



CITY OF DOVER

POOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: Dover Indoor Pool Meeting Room, 6 Henry Law Ave, Dover, NH
Meeting Date: Monday, November 21, 2022
Meeting Time: **7:00pm**

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 7:00.

Roll Call: Jess Bonello, Christophe Cloitre, Tim Paiva, Suzanne Petersen (citizen volunteer), Steve Wyman

City Personnel Present: Gary Bannon, Erika Friedman, Erika Holton, Deb Hackett

Absent: Pat Campbell, Chris Sleys

Approval of Agenda: n/a

Approval of Minutes from May 16, 2022:

Christophe Cloitre made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Tim Paiva seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Citizens' Forum: n/a

Reports:

Gary:

- The ventilation system is currently not working optimally. The situation should be resolved soon.
- The tunnel stairs and walls have been painted with artwork. It is lit at night, but during rainy days, daylight is sometimes inadequate for good visibility and safety. Optional lighting during daytime is being explored.
- Lighting will be installed to highlight the whale's tail on the roof and the community art project on the Henry Law Avenue wall.

Erika F.:

- Offerings to patrons have increased substantially, with 34% more lessons for kids and adults, swim team prep classes, and hydrofitness.
- Offering lessons during weekday mornings and evenings has resulted in much more interest among patrons.
- Swim lessons are being filled by Dover residents and non-residents.

Erika H.:

- Work is on-going to make lesson programs better match American Red Cross procedures and standards.
- Registration is almost entirely on-line and patrons are becoming more accustomed to setting up accounts and registering for classes.
- Lessons fill up, but the rush to be first in line is no longer a necessity.



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Finance and budget:

- Revenue so far is up compared to last year, but increased expenses are keeping the overall budget higher than anticipated.

New sports facility:

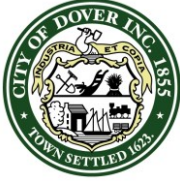
- A contingent from Dover visited sites in Wellesley, Mass. and in Manchester/Bedford and conferred with the owners/mangers of those sites. Both operations have pros and cons. One has more experience with financing and building, but wants to defer management to another entity. The other has limited interest in financing, but can offer strong programming and flexibility. There are on-going concerns about the need for and feasibility of a 50-meter pool.
- **Next steps:**
 - The city will enter into a semi-official phase to negotiate confidentially with the two entities to combine their strengths and update the needs analysis.
 - The official offer will need city council approval, at which time the proposal details will be made public.
 - Negotiations will be between Dover officials and the sports complexes.

Jenny Thompson Pool renovation, Guppy Park:

- Additional evaluation and projected costs have been completed, with significantly more work needed and a total bill of over \$1 million.
- Work will not begin this year as planned and is currently forecasted to begin in fall 2023 and possibly continue through spring 2024.
- In the meantime, the full job will be divided into phases and prioritized.
- With proposed work at Guppy Park to build the skate park, other issues have been identified and need to be addressed:
 - the pavilion on the hill is not accessible
 - crossing Route 4 is dangerous and needs safety improvements
 - the pool and overall site are not universally accessible
 - the loading dock is a significant impediment and is not serving the intended purpose, so it will be removed and replaced with access ramps
 - Oak Street is dangerous for cyclists and pedestrians and the Oak Street bridge is on the NHDoT priority list for renovations, but nobody knows when work will begin.

New business:

- Pool managers are being tasked with guarding for extended periods due to a shortage of other staff to cover early morning and evenings. They propose trimming early morning and evening sessions temporarily. This would mean altering the published schedule by eliminating two early



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bird sessions, leaving 3, and eliminating the Monday evening swim. The committee discussed the proposed changes and agreed that they were reasonable.

- Gary is busy drafting the FY2024 budget for submission to the city council. Energy costs will surely increase, but he is trying to hold the overall budget to current levels.
- Growing pains:
 - Demand for pool time has increased significantly and some conflicts among users have been noted.
 - At the Indoor Pool, therapy swim now is for walkers and non-swimmers only.
 - Lap swim is for swimmers only, no walkers.
 - More rec swim time has been made available almost every day, and people with mixed needs have been encouraged to come during rec swim.
 - After some initial grumbling, most patrons are now accepting the changes.
 - At the outdoor pool, patrons had to contend with mixed use between competitive swimming and lap swimming. It was suggested to designate certain lanes as competition lanes or lap lanes only, but most young lifeguards avoid confrontation and do not always enforce the different lane designations for the various swimming speeds.

Adjournment:

Christophe Cloitre made a motion to adjourn. Tim Paiva seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:05.