

**Deerfield Park District
Pool Advisory Committee**

Minutes of July 22, 2021

The meeting of the Pool Advisory Committee was called to order at 6:00 p.m. and the following were:

Present: Sylvia Dresser, Peter Greenfield, Lauren Patinkin, Sari Winick, Rick Patinkin, Laura McCarty, Heather Lund

Absent: Samantha Garrity, Andy Kettlewell

Public Comment

No members of the public were present at the meeting.

Review of Committee Meeting Minutes of May 27, 2021

Committee members reviewed the minutes of the May 27, 2021 Pool Advisory Committee meeting noting a correction to the attendees: Peter Greenfield was not present at the May meeting.

2021 Pool Operations Review

If you recall at the May 27 meeting, we were still planning to operate as we did last summer on a time block and reservation system. We knew Phase 5 was coming, but it would not be before Deerspring pool opened on June 5. So, we opened Deerspring with the time block and reservation system and weekend swim only, but then the following weekend when Mitchell opened on June 12, (entered Phase 5 on June 11), we were able to operate the way in which our pools have traditionally operated which is without time blocks and reservations. Traditionally you go to the pool whenever you want during our advertised operating hours for lap and public swim and stay for as long as you want. We were also able to begin selling pool passes on Monday, June 7 which was the week before Mitchell pool opened which made a lot of people very happy. In addition, we offer a daily fee which can be paid per visit upon arriving at the pool for those who do not want to purchase a pass.

Coho Classic

Held the weekend of July 9-11 at Deerspring. It was wonderful to see this event happening again as it did not take place last year. Everyone was so happy to be there. The event went very well. There were 9 teams with 600 swimmers total.

Swim Lessons

Swim lessons are going very well. There are 30 participants enrolled in private/semi-private swim lessons, 99 enrolled in public swim lessons and roughly 221 in camp swim lessons.

Ice Cream Sales

I think I mentioned at our last meeting, that as some of you know, we used to have a regular concession operation, however prior to the 2019 season the group that we worked with pulled out at the last minute and we were not able to find anyone to take their spot. So, during the summer of 2019, (last regular operating season), we decided to try selling prepackaged snacks in place of a regular concession operation and the snacks went over well. We planned to add ice cream to the snack options last

summer, but obviously this changed with the pandemic, so this is the first summer we are offering ice cream and sales are going extremely well, so well that we have had to order a second freezer so we can increase our orders each week because we are running out so fast.

End of Season Dates/Hours

There is little less than a month to go before Deerspring will close on August 15 and about a month and half to go before Mitchell closes on September 7.

End of Season hours at Mitchell Pool will begin on August 16. Lap swim will be held from 5:30am-7:15am Monday through Friday and 7am-11am on Saturdays and Sundays. Public swim will be held from 4-6pm Monday through Friday and 11am-6pm on the weekend.

Lauren Patinkin inquired if we would consider opening the sprayground earlier during week and staff will look into that possibility.

StarGuard has been out to visit the pools twice this season and we have received two 5-star audits. This is the highest score that can be achieved. Congrats to all the aquatics staff!

2021 Season Pass Update

To date we have sold 1,918 season passes generating \$110,000 in revenue. Compared to 2019, (last normal season), we sold 2,790 season passes and generated \$160,000. The most popular pass type is family of 4.

Generally, we budget around \$80,000-\$85,000 in season pass sales per pool and historically have sold between 2,500-3,000 passes during a season.

Daily Fees

Mitchell has generated \$33,431 in revenue and Deerspring has generated \$10,351 in revenue. Between daily visits and season pass holder visits we have seen 10,560 visitors at Mitchell Pool this season so far and 3,682 visitors at Deerspring Pool this season.

In a normal year we make anywhere between \$60,000-\$100,000 in daily fee revenue.

Update on Deerspring Sprayground Project

Wrapping up the construction documents in the next couple of weeks. We will then send project out to bid, hoping to bring bid proposals to the September Board meeting for approval. Also, we must get construction documents to IDPH for review and approval to obtain the permit. Once the permit is obtained, construction can begin. The equipment has been ordered and will arrive in early September.

We are looking to have construction begin at the end of this year's pool season and have the project complete prior to the start of the 2022 pool season.

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Other Items

Rick Patinkin asked how Coho registration numbers are looking and Peter stated numbers are looking good.

Fee Structure

For our new committee members this is usually the meeting in which we will review our fee structure for the upcoming season. As we had the opportunity to really dive deep into season pass fees this year as we developed our daily fee structure when we thought we were not going to be able to offer passes, it gave us a really good idea of just how good of a value the season pass is. For example, for someone who purchases the individual pass, if they were to attend every operating day it would only cost them \$1.55/day.

So, we will most likely be recommending a season pass fee increase. Historically we have increased \$5 each year, but I think after having a better understanding of just how underpriced the pass is, we will be recommending a higher increase.

Wage Increase

We will also most likely be recommending an increase in starting pay rates for our pool staff. Lifeguards currently start at \$12.00/hour, however when we updated the pay scale a couple years ago, we wanted to be ahead of the new minimum wage that was going in to affect which at the time was \$10.00/hour. This January minimum wage will increase to \$12/hour, and we want to stay ahead to be competitive as we think our pay rate has really helped to attract aquatic staff. So, we are thinking we may want to increase starting pay to \$13-\$14/hour to keep up and stay competitive with surrounding businesses, some of which who are already paying \$15.00/hour which is what minimum wage will increase to by January 1, 2025. Another reason to increase our fees is the need to continue to support as best we can operational expenses which staff costs is a big one.

The next meeting of the Pool Advisory Committee is scheduled for September 23, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. but there is a conflict with NRPA Conference, and a new date needs to be chosen. Pool Advisory Committee members will be notified of the new date.

There being no further discussion, the Pool Advisory Committee meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.