

From the Office of the Mayor



500 Fourth Avenue NE  
Austin, Minnesota 55912-3773  
Phone: 507-437-9965  
Fax: 507-434-7197  
[www.ci.austin.mn.us](http://www.ci.austin.mn.us)

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## PRESS STATEMENT

It is with great disappointment to hear that the YMCA board failed to approve the Lease Agreement recently approved by the City Council for operations of a new \$35 million Community Recreation Center. The lease agreement was formally presented to the YMCA in January and many hours were put into the compromise agreement that eventually reached consensus at the Council work session on May 16th where the YMCA and Vision 2020 representatives gave endorsement of the agreement.

Following this approval there continued to be concerns from the YMCA and the City Council again made further accommodation of the YMCA's requests when they formally adopted the final version at the June 6<sup>th</sup> meeting that narrowly gained the necessary votes for approval.

Throughout this process the City took a collaborative approach that recognized the YMCA was responsible for the operations of the facility. However, the City also had to protect the public access portions of the building to ensure it meet the Vision 2020 mission statement goals for the recreations center that it be "a welcoming place for everyone" (not just YMCA members) and "affordable."

To unravel an agreement that had over twenty five specific drafts, years of work and over five months of specific work on the agreement itself is wholly unanticipated, unprecedented and quite frankly shocking.

We wish them well and terribly regret that the promise of a Community Recreation Center has come to an apparent conclusion given the YMCA's board actions.