

After many years of debate, in 1968, the Common Council approved the hiring of consultants to develop plans for what was then to be called, the "Municipal Pool". This was by no means a project that had unanimous support from the community. As we heard last year when I spoke about the history of the Municipal Golf Course, in similar fashion many members of the community were adamantly opposed to adding a pool, in this case either because of where it might be located, or for fear of adding to their financial burden through higher taxes. While the then Mayor and Council were in favor of it, approval of the pool only happened after many public hearings that ultimately culminated in a referendum. The Summit Taxpayers Association, formed a year earlier in 1967, fought hard for the referendum as they feared the pool fees would not cover the cost of construction and usage.

The referendum was close. 2,328 voted for the pool, 2,171 voted against it. That's 51.7% in favor, 48.3% against. While not much of a mandate, Common Council thankfully authorized the project, and construction on the pool commenced in 1971. Costing \$505,000, the Municipal Pool, now called the Summit Family Aquatic Center, opened in 1972 and has been a center piece of our community ever since. And despite fears from the Summit Taxpayer Association, to this day, happily, has been a self-funding enterprise thanks to the dedication and hard work of our Department of Community Program leadership.