

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 20, 2023
Meeting Time: **7:00pm**

DRAFT

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 7:03.

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

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

Absent: Erika Holton, Shawn Mikelonis

Approval of Agenda: n/a

Approval of Minutes from September 18, 2023:

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

Citizens' Forum: n/a

Reports:

Gary:

- The HVAC system is susceptible to power surges and then fails to power back up to full capacity. The system is slowly being rebuilt.
- LED lights were installed 5-6 years ago, but they are not good in high-humidity settings and do not work well consistently. Engineers are evaluating potential changes, including repositioning new light so they don't shine directly down and into swimmers' eyes.
- New bleachers have been installed that conform to modern safety codes.
- The CIP budget has been submitted and includes the purchase of solar panels for \$150,000 that had initially been rented. The panels are projected to last 40 years and will result in direct savings to the city. The filter system will probably be the next CIP item, but it is OK for now.

Erika:

- The fall schedule includes more swim time than last year and is getting closer to pre-pandemic offerings.
- Fall swim lessons included 34 programs and served 180 enrollees.
- Life guard classes continue and have resulted in 4 new hires.
- Staffing weekends remains a problem, especially Sunday.



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- The Mighty Seals still 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:

- Swim lessons continue to generate good revenue and expenses to the city remain at normal levels. Year-to-date is similar to last year.

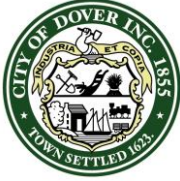
Old Business

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 \$3.9 million to do everything that was needed or strategically prudent. Realistically, a price tag of \$2.5 million seems to be workable.
- 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 City is proposing in the first year of the CIP an additional \$1.5 million to go with the current \$500,000 and the grant funds for a total of \$2.5 million by late 2024 to start the significant aspects of the renovation project.
- 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. With the needed improvements, the city should realistically expect to get 20 more years from the pool without another major overhaul.

Skatepark Construction Update:

- The park was officially opened in September, open daily until 9:30. The lighting is perfect, with no dark pockets.
- The park is a big hit and is attracting users from more than an hour's drive away. Local users and travelers alike are taking good care of the park and are respectful.
- The picnic shelter had to be removed due to safety issues, but the concrete pad is ready for a new building at any time.
- The Rotary Club has purchased a small shelter near the skate fixtures and plans a learn-to-skate pad.
- The designated graffiti wall is serving the needs of users to express their creativity and content so far has been entirely respectful and appropriate for a public space.
- Given the increased activity at the park, including at night, homeless people are not on site as much anymore.



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- Now that the skate park is up and running, and two busy ice arenas are on-site, the pool really needs to be upgraded to complete the trifecta. The concept of formal trails is also being explored.

New Business

Fall Status of Programs and Winter Schedule:

Above in Erika's report

Budget Submittal Status:

- Indoor pool lobby locker rooms need to be updated.
- Better lighting that is designed for humid environments is needed.
- 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 energy that is generated.
- Budgets from the past few years included many cuts. Gary is gently trying to bring the budget back to earlier levels to include more flexibility with supplies and other line items.

Other:

A 10% discount on memberships will be offered in early January.

Adjournment:

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