



Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska  
**Parks & Recreation Department**

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**MEMORANDUM**

**Date:** October 18, 2024

**To:** Parks & Recreation Commission

**From:** Mike Braniff, Parks & Recreation Director

**Project:** PRC 24-13: Bartlett Municipal Pool Diving Boards

**INTRODUCTION**

At 6 PM on October 23, 2024 at Spenard Recreation Center, a special meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission will take place to address concerns that have arisen from the installation of new diving boards at Bartlett High Pool.

**BACKGROUND**

In 2022, the Alaska State Legislature appropriated \$588,000 to Dimond Alumni Association (DAA) for the replacement of diving boards at the Municipality of Anchorage’s (MOA) six pools. At the time, most of the diving boards were 30+ years old and were ready for replacement.

In August of 2023, the MOA entered into an agreement with DAA in which DAA would manage the diving board replacement project.

Before-and-after synopsis of diving board replacement at MOA pools:

<b>Pool</b>	<b>Before</b>	<b>After</b>
East High	Two 1-meter, One 3-meter	Two new 1-meter, Two new 3-meter
Bartlett High	Two 1-meter, One 3-meter	Two new 1-meter, Two new 3-meter
Service High	Two 1-meter	Two new 1-meter
Dimond High	Two 1-meter	Two new 1-meter
West High	One 1-meter	Two new 1-meter
Chugiak	Opted out due to deck replacement	N/A

Since the replacement of the diving boards, safety related question arose based on the distances between diving boards and the starting blocks, as well as elements of the building. Concerns have also been expressed by the swimming community regarding logistics of swim meets and accessibility at Bartlett Pool.

To address potential concerns of safety, the MOA Parks & Rec Department has engaged local firm Bettisworth North Architects and their sub-contractor, Councilman-Hunsaker, a firm specializing in architecture, engineering, and design of swimming pools. The two firms will deliver a report at the October 23, 2024 special meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission regarding pool, diving board and starting block safety as well as competition standards and accessibility.

The engineers drawing for new Bartlett diving boards received approval from MOA Plan Review. The new Bartlett diving boards also do not violate fire code as it relates to emergency egress.

The two new 3-meter diving boards each have a larger footprint on the deck than the previous 3-meter board had. Issues resulting from this have been expressed to the Parks and Recreation Department from members of the swimming community. Six State of Alaska legislators representing the district/area have written to the Parks & Rec Department and have requested that the diving boards be removed by October 25, 2024. Had the impact on the deck space been anticipated, a public process would have been engaged in to allow both the swimming and the diving community to speak to the issue. Though less ideal, that public process will now take place after the install of the new diving boards.

### **PUBLIC PROCESS**

At the October 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting, a presentation of findings and recommendations from Bettisworth North Architects and Councilman-Hunsaker will be given to the commissioners. The public will then be given 90 minutes to provide testimony. After which, the commissioners will be asked to make a recommendation to the Parks & Recreation Department for a course of action, if any, going forward.