

# Bob Mollette

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Councilman

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Correspondence#: 08-026

June 23, 2008

Jim Kalb, Mayor  
728 Second Street  
Portsmouth, Ohio 45662

### Re: Response to Delay in Opening the McKinley Pool

I appreciate the response from the Public Service Director concerning the delay in the opening of the McKinley Pool (enclosed). I requested additional information from you in correspondence #08-024 dated June 11, 2008 in an effort to seek options or temporary solutions to avoid further delays in opening the pool this year and hopefully avoid such delays in the future with better communication.

I am dissatisfied with the lack of communication to Council and poor planning that delays the opening of McKinley Pool for the 2008 season. The delay and complications in opening the pool for the 2008 season had not been discussed in any Council meeting in order to gain support and available opinion prior to the PDT newspaper article. I was disappointed a citizen's valid questions were not answered at the June 9, 2008 Council meeting. Let's be clear, I am echoing valid concerns expressed by others, which is my position as a citizen advocate.

I am seeking to understand the delay in opening McKinley Pool with the answers to the following questions, which were not answered by the June 3, 2008 PDT newspaper article or by your office:

1. If renovations were being planned over the last year, why was the work not scheduled to be completed either before Memorial Day, May 26, 2008 or after Labor Day, September 1, 2008?
2. It was noted the renovations would repair long-term problems but only mentioned the concrete repair. What are the other long-term repairs and is it possible to plan repairs around the pool season?
3. The bid opening was anticipated for June 20, 2008 with three (3) weeks to complete the work, which is July 11, 2008. Is four (4) days adequate time to open the pool? What is the current timeline?

If you should have any questions or additional comments contact me.

Respectfully,



Bob Mollette, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Advocate and Representative on City Council

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Enclosure

cc: Christopher L. Murphy, Director of Public Service  
Honorable Council Members  
Michael Jones, Solicitor  
Jo Ann Aeh, Clerk (Record)



City of Portsmouth, Public Service Department

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Christopher L. Murphy  
Public Service Director

June 16, 2008

Councilman Bob Mollette  
3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Council Person  
1705 Franklin Blvd.  
Portsmouth, OH 45662

Re: Correspondence 08-024

Dear Councilman:

In your memo you state "...citizens expressed frustration with the delay opening of the McKinley Pool as result of a renovation project." First of all, according to council minutes, only one resident spoke on McKinley Pool and two others briefly mentioned the pool not being opened, giving the appearance of just echoing someone else's complaint.

You further state... "Due to the lack of communication the citizens identify this delay as poor planning and just not caring about our most valuable resource, our children." I explained to Mr. Smith at either a March or April Council Meeting what the plan was for the pool. I again explained to Mr. Smith what was going on with the pool when he visited the Public Service Department a few weeks ago. I further communicated my intent through the "*Portsmouth Daily Times*" in a front page article titled "McKinley Pool Renovation to Begin, Opening is Delayed"; dated 3 June 2008; written by T.W. Allen; Staff Writer. In that article the plan, process, and projected timeline was very well communicated. Just because the timeline is not favorable with a few residents does not make it a "poor plan". Furthermore, as an advocate for *Playful City USA*, I am offended by the insinuation that we don't care about our children.

If you desire a timeline of the plan with a projected opening I recommend you read the above article where the information was "communicated."

Sincerely,

Christopher L. Murphy  
Director of Public Service  
City of Portsmouth

CF:  
Mayor Kalb