

City of Calistoga COMMUNITY POOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Members: Kerry Eddy
Lindsey Richardson
Shirley Blomquist
David Moon-Wainwright
Olivia Lemen

MEETING NOTES Friday, February 24, 2012 Calistoga Community Center 1307 Washington Street

1 **The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.**

2 Members present included Kerry Eddy, Lindsey Richardson, David Moon-
3 Wainwright and Aquatic and Recreation Manager Olivia Lemen.

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5 **Adoption of the December 2nd Meeting Minutes**

6 The minutes were pass unanimously by a motion from Commissioner Eddy and
7 seconded by Commissioner Blomquist.

8
9 **Public Comment**

10 Tom Sherman suggested that there be a community brainstorming and strategic
11 plan created for the pool to promote year round usage of the pool. Commented
12 that no personal response had been received based on survey comments
13 submitted.

14 Alf Burtleson commented that the St. Helena Pool is open year round.

15

16 **Review and discussion of the Pre-Season Pass Option**

17 Recreation Manager Lemen presented the staff report and the events which had
18 lead to the pre-season being an available option for the community this year.
19 Explanation as given as to the unique opportunity this pre-season offers due to
20 the fact that the Calistoga Joint Unified School District (CJUSD) is covering the
21 operational costs due to the swim team. A detailed explanation was given
22 regarding the cost breakdowns listed in the staff report and the error on
23 attachment A was pointed out (The Saturday shift for the Water Exercise
24 Instructor was listed as 8:45-9:15 and it should have been 8:45-10:15, the
25 associated hours was correct.) The schedule was created to be a limited offering
26 of what would roll out in May. It helps to keep the program times consistent
27 through out the season. This schedule also maximizes the warm weather and
28 the lifeguard staff time with the swim team. The final proposal by the City is to
29 open 6 weeks early for a limited schedule and offer a pre-paid pass of \$65 for
30 this pre-season schedule as indicated in the staff report. There would need be a

31 required 43 participants pre-paid by March 21st to cover the initial costs to the
32 City to open this schedule. If the 43 committed has not been reached, then the
33 money will be refunded and the pool will not open early. The original season
34 would open as scheduled May 12th. There were an additional 19 community
35 members in attendance and comments and questions were received.

36 Is this a sustainable plan? This is not a sustainable option because if the season
37 is permanently extended, then the City will be responsible to cover those
38 operational costs and not charge CJUSD. Additionally, if the season were
39 extended into the fall, the costs would be much higher as well because the
40 CJUSD would not be contributing the \$805 per week as they are right now.

41 What is the estimated/average usage? It is expected from conversations and
42 past usage during the regular spring and summer usage to be anywhere from 5-7
43 lap swimmers per day and 15-20 water exercise participants.

44 Has the option been explored to combine programs (i.e. host lap swim during
45 swim team or lap swim during water exercise)? Due to CJSUD commitment and
46 specific requirements with student programs, there can be no overlap with the
47 swim team. Also, in the past, the pool has tried to double program with lap swim
48 and water exercise and it was not successful. To be able to provide the level of
49 service expected, it will need to be separate program times.

50 Is the instructor CPR certified? No, she is not, but the lifeguards are as are most
51 of the office staff.

52 If additional donations come in, where do they go? If more funds come in than
53 needed what will they be applied to? At this time, there isn't a clear answer to
54 that. Staff will clarify that answer prior to rolling this plan out.

55 Have you considered a shortened pre-season – maybe 4 weeks rather than 6?
56 Yes, given the conversations, the month of April seemed to peak interest. If the
57 funds can not be obtained for the 6 week season, then a shorter season will be
58 explored.

59 Comment: Masters programs help to establish long term support and are the
60 backbone in other communities to sustain the pool.

61 Commissioner Eddy and CJUSD Superintendent Esmeralda Mondragon
62 presented additional CJUSD information including announcing that they have
63 raised more than \$26,000 towards the \$30,000 estimated start up costs for this
64 first year and purchasing the supplies needed to host swim meets and be set up
65 long term as a High School sport. Commissioner Eddy also stated her concerns
66 with the needed 43 to open the pool was too many.

67 Su Mauro who has been speaking on behalf of Swim Now, a group created to
68 support extending the pool seasons, mentioned that she already has 18 water
69 exercisers committed and 10 lap swimmers. She mentioned that the focus of her
70 group is to eventually see the pool open year round but that it has to be taken in
71 small bites.

72 Commissioner Eddy questioned the hours schedule and provided suggestion of
73 reduced staff hours and included volunteer labor.

74 Was volunteer labor explored? Yes, the City explored their options but needed
75 to come up with a worst case scenario to address the budget concerns of this
76 plan. Volunteer labor can not be guaranteed and there is added liability risks
77 when you have volunteers handling money and possibly lifeguarding the pool

78 Commissioner Blomquist mentioned that she has worked at the pool for the past
79 3 seasons and shared her observations about the positive impact these jobs
80 have on the local teens.

81 City Manager Richard Spitler mentioned his position to accommodate this pre-
82 season request only if the funds were there. The City Council assigned the final
83 decision making task to him. He also mentioned that a non-profit group is much
84 better suited to accept and receive donations.

85 The suggestion was made to research grants as a good possibility to expand
86 programs and pool operation. City Manager Spitler made the comment that this
87 was best suited for a 501C3 as a lot of foundations will not give to a public
88 agency such as a City.

89 Commissioner Moon-Wainwright summarized the information heard and
90 suggestion the City move forward with the proposed 6 week pre-season plan and
91 if the minimum participants wasn't reached, that the City explore reducing the
92 time period to 4 weeks to see if it could be reached with the commitments
93 received.

94 **Review and make recommendation to Staff regarding the 2012 Official Pool**
95 **Season**

96 Recreation Manager introduced the proposed 2012 schedule and highlighted
97 some of the changes for this upcoming year. Commissioner Eddy recommended
98 the focus be on future revenue streams. The specific birthday party packages
99 were eliminated this year, so revamping this program for future years should be
100 explored. There was also a recommendation to ensure that all material,
101 especially the rules be translated into Spanish. Commissioner Moon-Wainwright
102 suggested using the ESL class as a resource for translation and then have
103 someone at the Family Center proof read the material for accuracy. Also, a
104 suggestion was made to host a late night at the pool for the Carnies during the
105 fair weekend.

106 Commissioner Moon-Wainwright brought up a concern he has had in the past
107 about locals bringing out-of-town visitors to the pool. He suggested that they be
108 able to pay the local rate if they are staying with a local residents. There was
109 discussion about the pros and cons of creating a policy vs. just having an un-
110 written rule about whether this was acceptable. Recreation Manager mentioned
111 that this doesn't come up all that often and maybe an un-written rule where
112 guests would get the local rate if the local was paying. If they came on their own
113 and were paying separately, then they would be charged the non-resident rate.

114 Also, there was additional discussion around the non-swimmer costs and
115 tracking of these participants. Suggestion for a band and a reduced cost.
116 Recreation Manager reminded commissioners that this topic was reviewed by the
117 committee in the summer of 2010 and the recommendation was made to

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118 continue to charge all participants regardless of their swimming status during the
119 open swim times.

120 The 2012 season was passes unanimously with a motion by Commissioner Eddy
121 and a second by Commissioner Moon Wainwright.

122

123 **Adjournment**

124 The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m. to the next meeting of the Calistoga
125 Pool Advisory Committee which is TBA.