



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, September 18, 2023
Meeting Time: **7:00pm**

DRAFT

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

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

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

Absent: Shawn Mickelonis, Jessica Nyby

Approval of Agenda: n/a

Approval of Minutes from March 20, 2023:

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

Citizens' Forum: n/a

Reports:

Gary:

- Despite all the rain, summer at the pools was good.
- The opening of the outdoor pool was delayed for some repairs. It stayed in decent condition, but there were a few issues. The backwashing system malfunctioned at least twice, leading to a drop in water depth of approximately 10 inches. Filling was complicated by water use for construction at the new skatepark. The system required lots of manual maintenance and tweaking.

Erika:

- The indoor pool had a limited but consistent schedule over the summer.
- This past summer was one of the strongest for swim lessons, serving almost 300 kids. All who wanted lessons got them.
- Going forward, information about pool memberships will be clear about non-transferability between the indoor and outdoor pool and that the summer indoor pool schedule will be limited compared to the non-summer schedule.
- Five swim meets were held at the outdoor pool.
- Fall programs include adult swim lessons twice a week and children's lessons four times a week. Some children had to be put on wait lists.
- Training and recruiting new staff members remain a priority and extends beyond the traditional means.



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- The fall schedule includes more swim time than last year and is getting closer to pre-pandemic offerings.
- The Mighty Seals do not currently have a coach and have no scheduled time at the pool. When a coach is hired, time will be set aside for these athletes.

Finances:

- The pools had revenue well above predicted levels and lower-than-expected expenses. Gary expects to prepare a budget similar to previous budgets.

Long-range planning:

- Prospects for a new competition athletic facility in Dover that would have included an Indoor 50 meter pool appear to have disappeared at present.

Old Business

Jenny Thompson Pool Renovation Plan Status:

- Six years ago, the city approved \$500,000 for needed improvements. Experts recently did a full evaluation and provided an estimate of \$3.6 million to do everything that was needed or strategically prudent. Realistically, a price tag of \$1.2 million seems to be workable for a Phase One.
- The original thinking was to replace the shell, decking, and plumbing, but the gutter is clearly an additional issue that needs to be addressed.
- Gary has applied for a \$500,000 grant, but we will not know if we will get the award until summer 2024. If we get the grant, we can request bids, but not before.
- The current plan is to do the needed work in two phases. Phase one will be the more visible liner, deck, and gutters. Phase two will be plumbing and pumps.
- Despite old age issues, the pool can probably be functional without any major work for a few more years in its current state.

Skatepark Construction Update:

- Nearing completion

New Business

Fall Programs and Pool Schedule:

Under Reports Erika

CIP Budget Submittal Status:

Under old business, Jenny Thompson Pool renovation plan status



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CIP requests:

- Indoor pool lobby locker rooms need to be updated.
- Indoor pool lighting: we need lighting that is designed for humid environments.
- Indoor pool and Children's Museum solar panels that were installed 5 years ago are currently being expensed as debt payments. If we buy the panels, we can start to get the full value of the savings.

Other:

- Given the on-going issues of creating a workable schedule to meet the community's needs with part-time staffers, it was suggested that having a few full-time life guards who are eligible for benefits might provide us with the flexibility that we currently lack.
- Adults continue to express the desire to return to the consistent pre-pandemic schedule that included early bird hours, a 2-hour mid-day lap time, and evening hours.
- The pool management team is working hard to accommodate patrons needs and wishes but there is a limited ability to offer competitive wages and benefit packages to prospective employees.
- Patrons have expressed gratitude for the new shower heads.

Adjournment:

Steve Wyman made a motion to adjourn. Pat Campbell seconded. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:00.