

# Ocean Pines Advisory Board Committee - Aquatics

## Minutes of 8/24/22 Meeting

### **In attendance:**

Frank Daly, Lew Furman, Em Hensch, Maria Lawrence, Gary Miller

### **New Member**

The committee welcomed Lew Furman, who received his committee assignment approval at the last Board of Directors meeting.

### **Communication Chain and follow-up on actions**

Frank Daly, Aquatics board liaison, requested that we **re-submit** the committee's questions/issues/suggestions directly to him, and he will facilitate the appropriate responses and actions. One of the issues, that has been passed along to various entities since February of this year, addresses safety concerns on pool steps. Frank advised the committee that the best communication channel to submit proposals, suggestions, and express concerns, is by email to him, with copies to the entire Board, and the OP GM. It was reiterated that Linda Martin, OPA Senior Executive Office Manager, peruses the [info@oceanpines.org](mailto:info@oceanpines.org) comments and distributes to appropriate OP members for follow-up.

### **Aquatics Dept Updates**

Em Hensch reached out to Kathleen Cook, Director of Aquatics, requesting her thoughts and projections for Aquatics 2022 year-end, and for 2023. She also asked for an update on any projects or initiatives that are being considered or have been planned. Maria Lawrence suggested that it would be helpful to have a monthly one-on-one with Kathleen (or her designee) to get updates. Maria will be checking with Stephen Decatur's swim team coach/director for additional input re their plans.

### **Pool Closures**

Gary Miller advised group of the array of community complaints re "untimely" pool closures, primarily due to staffing shortages. The most notable complaints involved the closure of the Sports Core, for annual cleaning. One possible remedy was cited by a pool member and augmented by Gary Miller: The timing of the indoor pool closure (2 weeks leading up to Labor Day), was determined so members could enjoy one of the other pools that remain open till the end of the summer season. Because of the staffing shortage, a few of the other pools are not open currently, so the purpose of closing the indoor pool at this time did not work out as well as it has in the past. The suggestion was to change the cleaning / closure schedule to earlier in the season before the younger guards and staff leave for school.

## **Pool maintenance**

Gary Miller presented concerns of “cosmetic” maintenance to the restrooms at the YC pool. He noted that for the past several seasons, the entrance to the men’s room has shown peeling paint on the door and grease stains on the entrance floor. He distributed pictures.

## **Membership options**

Gary Miller and Em Hench discussed the perceived inequity in pool membership options. It was noted that a family membership can consist of 2 related people residing in 1 home, or can include a large family that likely includes children, and often times grandchildren, residing in 1 home. We addressed what would appear to be the inherent inequities. Gary presented the idea of having 3 membership options, with different annual fees: 1) Individual 2) a 2-person family 3) Family of 3 or more.

## **Added Membership benefit**

Beyond the extended pool hours (8 – 10am), it was thought that those purchasing annual swim memberships should be allowed entry into the pool venues before those paying at the door ... i.e., a pool member should not have to wait in the line that forms at the 10am pool opening, behind non-members. This might require a self-swipe mechanism, or an additional attendant to assist at 10am.

## **Gaining community input**

Best options on receiving comments and suggestions from the community were discussed. Beyond surveys and open format suggestion vehicles, the presence of committee members at the various pool venues was thought to be a viable option for collecting community feedback.

## **Next Meeting**

September 21, 2022 – OP Library, 3pm

Submitted by  
Ellen Hench, 8/31/22