

Aquatic Committee Meeting
Washington-Lee High School Pool
1301 N. Stafford St.
September 18, 2018
Time: 7:00-9:00 PM

Attendance: Don Hesse (Chair), Cynthia Hilton (Vice Chair) 7pm, Kristi Sawert (Member), Janet Eichers (Member) Ron Kampeas (Member), Dee Romanek (Member), Ljudmila Mladenovic (Member), Mackenzie Kearney (Member), Helena Machado (APS Liaison), Jennifer Lainhart (DPR Liaison), Walter Edwards, Bryan Cannady, Jane Miller, Mike McDonald, Michael Edwards, Shirley Brothwell (Sports Commission Chair) 7pm

Minutes

- I. Approval of meeting minutes from June. Approved as distributed
- II. Public Comment

Walter Edwards - and wants to speak on behalf of 14 seniors at Yorktown. What is in the CRWG is the only proposal in 10 years to attempt to solve this problem which has caused the increase in the swimmer fees. He feels this proposal is the only one on the table that addresses this issue. If this proposal is not supported and/or pushed up the line, then this committee will be responsible for indifference.

Bryan Cannady – spoke with Helena last week, second time living in the area. Military member, asking for consideration as committee looks at fee proposals and schedules to look at military discount. Explanation of what it means to him, he wants a consideration based on active military family. He has moved 18 times within his service, and there are man challenges with moving etc. The compensation for living in this area for military is not considered in the pools, but other places do have significant military discounts for members and family.

Jane Miller – of Capital Water Polo. She is here tonight because she wants all of the members to consider water polo as a part of the aquatic program. Been in existence for about 6 years, had up to 100 members, and a competitor opened another club and got siphoned, they went down to 50 members and are starting this season with 60 members. Arlington based team, practice at Wakefield HS and draw from the greater Washington area. A few private schools have programs as well and there is only one public school in this area that has a program: Whitman HS. St James, is trying to start a water polo club and Sea devils has also purchased a small water polo club which may make competition for the sport heavy. Feeder programs are a great way to grow the program and experimented with learn to play water polo and want to continue to grow this program. We have a lot of coaches with great experience what they need is publicity for the sport and to gain athletes to grow before Long Bridge comes. They also are involved with the pool at Macedonia Church and expect to occupy that facility within one year. This is in the Nauck neighborhood and will serve that community well. Kristi Sawert had questions about Macedonia church, and she got the impression when they build a new school that is a neighborhood and comprehensive HS that they don't think they need to build a pool because maybe there will be a pool in Nauck. The county

pushed it back on the permits for the pool as a zoning issue. The pool will remain property of the Macedonia church and the Capital Water Polo program will be an anchor tenant there. Her hope is that Capital Water Polo can run a program that the Aquatics Committee will support and share with the households in Arlington to draw attention to the sport. Kristi asked how a private group would be able to partner with the county. Jen explained the partnership program is more complicated than it may seem, and Helena also discussed some of the space requirements and issues. Overall she wants to draw more athletes to the sport. Would really like to get into the Arlington County brochure.

Mike McDonald Has taken adult education classes, been an early bird swimmer as well since 2010. His concern is that the costs of the pools should be borne by the users. The current system is an inequitable means, should be something else based on usage.

Michael Edwards Here also to speak in support of cost recovery proposal, son learned to swim through DPR and through APS classes. If before or after class and they still want to swim, would be a win-win if they had a pass and could stay in play and come at other times. Every time the prices go up, it can be hard on the elderly and other disabled participants that may not be able to afford, and he would like to keep the rates down for the annual passes.

- III. Status of Timing Equipment** Helena did an audit of equipment and there are new pads, buttons and equipment for all the pools. They tested all and there are some systemic problems with the deck plates, but the harnesses do currently work. Would like to purchase back up harnesses. We did not get around to testing the printer and will do that next week. APS now knows what the issues are and are able to address things and we will be in good shape to run the first mini-meet this year on 10/28. Next big meet is 11/30 so will do another double check for that once the newer equipment is in. All equipment is interchangeable, so we can buy extra and replace them anywhere. Kevin is teaming up with the 3 managers to write up some procedures that can be uniformly followed. They have proposed not letting anyone, but staff run the system because some volunteers do not have knowledge to troubleshoot the system and provide a Colorado operator as part of the meet support and not sure if they can deliver on that due to short staffing. Ljudmila- Are you buying just one harness or the harnessing extension. She would like to hear the concerns from the staff about the things that are happening with the equipment that is causing problems. There is a free online training and Ljudmila will send the link to Helena. Kevin has been the Colorado person who is the most trained in this area.

IV. Status of AC Charter Revisions

It is with the Sports Commission currently and they will send to Christian Dorsey's aide and Jennifer will send notice to Helena when this is approved and going to be sent. Aim for October.

V. Update on timeline for new APS/DPR Aquatics MOA

APS and DPR have met 3 times to revise the MOA the current discussions has been centered around a lot of the agreements but have not looked as closely at the financial piece as we were waiting to hear the conversation around the CRWG report and comments from the committee as well. Once we have finalized the MOA, APS and DPR will look at the APA which is the accompanying document to the MOA which goes more into detail about the

specific on how APS and DPR work together on a regular basis and implement the memorandum.

VI. Long Bridge Fees WG

Next meeting is October and we will review the results of the statistically valid survey and another meeting in November and December

VII. Sports Commission Update The last meetings were about field use and lack of available fields, did a tour of Virginia Highlands and the improvements needed there. Did not have a quorum in the last two meetings. Chairs of Aquatics and Sports have discussed at least once a year they should have a joint meeting. Discussion of a possibility of having a joint meeting with Sports Commission in October. Don explained we would meet on specific topics and break out and have their own meeting.

VIII. CRWG Report Cynthia

Presentation-

The MOA states that the county will contribute to the costs to run the pools. The county share has not changed over the course of the MOA implementation and the same contribution has been paid each year. In the same timeframe the space and number of persons in the pool has more than doubled. The usage contributes to the operation and maintenance costs. Pool users have had some fee increases, when the 3rd fee increase came about they wanted to come up with some reasons why these fees would increase. 5 months ago users were presented with 4th increase and did not use the AC criteria. AC committee attended a lot of meetings in advocacy for the increase in the DPR transfer and finally the superintendent sent a letter to the County manager and indicated that looking at the number of swims may be way to quantify this usage. Don clarified that the language in the superintendent's letter was Helena's and sent by superintendent. AC set up a subcommittee and challenged them to find a way to do this. See slides on Goals and in the end they wanted to be able to say that user fees are lower because that group been carrying the weight of costs.

Looked at user groups: tax supported programs, community (recreational) swimmers, DPR class/lesson and team participants, third party participants (rentals). Looked at DPR cost recovery pyramid and deemed that was inadequate, tried to look at usage and time in the pool and that was very complicated and tedious and went back to using model for "splashes" which denotes individual uses of the pool.

Looked at "splash" data. Note that this is the first-time staff has used "splash" data and the numbers aren't perfect, some are estimates and some are more specific. Splash data is on a fiscal year basis, due to budget the data from the previous fiscal year collected will drive the fees for the fiscal process 2 years in advance. The fee that the group determined per splash is calculated using the O&M costs for that actual year.

The group came up with "social value scale". The scale attempts to rank at what level each group is supported by tax. Recommendations on slide. All users are assessed an admission charge (may not be a fee if tax supported). Discussion on which groups should be completely tax supported. Group intends to retain discounts for several reasons see slide. Packages and memberships for DPR programs are also available. Question about tax

supported programs, the baseline is the amount used for the total tax support. DPR participants will have options to remit fees, purchase a pass aligned with the number of class sessions, purchase any of the admission passes/memberships offered by APS for which participants are eligible and DPR program participants will not lose an admission if they miss a class. To make it easier for DPR and APS to calculate the number of splashes, proposed to be estimated based on full capacity. For rentals they pay fees plus the splash fees. In this model APS is fully responsible for collecting these fees and DPR is not asked to assume any of these administrative responsibilities. There could be scenarios where APS will collect more money than we are spending, and that money should be reserved for O&M costs and in this model the AC would approve the expenditures based in overages. If there is under collection the shortfall will be charged back to APS/DPR based in the pre-established percentage of splashes per user group. The directive for transfer would be triggered only when there is a gap between aquatics revenue collected and O&M expenses incurred. See slides.

Discussion on topic. Group agreed to send all questions to Cynthia and the group and they would reconvene to answer questions and come back to the October meeting for further discussion on topic.

Many members had to leave between 9pm and 9:30pm and we finally convened at 9:30pm.