MINUTES
AQUATICS BOARD
Tuesday, January 23, 2023 @ 5:30pm
City & Borough of Juneau – Zoom Conference

Statement of Philosophy:
Create Community through People, Pools and Effective Swim Programs

A. Meeting Convened at 5:35pm by Will Muldoon**.**

B. Members - Present:, Scott Griffith, Lena Merrell, Tom Rutecki, Will Muldoon, Molly McCormick
Absent: Kristin Bartlett, Tracy Morrison
Liaison Present: Christine Woll – CBJ Assembly - Absent
CBJ Staff Present: Terra Paterson, Aquatics Manager, Nicole Quinto, Admin Assistant, Michele Elfers, Deputy Director Parks & Rec
Other: Member of the Public (unknown)

C. Agenda Changes – None.

D. Approve Minuets from last meeting: Moved to Accepted at 5:38pm by Tom Rutecki

E. Public Participation on Non-Agenda Items – None

F. Staff Report Update –

- **AGB Update –** Terra Patterson reviewed the schedule for the renovation project at Augustus Brown Swimming pool. It will be closed to the public beginning April 2, 2023. Staff will pack and prepare the building for renovations the following week and renovations will begin on April 10, 2023. Currently, consideration is being given to adding a third phase to the construction project to renovate the locker rooms. On January 30th appropriation for this phase of the project will be go to the Assembly. Currently, contractors are projecting the project will go through Dec 2023 without the renovation of the locker rooms to the project. With the addition of the locker rooms, the project would be extended through the end of January 2024.

- **Dimond Park Aquatic Center**- Staff have scheduled the annual maintenance closure for this facility February 13-21, 2023 in order to keep the facility open throughout the entirety of the Augustus Brown renovation.

- **Swim Lessons:** One session of swim lessons will be held at the Augustus Brown pool before it closes. This session will begin February 27th and run through mid March.
  Year Round Swim Lessons will begin at Dimond Park Aquatic Center in April. Ms. Patterson outline expanded lesson offerings beginning in September, staff dependent. Instructors for the upcoming session are lifeguards who have previously taught lessons. New instructors will be certified to teach through Jeff Elis Swimming Program. Once Red Cross instruction becomes available in Juneau, staff will pursue WSI training for instructors.

- **Email Protocol for Board Members-** Ms. Patterson discussed the City and Borough of Juneau's policy to use email communication strictly for meeting availability; additionally, board members should avoid using the reply all feature for general communication, but rather respond directly to

the specific employee. It was also discussed that all Aquatics Board Members have board emails, and those must be used instead of personal emails.

G. Dissolution of the Aquatics Board-

- Tom Rutecki reviewed the history of how the Aquatics Board came into being, and believes that the Aquatics Board should stay, or have two seats on the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee, one for each pool. Mr. Rutecki stated that the board needs to decide if they want to keep the board.
- Lena Merrell spoke to the difficulties that arose during the Pandemic, and believes that the Aquatics Board should stay intact.
  Ms. Merrell stated that a motion to urge the assembly to Honor the will of the voters by keeping the Aquatics Board was needed.
- Molly McCormick discussed her concern that if the Aquatics Board is not kept that the Augustus Brown pool might be closed.
- Terra Patterson discussed the cost of the current renovation project, stating the facility would likely continue running for the foreseeable future considering that the project would cost more than $8 million.
- Scott Griffith spoke in favor of keeping the Aquatics Board and stated that the Glacier Swim Club Board didn't express strong opinion on the topic, but was mostly in favor of keeping the Aquatics board. Mr. Griffith believes that the aquatics board should be more involved.
- Michele Elfers discussed the reasoning behind the ordinance change and said it wasn't meant to take away the public's say, but to find members to advocate for all the facilities and activities and to strengthen the quality and the voice of the board when making recommendations to the Assembly. The ordinance is aimed to make a larger and stronger board; and would allow an advisory board to make a subcommittee to better assist all areas of the department's public facilities. Ms. Elfers also cautioned the board that dedicating two seats on the PRAC board would most likely lead to dilution of the board voices as other special interest groups may want to advocate for special seats on the board as well.
- Further discussion from the board generated a Motion to exclude the Aquatics Board from CBJ resolution N.o. 2022-64 to honor the will of the voters and keep a community run Aquatics Board. At the very least, the board seeks to ensure two members- one for each pool, have permanent seat on a re-established. Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee one to represent each pool. This motion was put forward by Ms. Merrell at 6:46pm and all members voted in favor of the motion.

H. Adjournment – Lena Merrell moved to adjourn @ 6:56 PM. Seconded by Molly McCormick

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Meeting Follow-ups:

Terra will look into meeting requirements for future meetings.

Upcoming Meetings:

Lena purposed to meet on 21st of Feb. 6pm at RM224, City Hall– Terra looking to see about setting up a hybrid meeting for this meeting.