

## Resolution: Keep the Lindbergh High School Pool Open

In 1968, King County voters approved funding that included a community pool to be built and operated at Lindbergh High School in Renton, Washington. King County Government maintained the pool until 2008 when funding shifted to the City of Renton (annexation of Benson Hill community) and eventual change of ownership to the Renton School District where appropriation was made for pool operation through the 2009-2010 school term. The Renton School District projection for the coming 2010-2011 school year shows that operation cost will exceed rentals by \$175,000. The school district is proposing closure of the pool and the elimination of forty (40) full and part time pool jobs.

**Whereas:** Elimination of the pool would negatively impact the property values in this southeast neighborhood. A wholesome family gathering place will be lost to the community, the only public recreational facility in the neighborhood. There are no public playfields, trails, community centers, cultural venues or library branches.

**Whereas:** Seven swim teams including four from Lindbergh and Kentridge High Schools, and those who use the pool physical therapy and rehabilitation facilities would have to travel across the city to Hazen High School. The Renton School District will have to incur the cost of bussing the Lindbergh teams to Hazen. Closure would eliminate the leading swimming lesson delivery pool in South King County that serves a very diverse and growing population.

**Whereas:** No clear evidence has been found for the “millions of dollars of repairs” as suggested by recent reports in the local media. Over the last two years, the pool has yielded significantly more revenue and declining operating expenses we see its feasibility, with community assistance, as being increasing viable.

**Therefore, be it resolved** that the King County Democratic Central Committee stand with the Renton communities of Benson Hill and Cascade to keep the community open. Community involvement is necessary and the community group has assembled and is in the process of filing for a grant through Public Health-Seattle and King County Communities Putting Prevention to Work.

Information submitted by Tom Reiter and James Flynn of the Benson Hill Community Progress Group.

Written, edited, and sponsored by Susan Sheary, KCDCC Chair

April 24, 2010

If passed on April 27, 2010, resolution would be sent to the HEAL board: King County Executive Dow Constantine, King County Council Member Julia Patterson, Seattle Mayor Mike McGinn, Kent Mayor Suzette Cook, and 33<sup>rd</sup> District State Senator Karen Keiser.