount Rainier Pool for half a century."



RSVP MESSAGES SUMMARY

- Clerk Melum emailed PDF along with Event Flyer starting on September
 2.
- Following up with physical letters to each dignitary.
- Sent each email RSVP follow-up and will send final email week of event.
- As of end of day on Thursday, September 4, had 12 responses.
 - City of Des Moines (2): Mayor Buxton, Commissioner Yoshiko
 Matsui
 - City of Normandy Park (1): Parks Manager Lloyd
 - Highline School District (1): Superintendent Duran
 - o Highline College (1): VP Outreach Gerstman
 - Tukwila MPD (2): Director of Operations Harpin and Commissioner Zaputil
 - School Board Candidates (2): Kresly and Nita-Enninful
 - o District 33 Candidates (1): Schilling
 - DMPMPD Board (2): Campbell and Thorell
- Other Dignitary Speeches:
 - Dr. Duran (HSD): Responded with email inviting him to speak. No response at time of this email.
 - Mayor Buxton (CoDM): Responded that she recommended having Councilmember Achziger speak.
 - Candidate Kresley responded that she might want to say a few words. Could do this for all at the end.

iv. Featured Speakers

Featured Speakers

City of Des Moines

- Why? Led movement to form the District in 2008-2009.
- Usually have Mayor or Board President
- Mayor Buxton suggested having Councilmember Achziger speak.

Highline School District

- Why? Landlord of pool since 2009 and partners on running pool since.
- Superintendent Dr. Duran RSVP'd, and I sent response wanting to know if he would like to speak.

Backup

- Former Board Member at inception
- State or County Representative
- Former Lifeguard that has career
- Other?

v. Lobby/Site Setup

Lobby Setup

Will need to alter due to space constraints

Lobby is not a square, but will work with staff the morning of event to best fill space

Hallw	— ay to Pool		Entry	Desk			
Entry Doors						Podium	TV
		Tables for (Coffee, Water &	Marketing Mate	erials		

vi. Plaque Update



I finally have some pricing info for you on this.

Ballpark pricing for something similar to what you sent me (see below)....

24"x36"

.3125" thickness

raised copy

single line border

etched photos/inserts

per provided artwork

mounting pattern

typical production time 10-12 days after design approval

\$7800

Please get back to me with any questions, etc and we'll work on getting things moving forward on this for you.

Note-errors on sample. Made with ChatGPT as example.





MOUNT RAINIER POOL **50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION**

Dedicated in celebration of the Mount Rainier Pool's 50 years of service to the Des Momes and normandy Park communities.

1975 - 2025

Originally opened in 1975 as part of the Forward Thrust initiative, this facility has provided generations of residents with access to swim lessons, water safety sducation, aquatic fitness, and a welcoming space for community connection,

This milestons honors the vision of those who built the pool, the. dedication of those who have operated it, and the enluring commitment to ensuring a safe, inclusive, and vibrant poiblic resource.

This plaque commemorates five decades of public service, aquatic safety, and community spirit - past, present, and future.

Des Moiness Pool MPD Board of Commissioners (2025)

g Dusenbury, Creck of the Board Holly Campbell. Commissioner Shane Stender, Commissioner Patrice Thorell, Commissioner Scott Deschenes



Highline School District City of Sea Moines. City of Normaandy Park City of Searac King-County Parks

Des Moines Legacy Foundation King Aquatics Aquatics Management Group.

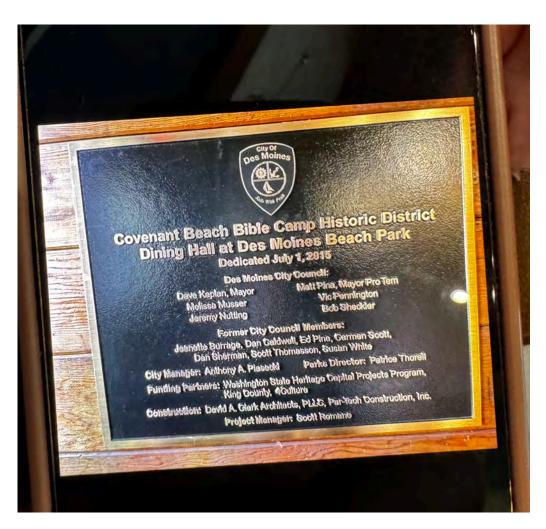


(92)-2819

to James, "Jim" Ellis, (1921-2019) visionary civic leader and architect of the Forword Thrust inlitaive, whose dedication to public

Other Options

- Cheaper Metal
- Image provided by Commissioner Thorell
- Awaiting estimate
- Will bring to meeting
- Need 10-12 business days, but will see what we can do
- Estimate around \$6k for 24*36



Other Options

- LAMINATED COVER
- 1/4" clear acrylic with full color image printed on back
- pre-drilled holes with standoffs for mounting
- Available sizes...

• 16x24: \$263.50

• 20x30: \$316.25

• 24x36: \$375.25

• (assumes we are provided with useable artwork to print directly from)

• Turn around time would be about a week







vii. Equipment Needed

Equipment Needed

Room Setup

- Podium (Add Laminated Logo of DMPMPD to the front)
- PA with Microphone System
- Tables (5) w/ Tablecloths
- Chairs (50) Mismatched. Might be good to rent (or take from storage)

Food and Drink

- Coffee setup for 100? (get from Starbucks, Panera or Other)
- Water Dispenser from Back
- Purchase cups from Costco (200)

Decorations

- TV (Slide Show of Pool at Opening)
- 50th Anniversary Flyer
- Table of Flyers
- Plaque
- Staff Mural (if possible)
- Marketing/Age of Facility
- Resolution and Proclamation post

Outside/Parking Lot

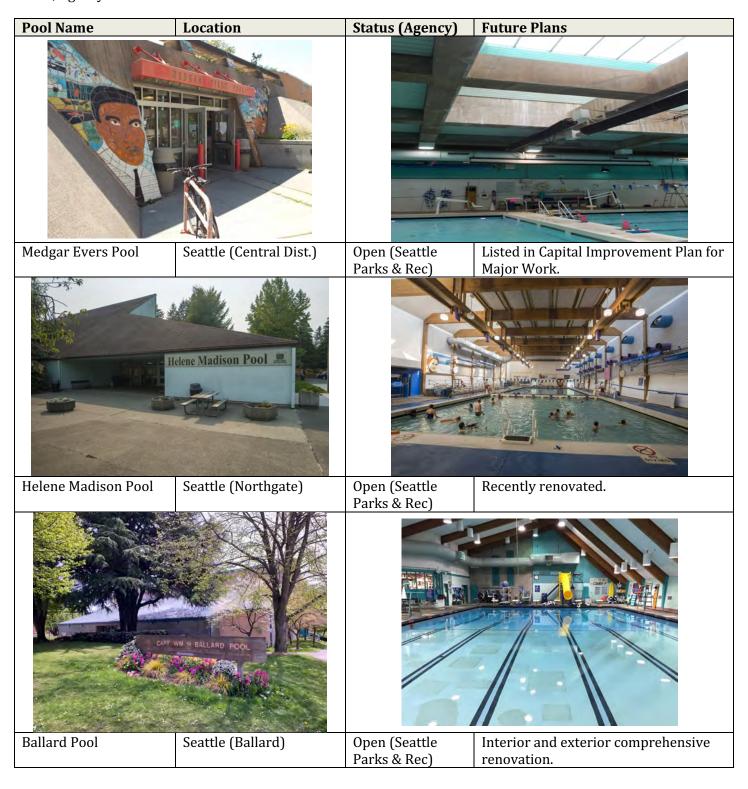
- Sandwich board for Overflow Parking
- Cones/Caution Tape for VIP Parking

Will bring drawing of setup for event to meeting on Sept 9.

ther/Gene	ral Disc	ussion
	ial Disc	ussiuii
	:her/Gene	her/General Disc

Commemorative Forward Thrust Pools in King County

Below are the Forward Thrust Pools that were developed in 1970s in King County. Each contain the Location, Status, Agency Involved and Future Plans.





Meadowbrook Pool

Seattle (Lake City)



Open (Seattle Parks & Rec)

Recently renovated.



Rainier Beach Pool

Seattle (Rainier Beach)



Closed (Seattle Parks & Rec)

Replace with Rainier Beach Community Center.



Queen Anne Pool

Seattle (Queen Anne)



Open (Seattle Parks & Rec)

Recently renovated.



Tukwila Pool

Tukwila



Open (Tukwila Pool MPD)

Expansion plans for next couple of years.



Covington Aquatic Center

Covington



Open — City of Covington

Aquatic Feasibility Study to explore replacement with recreation center.



Evergreen Community Aquatic Center

White Center



Open — Nonprofitoperated

Updated to Solar and other grants.



Enumclaw Aquatic Center

Enumclaw



Open — City of Enumclaw

Remodeled in 2025 with party rooms, new entry, family changing rooms and ADA upgrades.



Kenneth Jones Pool

Federal Way (High School)



Closed and torn down for Federal Way High School.

Replaced by Federal Way Community Center



Northshore Pool

Bothell (formerly)



Closed.

Converted — McMenamins Lagoon



Mary Wayte Pool

Mercer Island



Managed by OCA Aquatics for MISD

Remodeling in 2025 with new entry, locker rooms family changing room and ADA upgrades.



Carole Ann Wald Pool

St. Edward Park



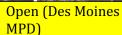
Closed — 2009

Closed. No public plans to save the pool.



Mount Rainier Pool

Des Moines



Turns 50 on September 15, 2025. \$1.8 million to repair critical systems.





Mount Rainier Pool at 50: Then and Now

A Pool Built in 1975, Serving 2025 Needs

When the Mount Rainier Pool opened in 1975, it was a **state-of-the-art facility** for Des Moines. Families enjoyed two diving boards, a bulkhead for flexible pool use, and affordable swim opportunities in one community pool. But fifty years later, the world has changed dramatically — and so have community needs.

More People, Same Pool

- In 1970, Des Moines had fewer than **4,000 residents**. Today, the city has **over 31,000** a **694%** increase.
- King County's population nearly doubled in the same time.
- Yet Des Moines still has only one public pool of the same size (112' x 43').

The challenge: One small pool now serves a city nearly seven times larger, making it harder to provide enough swim lessons, exercise classes, and open swim times for everyone.

Affordability in a Changing Economy

- In 1975, a home cost around \$38,000; today, the average is \$617,000.
- A car cost about \$4,000; now it's closer to \$49,000.
- Meanwhile, the cost of a senior swim at Mount Rainier Pool has only risen from \$1 to \$4.75, and other passes are the lowest for public pools in the area.

The commitment: Even as costs skyrocket, the Pool District works hard to keep swimming affordable for all, offering scholarships, Medicare passes for seniors, grant-funded lessons, free certifications for youth lifeguards and swim lesson instructors to reduce barriers, and \$1 family and senior days.

Built Before Modern Standards

- In 1975, the **ADA** (Americans with Disabilities Act) didn't exist. The pool was not designed for accessible entry, barrier-free restrooms, or family changing areas.
- Today, modern pools offer zero-depth entry, warm-water therapy pools, multi-use rooms, and larger locker rooms with private stalls.

The challenge: Despite retrofits like pool lifts and ADA steps, Mount Rainier Pool cannot fully match the accessibility, efficiency, or flexibility of modern aquatic centers that many others around the state and county have in their communities.

What People Expect Today

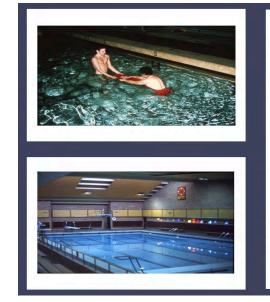
- Youth & Families: In 1975, a single pool with diving boards was exciting and state-of-the art. In 2025, kids expect splash zones, lazy rivers, warm water play, family changing rooms, and party rooms.
- Competitive Swimmers: Training now calls for 50-meter pools, cooler water, and dedicated warm-up space.
- Seniors: Older adults look for warm water, easy entry ramps, therapy programs, and barrier-free locker rooms.

The reality: Today's families, athletes, and seniors want different water temperatures, different facilities, and more options than one pool can provide.

Why This Matters for Our Future

For five decades, the Mount Rainier Pool has taught thousands to swim, trained lifeguards, and given families a safe place to gather. But the facility is showing its age. It uses more energy than newer pools, lacks flexible community space, and struggles to keep up with modern expectations.

Still, the Mount Rainier Pool remains a cornerstone of community health, safety, and connection. The next chapter is about ensuring this vital resource can continue serving Des Moines families for another 50 years.



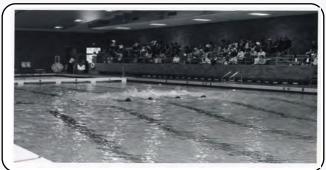




Mount Rainier Pool — 50 Years of Change

 $1975 \rightarrow 2025 \bullet \text{How life, needs, and demographics have changed}$

THEN (1975)



NOW (2025)



Population Growth

Category	1975	Today	Change
Des Moines population	3,951	31,388	+694%
King County population	1.16 million	2.28 million	+97%
Mount Rainier Pool size	112'*43'	112'*43'	No change

Value of a Dollar (Local Examples)

Item	1975	Today	Change
Home price (median example)	\$38,000	\$617,000	+1524%
Car price (typical new)	\$4,000	\$49,000	+1125%
Senior swim admission	\$1	\$4.75	+475%

Evolving Community Needs & Design

- Accessibility: ADA requirements now standard for public pools (not required in 1975).
- Safety & Technology: Computer-controlled filtration/chemistry; better air & water quality.
- Capacity: Same-size pool serves a city that is many times larger than in 1975.
- Modern Amenities: Today's families expect swimming pools to feature modern amenities like warm-water leisure areas, interactive play structures, comfortable seating, and accessible changing spaces.

WHO DO WE SERVE **MOUNT RAINIER POOL**



OVER



100 thousand Local residents

including residents of Des Moines, Normandy Park, West Hill and portions of Highline, Federal Way and Kent School Districts

Number of swim lessons offered last summer alone to all ages including largest adult program in area

Medicare Insurance Check-Ins

swimming and other programs

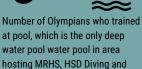
for water exercise, lap

since started in 2019

Residents of Des Moines & Normandy Park Scholarship Coverage



Cover Scholarship for All Ages including lessons



Seattle Metro Aquatic Club Teams

IN 2026



In grants to cover repairs, and programming to save tax payers including two critical components for aging facility

GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Grants for free swim lessons and water safety training for local elementary, middle and high schools students and family members since pandemic



WHO DO WE SERVE **MOUNT RAINIER POOL**



OVER

100 thousand:

including residents of Des Moines, Normandy Park, West Hill and portions of Highline, Federal Way and Kent School Districts

Number of swim lessons offered last summer alone to all ages including largest adult program in area

Residents of Des Moines & Normandy Park Scholarship Coverage



Cover Scholarship for All Ages including lessons



Number of Olympians who trained at pool, which is the only deep water pool water pool in area hosting MRHS, HSD Diving and Seattle Metro Aquatic Club Teams



Medicare Insurance Check-Ins for water exercise, lap swimming and other programs since started in 2019

IN 2026

\$1.86 million

In grants to cover repairs, and programming to save tax payers including two critical components for aging facility

GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Grants for free swim lessons and water safety training for local elementary, middle and high schools students and family members since pandemic





From the First Splash to the Next Wave: 50 Years & Beyond

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mount Rainier Pool Celebrates 50 Years of Community Service with Anniversary Dedication

Des Moines, WA — September 21, 2025 — The Mount Rainier Pool, a cornerstone of community recreation and water safety in South King County, is celebrating its 50th Anniversary with a special dedication ceremony on Sunday, September 21, 2025, at 12:00 PM.

Since opening its doors in 1975, the pool has served generations of families with swim lessons, water safety education, lifeguard training, and affordable recreation. Built as part of the Forward Thrust initiative, the facility remains one of the few public pools in the region and continues to play a vital role in community health and wellness.

Event Highlights

- Keynote remarks from community leaders and dignitaries
- Proclamation for the "Next 50 Years" of service
- Tribute to James Ellis and recognition of the Forward Thrust movement
- Plague unveiling & ceremonial ribbon cutting
- Free Community Swim from 1–3 PM following the ceremony

The program will honor the visionaries who helped establish the pool while recognizing the challenges of maintaining a 50-year-old facility in a growing and changing community. Leaders will also issue a call-to-action for the next 50 years, inviting residents to participate in shaping the pool's future.

"From its first splash in 1975 to today, the Mount Rainier Pool has been more than just a swimming pool — it has been a gathering place, a classroom for water safety, and a lifeline for community health," said Scott Deschenes, General Manager (or preferably a board member). "This anniversary is about honoring our history while charting a course to ensure future generations continue to benefit from this vital community resource."

Press Release – 50th Anniversary August 19, 2025 Page 2

The ceremony will take place at Mount Rainier Pool, 22722 19th Ave South, Des Moines, WA 98198. All community members are welcome to attend. Reserved seating and parking will be available for dignitaries and invited guests.

For more information, visit <u>mtrainierpool.com</u> or follow the Pool on Facebook at facebook.com/mtrainierpool.

About the Des Moines Pool Metropolitan Park District

The Des Moines Pool Metropolitan Park District operates the Mount Rainier Pool, providing affordable access to aquatic programs for youth, adults, and seniors. With a mission to promote water safety, healthy living, and community connection, the District continues to expand programs and partnerships that ensure swimming is recognized as an essential life skill.

Warm regards,

Scott Deschenes

District General Manager

Des Moines Pool Metropolitan Park District

Mtrainierpool.com | facebook.com/mtrainierpool

206.429.3852 | scott.deschenes@desmoinespool.org

50th Anniversary Marketing Outlets

Local Blogs & Online News:

- Waterland Blog (South King Media) main community news source for Des Moines & Normandy Park
- Normandy Park Blog local coverage and events
- Highline Times / Westside Seattle regional newspaper covering Highline area
- Kent Reporter / Federal Way Mirror cover broader South King County events

School & Family Channels:

- **PeachJar** digital flyer system through Highline Public Schools (great for families)
- **School District PTSA's/PTO's** Highline School District and private schools (St. Philomena, etc.)

Social Media Platforms:

- Facebook Mount Rainier Pool page + community groups (e.g., Des Moines, WA Community Info, Normandy Park Community Group)
- **Instagram** visual storytelling for youth/families
- X (Twitter) quick news and local hashtags (#DesMoinesWA, #NormandyParkWA, #SouthKingCounty)

Local Media Outlets:

- Seattle Times South King County section
- KIRO 7, KING 5, KOMO 4, FOX 13 (local TV event announcements)
- KNKX Public Radio (NPR Tacoma/Seattle) covers South Sound community events

<u>m</u> Civic & Business Channels:

- **Destination Des Moines** tourism and community events calendar
- Seattle Southside Chamber of Commerce?
- City of Des Moines & City of Normandy Park

Other	Channels:	
•		
•		
•		

AGENDA ITEMS SUMMARY SHEET

Agenda Item #:_6b_	Assigned to: District G.M.	Meeting Date: S	<u> September 9, 2025</u>

Under: General Business Attachment: Yes

Subject: Resolution 2025-08 Declaration on Moving Forward (or Statement of Concern)

Background/Summary:

The Des Moines Pool Metropolitan Park District (Pool District) owns and operates the Mount Rainier Pool, which will mark its **50th anniversary on September 15**, **2025**. While it has served our community well for decades, the facility is no longer **physically**, **functionally**, **or economically sustainable** for the residents of Des Moines.

Physical Challenges

The pool was originally designed to last **25–40 years**. At 50 years old, its core systems — mechanical, plumbing, electrical, and structural — are past their useful life. Breakdowns continue to mount, causing costly repairs, disrupting operations, and limiting the services we can provide.

Functional Limitations

When the pool was built, Des Moines had fewer than 4,000 residents. Today, the population is more than **31,000** — nearly seven times larger — but the pool remains the same size. This limits our ability to deliver essential programs such as swim lessons, water safety instruction, and fitness activities. In addition, community expectations have changed since 1975. Families now look for amenities like family changing rooms, multiple bodies of water at different temperatures, zero-depth entry, warm-water therapy, and full ADA accessibility. While the Pool District has made upgrades where possible, the current facility cannot be expanded to meet these modern needs.

Economic Strain

The Pool District continues to spend significant resources on outdated, inefficient systems. Like other Forward Thrust-era pools, Mount Rainier Pool has **low cost-recovery**, requiring ongoing subsidy to stay operational. In contrast, newer facilities are designed to serve larger populations more efficiently, with features that attract higher usage and revenue while also addressing critical community issues such as childhood obesity, water safety, and youth engagement as a safe "third place."

The Path Forward

To meet the community's future needs, the Pool District must plan for a **new aquatic facility**. However, state law currently restricts levy increases to **1% annually**, which has steadily eroded the District's taxing capacity. Once able to levy up to **\$0.75 per \$1,000 assessed value**, projections show this rate could fall below **\$0.20 by 2029**, well under the original campaign promise. This shrinking levy base not only limits daily operations but also weakens our ability to borrow funds for capital projects.

To address these challenges, the Pool District is committed to pursuing a **levy lid lift**, building reserves for a future transition, and preparing for a **bond measure** to replace the Mount Rainier

Pool with a modern, efficient aquatic center that reflects the needs of today's and tomorrow's families.

Resolution 2025-08 affirms the Board of Commissioners' dedication to this path — ensuring the legacy of the Mount Rainier Pool continues for the next 50 years and beyond.

If the board of commissioners does not wish to pass the resolution, the District GM has also provided a **Statement of Concern** that could be presented our augmented as part of a speeches at the September 21 50th Anniversary Celebration.

Fiscal Impact: See Background Summary for more information.

Proposed Motion

(For Resolution 2025-08): "I move that the Board of Commissioners of the Des Moines Pool Metropolitan Park District adopt Resolution 2025-08, declaring the condition of the Mount Rainier Pool, affirming the need to pursue a levy lid lift, and committing to build reserves and prepare for a future bond to replace the Mount Rainier Pool with a modern aquatic facility." or

(Statement of Concern): "I move that the Board of Commissioners direct staff to prepare and publish an **informational report** on the current condition and long-term challenges of the Mount Rainier Pool, and to **schedule opportunities for community input** as part of the District's planning for the next 50 years."

Reviewed by Dis	trict Legal Co	unsel: Yes_	Х	No	Date: _	Various
Three Touch Ru	ıle:		Com	mittee Re	view	
		May 27, 2025	First	Board M	eeting (Info	rmational)
		Sept 9, 2025			Meeting (Ad	•
Action Taken:	Adopted	Rejected	Postpo	oned		
Follow-up Need	ed: Yes	sNo	<u>x</u> _	Repo	ort back date	e:

Notes:

- Attachments:
 - Resolution 2025-08, Declaration on Moving Forward
 - (Alternative) Statement of Concern Mount Rainier Pool at 50

DES MOINES POOL METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT

KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-08

DECLARATION OF MOVING FORWARD

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE DES MOINES POOL METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT EXPLORING THE REPLACEMENT OF THE MOUNT RAINIER POOL AND OUTLINING NEXT STEPS FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND FEASIBILITY STUDY.

A Resolution Declaring the Deterioration of the Mount Rainier Pool, the Need to Pursue a Levy Lid Lift, and the Intent to Explore the Development of a New Aquatic Facility on an Expanded Site

WHEREAS, the Des Moines Pool Metropolitan Park District ("District") was formed to operate and maintain the Mount Rainier Pool, which has served the residents of Des Moines, Normandy Park, and surrounding communities for nearly five decades; and

WHEREAS, the Mount Rainier Pool's major systems—including its surge pit, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and HVAC systems—have reached or exceeded their useful life, and the most recent conditions assessment has identified a critical, time-sensitive issue that places the long-term operability of the facility at significant risk; and

WHEREAS, the facility's deteriorating condition has led to increasing emergency closures, rising maintenance costs, and service disruptions, limiting the District's ability to meet the community's growing demand for aquatic services such as swim lessons, water exercise, recreational swimming, and water safety instruction; and

WHEREAS, the population of Des Moines and the surrounding area has grown substantially since the pool's construction, intensifying demand for aquatic facilities that the current pool can no longer meet in terms of size, capacity, or programming; and

WHEREAS, the recent conditions assessment determined that the Mount Rainier Pool's existing site footprint is too small to accommodate future expansion or the addition of new amenities needed to meet community needs; and

WHEREAS, the District recognizes that securing a larger lot of land is necessary to pursue the development of a modern, expanded aquatic facility that can accommodate future population growth, new program offerings, and increased community demand; and

WHEREAS, although the District has successfully pursued grants and capital funding to address temporary repairs, a long-term capital funding strategy is urgently required to secure land, plan, and eventually construct a replacement aquatic facility; and

WHEREAS, the District's current taxing authority is constrained under Washington State's 1% annual limit on property tax increases, which has eroded the District's effective levy rate over time, leaving the District unable to meet these urgent needs within current revenues; and

WHEREAS the Board of Commissioners recognizes the need to pursue a levy lid lift to restore taxing capacity, stabilize operations, build capital reserves, and position the District to secure land and advance the planning and development of a new aquatic facility;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE DES MOINES POOL METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT, AS FOLLOWS:

1. Declaration of Facility Condition and Urgency:

The Board declares that the Mount Rainier Pool is in a critically deteriorated condition, as documented by the most recent facility assessment, and that the limited site capacity prevents future expansion, creating an urgent need for financial and planning action to maintain aquatic services and prepare for the community's future needs.

2. Levy Lid Lift and Capital Funding Intent:

The Board expresses its intent to prepare for a levy lid lift under RCW 84.55.050 to restore taxing authority, stabilize operations, address emergency repairs, build capital reserves, and support land acquisition and future facility development.

3. Land Acquisition and Feasibility Commitment:

The Board commits to exploring all available opportunities to secure a larger site suitable for a modern aquatic facility and to undertaking a comprehensive feasibility study to evaluate options for new construction, site planning, and expanded programming.

4. Community Engagement Commitment:

The Board directs staff to develop and implement a robust public engagement process—including surveys, public meetings, and the formation of a community advisory committee—to ensure residents, stakeholders, and partners have meaningful input in shaping the vision for a future aquatic facility.

5. Progress Reporting:

The Board directs the General Manager to provide regular progress updates on levy lid lift planning, land acquisition efforts, feasibility study progress, and public engagement activities at future board meetings.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Board of Commissioners of the Des Moines Pool Metropolitan Park District this 9th day of September 2025.

President Young	Commissioner Dusenbury
Commissioner Campbell	Commissioner Stender
Commissioner Thorell	District Clerk

DES MOINES POOL METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

MOUNT RAINIER POOL AT 50 STATEMENT OF CONCERN

The Board of Commissioners of the Des Moines Pool Metropolitan Park District recognizes that the Mount Rainier Pool, now approaching its 50th anniversary, faces significant physical, functional, and economic challenges. Originally designed for a much smaller community, the facility has exceeded its expected lifespan and is increasingly difficult to operate, maintain, and adapt to modern needs.

While the District has worked diligently to extend the life of the pool through repairs and retrofits, the Board acknowledges that **ongoing deterioration**, **limited capacity**, **and outdated design features** create barriers to fully meeting the community's expectations for water safety, recreation, health, and accessibility.

The Board further recognizes the importance of transparency, planning, and broad community engagement as we prepare for the next 50 years of aquatic services in Des Moines and South King County.

The Board of Commissioners directs staff to:

- 1. Prepare and publish an **informational report** on the current condition and long-term challenges of the Mount Rainier Pool;
- 2. Schedule opportunities for community input as part of the District's future planning;
 - 3. **Pursue evaluation of a levy lid lift** as a funding strategy to stabilize operations and support future facility planning;
 - 4. **Develop a Community Advisory Committee** to help guide visioning and public involvement; and
 - 5. **Explore future alternatives** to ensure continued aquatic services for the community over the next 50 years.

AGENDA ITEMS SUMMARY SHEET

Agenda Item #: 6c Assigned to: District G.M. Meeting Date: September 9, 2025

Under: General Business Attachment: Yes

Subject: Proclamation 2025-04 Honoring James Ellis

Background/Summary:

The District GM is recommending the Des Moines Pool Metropolitan District pass the attached proclamation that includes making the second Saturday of each September, James Ellis Day, and offering free pool public swim pool usage in recognition of his legacy including getting the Mount Rainier Pool built.

Background on James R. Ellis and the Forward Thrust Pools

James R. Ellis (1921–2019) was a respected attorney, civic leader, and one of the most influential visionaries in King County's modern history. Over the course of his career, he championed projects that shaped the region's identity — including clean water efforts for Lake Washington, the creation of Metro, and, most notably for our work, the **Forward Thrust initiative** of the late 1960s and early 1970s .

The Forward Thrust Program

- Forward Thrust was a bold package of voter-approved public investments designed to improve the quality of life in King County.
- Projects funded through Forward Thrust included parks, open spaces, transportation, cultural centers, and neighborhood facilities.
- One of its most enduring impacts was the construction of more than **20 public swimming** pools across King County (including the Mount Rainier Pool), ensuring that families had access to safe, affordable places for recreation and water safety training.

Ellis's Leadership and Vision

Ellis believed public investment was about more than infrastructure — it was about **equity**, **access, and civic pride**. He saw pools not just as buildings, but as **community anchors** where people of all ages could learn vital life skills, gather with neighbors, and build connections.

Legacy of the Forward Thrust Pools

- Many of the pools built through Forward Thrust including the **Mount Rainier Pool**, **opened** in 1975 continue to serve their communities today.
- These facilities became what Ellis envisioned: "third places" that promote health, safety, and belonging.
- Even 50 years later, they remain among the most significant recreational investments in King County history.

Why It Matters for Us

As the Mount Rainier Pool reaches its **50th anniversary**, we are not just celebrating the survival of a facility. We are honoring James Ellis's vision — that every community deserves access to high-quality aquatic spaces — and acknowledging our responsibility to carry that vision forward for the next generation.

Fiscal Impact: See Background Summary for more information.	

Proposed	Motion
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(For Proclamation 2025-04): "I move that the Board of Commissioners adopt Proclamation 2025-04, Honoring James Ellis, recognizing his leadership in the Forward Thrust movement and his role in the creation of the Mount Rainier Pool."

Reviewed by Dis	trict Legal Co	ounsel: Yes_	X	No	Date: _	Various
Three Touch Rule:			Com	mittee Re	view	
Aug 26. 2		Aug 26, 2025	 First	Board Me	eting (Infor	mational)
		Sept 9, 2025			Meeting (Ad	•
Action Taken:	Adopted	Rejected	Postpo	oned		
Follow-up Needed: YesNe			X	Repo	ort back date	e:

Notes:

- Attachments:
 - Proclamation 2025-04, Honoring James Ellis
 - Legacy of James Ellis (click here for article)
 - Seattle's Future: Forward Thrust of Bust? (click here for article)

DES MOINES POOL METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

HONORING JAMES ELLIS PROCLOMATION 2025-04

WHEREAS, the Mount Rainier Pool, established in 1975, stands as a lasting symbol of the vision and civic leadership that shaped King County's public infrastructure during the late 20th century; and

WHEREAS, the pool was made possible through the Forward Thrust initiative — a series of public investment programs approved by voters in 1968 and 1970 that brought lasting benefit to generations of King County residents; and

WHEREAS, the late James R. Ellis, a respected attorney, civic leader, and visionary, served as the driving force behind the Forward Thrust movement, passionately advocating for community well-being through parks, open spaces, public transportation, and recreational facilities such as the Mount Rainier Pool; and

WHEREAS, James Ellis believed that public investment in community assets was not only a matter of infrastructure, but of equity, access, and civic pride — a belief that continues to guide our mission today; and

WHEREAS, his leadership helped create a regional legacy of over 20 public pools across King County, many of which — including Mount Rainier Pool — still serve as vital "third places" for health, learning, safety, and connection; and

WHEREAS, the Des Moines Pool Metropolitan Park District, on the occasion of the pool's 50th Anniversary, recognizes the extraordinary foresight and dedication of James Ellis and those who stood alongside him to ensure that every community had access to quality aquatic spaces;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Des Moines Pool Metropolitan Park District Board of Commissioners does hereby **honor the life and legacy of James R. Ellis**, and proclaims:

- That this 50th Anniversary celebration is dedicated in his memory,
- That his contributions to King County and our local community will never be forgotten,
- That the plaque unveiled today at the Mount Rainier Pool shall stand as a tribute to his vision for healthy, connected communities, and
- That beginning in 2026, and the second Saturday of each September, the Mount Rainier Pool will offer free public access to the community in celebration of James Ellis and the enduring spirit of the Forward Thrust movement.

Adoption: ADOPTED by the **Board of Commissioners** of the **Des Moines Pool Metropolitan Park District** at an open meeting of such Board on the **9th of September 2025**, the following Commissioners being present and voting.

Pro	esident Young	Commissioner Dusenbury
Co	ommissioner Campbell	Commissioner Stender
Co	mmissioner Thorell	District Clerk

	AGENDA	ITEMS SUMMAR	RY SHEET	
Agenda Item #:	7 Assigned t	ro: President Young	Meeting Date:	September 9, 2025
Under: Meeting	End	Atta	achment:	None
Subject: Good of	of the Order			
Background/Sumn	nary:			
l. Good of the Orde egular business on		e for board and staff to s	share any upda	tes outside of the
	and agonada			
Ave S, Des N • September 2	Moines, WA) 3, 2025, Regular "I	ersary, Noon. Location I Hybrid" Board Meeting, #2B, Des Moines, WA)		·
Fiscal Impact:				
Proposed Motion:	No motion necessa	ary.		
Reviewed by Lega	al Counsel:	Yes No	Da	te: N/A
Two Touch Rule:	N/A		nittee Review	
	N/A 		Board Meeting Id Board Meeti	(Informational)
Action Taken:	Adopted			poned
Follow-up Needed	d: Yes			Date:
Notes: 50 th Anniversary Δ				

It's our birthday

Join us SUNDAY, SEPT 21 as we honor our past and dive into the future

Re-dedication Ceremony at Noon Free Public Swim 1–3^{pm}

- Dignitary speakers, ribbon-cutting plaque unveiling, and more
- Community photo & family-friendly atmosphere

Scan QR code to access our sign-up page or visit website



Brought to you by your
Des Moines Pool Metropolitan Park District

FREE 50th Birthday Rubber Duck for all attendees

Limited quantity - arrive early



22722 - 19th Ave S • Des Moines 206.824.4722 • www.MtRainierPool.com

The Pledge of Allegiance

I pledge allegiance
to the Flag
of the United States
of America,
and to the Republic
for which it stands,
one Nation under God,
indivisible, with liberty
and justice for all.

