



**CITY OF DOVER**

## DOVER POOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting  
Meeting Location: Indoor Pool, Meeting Room, Henry Law Ave, Dover, NH  
Meeting Date: Monday, October 1, 2012  
Meeting Time: **7:00pm**

### DRAFT

Members present: Dick Arnold, Jess Bonello, Pat Campbell, Dawn Haines, Tim Paiva, Suzanne Petersen, Phil Read

Staff present: Gary Bannon

Guest: Jared Felker, head coach of Seacoast Swim Association

Absent: Mick Arsenault (excused), Sue Medbery (excused), Mike Weeden

Meeting began at 7:02.

Approval of agenda: Dick made a motion to approve. Suzanne seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of minutes from Aug. 20, 2012: Dick made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Tim seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Citizens' forum: n/a

### Reports:

#### Gary:

- The boiler piping project will take place this week at the indoor pool. The pool will be closed for three days. The header pipe crosses 4 boilers. It is 15 years old and has many leaks. The replacement will have isolation valves so that if one boiler goes down in the future, the remaining boilers can work independently. The project is being paid for with city contingency funds.
- The winterization and shut down of the outdoor pool is proceeding.
- Capital improvement project presentation will take place Wednesday. Of key interest to the pools is a roof replacement for the indoor pool. The predicted cost is estimated to be around \$50,000. If possible, Gary would like to include plans for sky lights and/or energy saving measures to coincide with roof replacement work.
- Bids for the Henry Law Park renovation have been received. Finalist bidders will be interviewed next week. The city has budgeted \$125,000 for the project. PSNH will make a sizable contribution and the Children's Museum will apply for some grants to help with certain elements of the plan. The goal is to begin work in the summer of 2013.
- Per Mick, swim lesson registrations have begun for the fall term. Sue M. is out with an injury and cannot attend meetings, but she wants to remain engaged with the committee. Mick is spending 15 hrs/wk doing life guarding duties due to a lack of applicants. If anyone knows of someone who might be interested, please let Mick know.



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### Marketing/fundraising:

- The lack of good signage needs to be addressed soon. This is a priority.
- Dover Swims week will tentatively take place the first week of January. Key draws will be the New Year's Resolution membership discount, teen movie, free advice to improve swimming style, and kayak safety.
- Pool-a-Thon efforts are not yielding the enthusiasm and income for the pools that the committee had hoped for. The sub-committee discussed steering away from this activity, but Gary noted that it was important to have a fundraising event during the current fiscal year. The 2013 swim clinic will not take place until the next fiscal year. The sub-committee will meet with Jared Felker to discuss making it more of a standard USA Swimming-sanctioned event and make use of their materials and strategies. The proposed time would be after the winter holidays.
- Efforts to sell advertising packages to local businesses are in progress. The ice arena will be used as a model both for packages and legal terms. Mick and Jesse Bickford will compile packages and produce materials that potential advertisers can use to help them decide what offerings could best meet their needs. They will try to have this done by mid-December.
- Details for the 2013 swim clinic will begin in earnest in the near future. Dawn and Jared will work together to maximize the event's potential.

### Long-range planning:

Tim reported that the proposal of the private entity to build a new facility seems to be quiescent at this time.

### Finance and budget:

Phil reported that the net share of the city's expense to run the pools in FY 2011 and FY 2012 were similar, about \$290,000. He pointed out some anomalies: very high gas expense for the indoor pool for the summer and a very low budget estimate, higher than expected staff expenses for the indoor pool. Gary knew of the sewer bill and that an error had occurred in which an extra digit was added to the actual bill, making the expense appear ten times higher than it should have been and that has been corrected. He will look into the other expense issues.

### Apple Harvest Day, Oct. 6:

Suzanne reported that she has been unable to contact the volunteer who organized the booth the last two years. She is still trying to make contact, but in the meantime, she asked members to sign up for a two hour slot. Raffle prizes were discussed; most will be pool-based offerings this year. Poster boards and other publicity from last year will be tracked down with Mick.



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### Seacoast Swim Association Pool Consultant Findings:

Tim, speaking as president of SSA, reported that SSA had asked Isaac Sports Group (ISG) to study the feasibility of converting the Jenny Thompson Outdoor Pool into a year-round aquatic center. He reviewed the specific project goals. Among the chief goals was to retain and build upon the pool as a place for the community's general aquatic needs (lessons, therapy, exercise) as well as competition.

ISG reported in its summary and conclusion, "Based on analysis of operational and program costs and conservative projections of facility and program revenue and sponsorship potential, the Jenny Thompson Aquatic Center can meet annual operating, program, staffing and maintenance costs with an operating surplus to support significant debt service."

SSA is awaiting final drawings and a timeline, but preliminary materials make the following recommendations:

- Build a new facility and pool where the Jenny Thompson Outdoor Pool currently is located. (Starting fresh would be less expensive than retrofitting current pool.)
- Build an eight lane, 50 meter competition pool that is 25 yards wide. The pool would be rectangular including a diving area located approximately where it is now. When not being used for competition, the pool would have 20 x 25 yard lanes for lap swimming and/or multiple team practices.
- Build a second, 25 yard pool consisting of 5 lanes to be used for therapy and swim lessons. The water at this pool would be considerably warmer.
- Build supporting buildings for locker rooms, office space, and viewing galleries.
- Plan for total construction time to be less than one year.

Tim has presented the proposal and findings to other teams, Gary, and the city manager. The city manager suggested considering an entirely different location adjacent to the planned waterfront development. ISG has indicated it is willing to create a plan at this other site, but exact conditions at the site are not currently known. The site was formerly used as a city landfill and is used for Youth League baseball games. Tim will make presentations to the Recreation Advisory Board and the city council soon.

### Discussion:



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- Target market boundaries are Portland, ME, Nashua, NH, and Haverhill, MA.
- Estimated total cost of the project is dependent on location and amount of amenities which are currently being discussed.
- This is proposed to be a public/private partnership with a 501 (c) (3) non-profit that would manage the facility and rent it to SSA and other groups.
- The nonprofits goal is to raise a substantial portion of the capital costs in 18 months to get work under way.
- First step: to come to an agreement with the city to lease land; second step: raise the capital money.
- It was asked if the project is approved can we have assurances that the Indoor Pool will be kept open and operational during construction of the new facility.
- Comments were made that it appears that if the new facility is built in all likelihood it will force the Indoor Pool to close. Also, if the site chosen is next to the waterfront development the city may also have to repay the government for funding to build the outdoor pool if it is closed or see if the new facility can be designated as the replacement. The legal obligations will have to be looked into as this process moves forward.

**Motion: Phil made a motion for DPAC to support the concept of the Jenny Thompson Aquatic Center. Dick seconded. 5 yes votes, 2 abstentions.**

Other business:

The fundraising/marketing sub-committee will meet at **6:30, not 6:00** on Monday, Oct. 15.

Adjournment: Dick made a motion to adjourn. Tim seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:45.

Respectfully Submitted by Suzanne