

# 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, Shirley Blomquist and Recreation Manager Olivia Lemen.

4  
5 **Adoption of the December 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting Minutes**

6 The minutes were pass unanimously by a motion from Committee Member Eddy  
7 and seconded by Committee Member 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup>. 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 Committee Member 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. Committee Member Eddy also stated her  
66 concerns with the needed 43 to open the pool was too many.

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

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

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

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113 their own and were paying separately, then they would be charged the non-  
114 resident rate.

115 Also, there was additional discussion around the non-swimmer costs and  
116 tracking of these participants. Suggestion for a band and a reduced cost.  
117 Recreation Manager reminded Committee Members that this topic was reviewed  
118 by the committee in the summer of 2010 and the recommendation was made to  
119 continue to charge all participants regardless of their swimming status during the  
120 open swim times.

121 The 2012 season was passes unanimously with a motion by Committee Member  
122 Eddy and a second by Committee Member Moon Wainwright.

123

124 **Adjournment**

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