

Seneca weighs water recreation options

'Y' indicates interest in water park

BY LADONNA BEEKER
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — Liability costs and pool repairs will likely be the deciding factors when city officials decide whether to reopen the city's pool or explore other options, such as a splash pad.

The city pool has been closed the past two summers.

Seneca Finance Clerk Joel Seavey said Monday the cost for liability insurance for a swimming pool in the city is \$2,700 a year. However, Seavey said if

the city chooses to create a splash pad, there would be no increase in liability insurance costs.

Aside from liability insurance, city officials also have to consider the cost of repairs to the existing pool.

Mayor pro Tem Ronnie O'Kelley asked Seavey and Recreation Director Rick Lacey to gather bids to repair the closed pool.

"We don't know until we know," O'Kelley said in regard to the cost for repairs.

Seavey said a splash pad that includes three different areas, such as toddler, teen and family areas,

would cost the city \$200,000 to install. However, there are smaller splash pads that would cost about \$70,000.

"The splash pad is a popular thing no matter where you go," O'Kelley said.

"There is zero liability and the kids seem to love it."

City Administrator Greg Dietterick outlined a third option to the water park committee on Monday. He said that the area YMCA contacted him about working together to create a water park.

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OPTIONS: Location a concern

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Dietterick said the talks are preliminary and no details were fully discussed.

"I see no sense in duplicating efforts," Dietterick said, adding that he told YMCA representatives the city would consider partnering.

The water park's location would be Seneca's primary concern. If a partner-

ship is created, Dietterick said, right now, talks are leaning toward players being the YMCA, Oconee County, Oconee Medical Center and the city of Seneca.

"We've got a lot of options," O'Kelley said. "We will put out (information) about the pool and see what we have to work with."

ladonna@dailyjournal.com | (864) 973-6684



A Splashpad® can have different areas for toddlers, teens and the whole family. This is one of several options Seneca leaders are exploring to bring water recreation back to the area. It will cost the city no additional liability insurance and can range from \$70,000 to \$200,000 to install.

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