

New Pool to Stay in Williams Park

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The Antioch Village Board has reached a consensus on the site for a new aquatic center, agreeing that when the new facility is constructed it should be built in Williams Park.

The majority of trustees agreed Nov. 1 that the aquatic center should be built at Williams, a site trustees and a design firm representative touted as being close to downtown and transportation.

“Williams Park, from my perspective, fits in perfectly with what we want to do downtown,” said Trustee Dennis Crosby.

He mentioned the site’s proximity to shopping and dining.

Dustin Nilsen, director of community development, said the consensus was needed so village staff could submit a grant application for the project.

Before trustees were asked for their opinions, however, residents were surveyed to learn their thoughts on where a new aquatic center should be constructed. Tod Stanton of Design Perspectives, a firm working on the project with Aurora-based PHN architects, said 180 surveys were completed.

“It seems like Williams is the preferred site,” said Stanton.

Williams is the home of the village’s existing, aging pool.

Survey respondents were given two choices for the pool site: Williams or the village-owned Bitner property on North Avenue.

“No one said the Bitner property is the best site,” said Stanton.

Aside from being further away from transportation and Antioch’s downtown, the Bitner property is a raw piece of land, whereas Williams already has water, electric and sanitary sewer, Stanton said.

“Fundamentally, you have a lot of the building blocks there,” said Stanton. “Williams is probably a safe bet.”

Trustees raised concerns about the Williams site potentially not having enough parking. Trustee Scott Pierce said the Bitner property would provide the easiest access for all residents and would have more space for future growth. The Bitner property consists of 12 acres, whereas the Williams property has 7.6 acres.

“I think this board’s got to step up to the plate ... and just do it. Pick a spot,” said Mayor Lawrence Hanson. “Let’s pick it, let’s go with it and finally get something done.”

In a show of hands, five of the six trustees favored Williams.