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**Pool Site**

1 message

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**Karen Swartz** <karen.swartz0@gmail.com>

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To: Boyce Deltz &lt;boycedeltz@jacksonnc.org&gt;, Brian McMahan &lt;brianmcmahan@jacksonnc.org&gt;, Charles Elders &lt;charleselders@jacksonnc.org&gt;, Mickey Luker &lt;mickeyluker@jacksonnc.org&gt;, Ron Mau &lt;ronmau@jacksonnc.org&gt;

Recent discussion about the site for a new indoor pool have caused me some concern I would like to offer some considerations regarding this siting decision.

I understand that some parts of the county feel underserved when it comes to parks and recreation facilities, but an indoor pool is not just like another playing field or building with some exercise equipment. The county will not likely ever build another indoor pool. Building it in a central location seems the fairest approach so the Cullowhee location seems to fit that goal. While concern for Whittier has been expressed, they are about 8 miles from the indoor pool in Cherokee. Sylva has an outdoor pool, Mark Watson Park, Poteet Park, and Bridge Park.

Cullowhee is also the fastest growing area in the county. Some may point to the pool at WCU as an existing facility that is available, but that pool is seldom open to the public and frequent breaks mean it is available to no one. I have participated in the one water exercise class open to the public for years and I can attest that the classes are becoming more crowded as the student and faculty/staff population has grown. I am sure there will be more demand to come.

The final consideration is cost. This will involve a huge investment of county funds for a rural county that does not have deep pockets. I understand that there is room available to build the pool at the Jackson County Recreation Center in Cullowhee. This seems like the responsible thing to do to make this popular facility available to the people of Jackson County.

Thank you for listening to my concerns. I am encouraged that you are pursuing this project. The health of the citizens of Jackson County would be improved by this facility.

Karen Swartz  
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