



STATEMENT ON RECENT AQUATIC AREA CLOSURE

October 24, 2024

The team at the RAC understands that having the Aquatic Area closed is not ideal but this is being done for everyone's safety in mind. The mayor has been informed and understands that making the system operational as quickly and safely as possible is a top priority.

Our HVAC unit has been failing and though we have put in over \$170,000 on the unit the past few years, the elements for an aquatic center puts a toll on the equipment. During the 2024-2025 budgeting process money was allocated to replace our system with full support of the City of Romulus and our owner the City of Romulus TIFA Board. As we got closer to the start of the Fiscal Year in July, we discussed and started the final planning of the new HVAC unit which was budgeted at \$700,000. Unfortunately, as we went to pull the trigger the company providing the equipment abruptly went out of business. We immediately discussed with our HVAC service provider to rebid the equipment and provide a new pricing. With expectations to be in the \$700,000 range the new price, just for the equipment, came in at \$1,500,000 not including labor and installation. During this rebidding process a significant power surge occurred knocking out 3 of the 4 motors in our current HVAC system. We immediately got quotes and ordered these new motors. The motors are currently in storage awaiting the approval of the FAA. Since we are close to the airport and its runways, special permits with the Federal Aviation Administration is required. The permit our contractor originally submitted for other work got cancelled by the FAA requiring a new application to be submitted. This process bounces around the country for all the authorizations, and we are currently waiting for the final approval.

Our system has been running at reduced quality requiring the exterior doors to be opened to ensure proper air quality.

On Monday, October 21 our team, while investigating a water failure within the facility (totally separate issue), heard weird noises coming from the HVAC unit. Upon inspection they found that the other portion of our system went into failure. Our HVAC company has been working diligently to find all the causes. The main issue was fixed and when they



went to start the system up again additional failures occurred. They are currently working to replace those parts. Keep in mind that these systems are very old and have been rebuilt multiple times.

As always, these systems are not on the shelf equipment for purchase and are special orders. We will continue to work to get the pools back open.

The Romulus Athletic Center, in the past three years with its ownerships support, has provided more than \$1.5 million dollars in capital funds for upgrades which includes: new flooring on the fitness floor, new fitness equipment, a new roof, new tables/chairs in the cafe, the vinyl window shades in the gym, many new pumps for the Aquatic Area, slide refurbishment, rock wall repairs, parking lot refurbishment, new carpet in the Cirrus Banquet Room.

Additional unbudgeted projects that were recently completed due to equipment failures include the installation of new water heaters (\$30,000), a new whirlpool pump for the lazy river (\$15,000, installed today), a new pump for the lap pool due to a recent leak(\$15,000), the main filter pump for the river (\$26,000), and 1 of the 4 sand filter systems for the river underwent refurbishment, costing \$14,000. That is an additional \$100,000 that was not budgeted.

We also are in final stages of planning for the RAC to have Solar Power which we expect to reduce our utility bills significantly. This is a \$750,000 project.

As we said before we hate to close the RAC down for any reason, but we do so in 99% of the cases due to Safety Concerns for our customers and staff.

The RAC, with the support of the City of Romulus and our owners City of Romulus TIFA board, will continue to make improvements. Please bear with us during these troubling times and trust that many improvements have occurred and will continue to happen in the near future.

Sincerely,

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