

Harrington Park Swim Club
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May 11, 2020

Dear Friends of the Harrington Park Swim Club,

It goes without saying that there's a lot of uncertainty in our world right now. Though the Swim Club plays a big part of our lives during the summer, you probably have bigger things on your minds right now. We wanted to write you to let you know that the uncertainty around the world and in our community has forced us into a decision we hoped not to make. We have decided it would be unwise to open the Swim Club this summer. Some of you have already paid for this year's membership. We have not cashed those checks. We will send you a separate email asking how we should dispose of your check.

Here's what drove this decision. As you know, our swim club, like many others, is under a great deal of financial pressure. Given the financial pressures on people, and an understandable reluctance to be in close proximity with others this year, we had to conclude that we would not have a good season. We simply cannot afford to have a bad season that could jeopardize the viability of the swim club.

In talking with our management team, we came to the conclusion that we could reopen for the summer of 2021 with no deleterious effect on our facilities. That is what we anticipate doing.

It may be helpful for you to understand that many of our costs are fixed. No matter the number of people who are at the pool, we still have to pay a large, fixed amount to open and close it. By state law, we have to provide at least three lifeguards every moment that we're open, so labor costs are relatively fixed, no matter how many people are there. A significant portion of our budget is for opening, winterizing, and chemicals.

We know some of you are going a little stir crazy at this point, and would welcome a summer of hanging out at the pool. Clearly, this temporary closure represents a loss to all of us. Your board unanimously felt, however, that opening for this summer exposed us to significant losses that we are not in a position to handle.

There are still some tasks that have to happen at the pool this spring and summer. Last year some of you generously helped keep our expenses down by volunteering to mow the lawn. We would greatly appreciate your help with this job again. If you are willing to help this year, please respond to this email to let us know of your availability.

In the wake of this unprecedented situation, there will be any number of joyous re-gatherings in the future. Our kids and grandkids will be relieved when they return to school, and we delight in the irony of that! Religious congregations will be glad to once again gather for worship. We anticipate returning to our favorite restaurants, assuming they can weather the current storm. And we will rejoice once again in gathering at our beloved Harrington Park Swim Club in the spring and summer of 2021!

Thank you for being part of the Harrington Park Swim Club. It is a special place and you are special people.

Most sincerely,
The Board of Trustees of the Harrington Park Swim Club