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# Boone gives OK for park annexation

BY PAUL MCKIBBEN • PMCKIBBEN@NKY.COM • JULY 16, 2010

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The Boone County Fiscal Court has agreed to allow the Union City Commission to annex Union Pool and adjacent park property into city limits.



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Paul McKibben/Staff

Boone County owns and operates Union Pool in Union.

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The action does not mean the county is transferring ownership or the responsibility to maintain the property to the city. It is located on Old Union Road.

Judge-executive Gary Moore said during the July 13 fiscal court meeting there is nothing in the county's budget for improvements or "on the drawing board at this point but if in the future something was done it would be beneficial to both entities, the city and the county, to partner and work together."

Potentially, Moore said, the city would have a better opportunity to get a grant or use its resources to apply for one to make improvements.

After the meeting, Moore said if Union wanted to develop the park there would still have to be an agreement because the county owns the property. He said the county would be happy to collaborate with the city.

Union Mayor Don Kirby did not attend the meeting. But he said via e-mail that trails, a playground and an open space for sports would be great amenities to the area.

The city does not have a parks department nor does it have any parks.

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Kirby said he cannot see the city at some point acquiring Union Pool and the adjacent park property.

"We have a very tight budget which would not allow for the resources or personnel necessary to maintain the park. Boone County has the staff and knows how to run and maintain the park," he said. "Union citizens already pay taxes for Boone County parks and it would seem an inefficient use of tax dollars for Union to own and maintain the park."

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The county's 2006 parks master plan update recommended developing a family outdoor aquatic center at Union Pool. County Commissioner Terri Moore said in May she would like to see a project involving a special needs playground at the park to at least get started before she leaves office at the end of the year.

The city has been using an old firehouse on Old Union Road that it now owns as a community building for various community social events. The building is available to be rented by groups or individuals, too.

The two properties are a combined 43 acres. The Fiscal Court voted 4-0 to approve the measure.

Kirby said the city wants to annex the property.

"By extending our boundaries, we prevent the property from being annexed by another municipality," he said. "This gives Union citizens a greater voice in the future plans for the area."

County Administrator Jeff Earlywine said the city could still change its mind and decline to annex the property now. He said it will be their prerogative.

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