

**AQUATICS ADVISORY BOARD COMMITTEE
YEARLY SUMMARY, PER RESOLUTION C-101, NOVEMBER 15, 2023**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND STATUS OF TERMS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Current Term</u>	<u>End of Term</u>
Gary Miller, Chair	1	June 16, 2024
Ellen Hench	1	October 16, 2024
Maria Lawrence	1	February 23, 2005
Vivian Koroknay	1	November 19, 2025
Nancy Radke	1	May 20, 2026
Tracy Riddle	1	May 20, 2026

SUMMARY OF MAJOR ACTIVITIES DURING REPORTING PERIOD

The Key Focus areas are:

Safety
Policy, procedure, pricing
Structural and equipment maintenance
Staffing, especially Life Guards
Marketing
Special events

**ACTIVITIES DISCUSSED, AGREED UPON, AND SUBMITTED TO THE
OP BOARD OF DIRECTORS WERE AS FOLLOWS**

Safety; The Committee continued to hear from pool members concerning the narrow gang-plank style steps at Swim & Racket. This was an ongoing concern from last years report. The steps are heavily populated with children using steps as a “playground” to run up and jump into the pool ... creating an unsafe entrance and exit. The Committee was informed that the lifeguards at S&R ask kids to move away from the ladder, but it is a continuing safety concern.

The Mumford Landing Pool steps are also heavily populated with children at play creating a compromised entrance and exit to that pool as well.

Replacing the metal steps on the two ladders in the deep end of the Yacht Club Pool with slip proof plastic steps similar to those on the ladder in the shallow end of the pool was suggested and the AAC was told that it would be looked into.

Structural/maintenance; The entrance fence for the baby pool at Mumfords landing became unstable and loose at ground level, but was repaired after being reported.

Repairs: Men's room at Yacht Club / Oasis pool observed with paint peeling and other cosmetic fails and was partially repaired.

Policy: Add pool membership benefit that allows member entrance ahead of non-members (in line) awaiting pool opening at 10 am. A number of remedies were suggested but not implemented

Adding a "Couples" membership tier to facilitate an equitable option for a family of two was implemented and well received by pool members.

See previously submitted suggestion to rename this option.

Event: A mid-day afternoon class at Sports Core, per member/ community requests was added but later removed for lack of participation

Introduce an Adult Only Fun Night at YC pool similar to the popular Family Fun night. Although the idea was/is very popular, restricting participation to adults only is not legally possible. The AAC will be suggesting an alternatively worded evening event called "Sunsets and Cocktails at the OPYC" which will not restrict who attends.

Marketing: A promotional event to reintroduce all of the pools, classes, and aquatics activities was discussed and eventually evolved into the current "Ocean Pines Season Kickoff" event that will highlight ALL of the OP Amenities as well as local clubs and organizations, including the OP Chamber and local businesses. This is being planned by the "OP Day Working Group" add hoc committee. A final proposal will be submitted at the January Board meeting

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED; ASSISTANCE REQUIRED, & RESOLUTIONS

Committee Members

There was a changeup within the committee. For personal reasons, Em Hench, the previous Chair, decided to step down from that position, but remains an important member of the committee. Gary Miller was then appointed Chair by the OPBOD. There were also 2 members that resigned but 3 new members were added so that we now have a total of 6 members.

Lifeguard & Staff shortage: The Aquatics Department did a fabulous job bringing in additional lifeguards during an ongoing National shortage. The recruiting efforts of the GM and staff allowed all 5 pools to stay open for the summer season with only a few days of individual pool closures at the beginning and end of the season.

Communication: One of the biggest issues for any of the advisory committees is the fact that we do not always know if an issue that has been brought to our attention is already being addressed by the particular department (aquatics). This is exacerbated by not allowing department heads to attend committee meetings where many questions relating to the particular issue could be answered/addressed. Currently a committee has to send a report or request for information to the liaison, who in turn has to forward it to the appropriate party, which takes some measure of time. Depending on the issue, additional questions may arise which adds more time to the process. In an effort to streamline pertinent information exchange, we feel that inviting the Aquatic Manager to join our monthly meeting will save a lot of time on both sides and promote a more partnership environment. This partnership and information exchange will enhance the overall pool experience for our community and guests.

REQUEST FOR ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR INCLUSION IN THE NEXT OPA BUDGET

The AAC recently sent a proposal to the Board. Based on an abundance of observations and commentary from OP residents during the 2023 season, there is a need to create a level of consistency in how daily pool rates are applied for residents of OP and non-residents. It is equally important to create new pool membership opportunities that accommodate both family size and visiting family, and to augment these

memberships with value added mechanisms and activities that encourage aquatics participation in general.

The Aquatics Advisory Committee supports and recommends the following 5 initiatives to the membership options:

- 1) Provide consistency in how daily rates are applied for residents of OP and non-residents.
- 2) Provide added membership categories that accommodate both family size and family guests.
- 3) Provide a “guest pass” mechanism for visiting family.
- 4) Provide swim classes at Mumford’s Landing venue
- 5) The Aquatics Committee suggests that the Board revisit the plan to enclose a section of the outdoor patio area at the Sports Core Pool.

ATTACHMENTS

Proposal to the Board of Directors regarding Pool Memberships, Daily Rates, and Supporting Activities, originally submitted on 11/14/2023

