

Christiansburg Aquatic Center
Advisory Board
June 1, 2011

Board Members Present: Jeremy Williams, Steve Simmons, Bert Locklin, Shirley Hallock, Michael St. Jean

In Attendance: Terry Caldwell, Maddie Duke, Allison Zuchowski, Bill Beecher, Shawn Worthley, Carolyn Kirk, Carol Lindstrom, Jeanie Werrell, Bobbi Reymore, Nancy Stevens.

The meeting was called to order by Jeremy Williams.

Jeremy introduced advisory board and the staff of the Christiansburg Aquatic Center.

Jeremy made motion to accept minutes from previous meeting. Bert Locklin and Michael St. Jean seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

Public Comments

- I. Carolyn Kirk addressed the advisory board about warm water therapy classes. She was a member of the New River Valley Medical Center Classes. Those classes have been deleted from the program due to costs and power outages. Ms. Kirk along with Jeanie Werrell, Bobbi Reymore and Nancy Stevens urged the Advisory Board to consider more warm water classes in the summer. Terry Caldwell explained why the warm water classes are held early in the mornings during summer. She discussed that during the summer, the Aquatic Center foresees the Leisure Pool being busy and loud with water features on and children. Terry also stated that parking will be an issue in the early afternoon. Allison Zuchowski explained that the Aquatic Center does have members and participants who come in on their own and do their workouts. With further discussion with the staff of the Aquatic Center; Ms. Kirk, Ms. Werrell, Ms. Reymore and Ms. Stevens agreed that they would come in on their own and work out when convenient for them.
- II. Carol Lindstrom addressed the board with multiple questions/issues.
 - a. Ms. Lindstrom asked the board how many total days the Aquatic Center has been closed since opening. Terry told Carol that the Aquatic Center has been closed 10 total days since opening July, 18 2010.
 - b. Ms. Lindstrom wanted to know why the Aquatic Center was closed those 10 days. Competitive Coordinator Bill Beecher discussed that during large meets, the Leisure Pool is used for warm-ups and warm-downs. Bill also discussed the parking issue. During large meets, there is not enough parking. Terry also explained that any entire days that the Aquatic Center is closed, six-month members and yearly members will get those days added to their membership.
 - c. Ms. Lindstrom asked the board if the events that are shutting down the Aquatic Center are paying for the facility. Bill explained that yes, they were paying to rent out the entire Aquatic Center.
 - d. Ms. Lindstrom asked if the children that are with the meet families allowed to swim in the leisure pool. Bill explained that no one is allowed to swim on their

leisure side during meets. He discussed that they might be times where the leisure side is open during a meet, but those with the meet must pay to swim on the leisure side.

- e. Ms. Lindstrom asked what steps are being take about the parking issues. Jeremy Williams stated that there is a free shuttle to meet participants from either the Christiansburg High School or Kroger. Carol suggested the Aquatic Center talking with Montgomery County about using their new parking area during meets to free up parking spaces. Bill let Ms. Lindstrom know that the Aquatic Center is closed more for the needs of each meet rather than parking issues.
- f. Ms. Lindstrom asked if there was any different way to use the lanes in the Competition Pool during meets to free up space in the pool for members and participants. Bill explained that during a meet, all lanes are used by swimmers which is 8 swimmers maximum.
- g. Ms. Lindstrom asked the board if the Blacksburg Transportation is taken away at any point, what is the Aquatic Center's back-up plan is. Bill explained that bus rental companies have been looked at and that the Aquatic Center is still looking at other means of shuttle for meets. Carol asked about the Christiansburg Recreation Center's vans that may be available. Terry explained that it would not be convenient to Tammy Caldwell at the Recreation Center. Terry also said that if Town Council motions for her to get vehicles for the Aquatic Center, she will.
- h. Ms. Lindstrom stated that she has heard in the community that Rosa Peters Pool is not open more than they are due to lack of funds to pay lifeguards. Carol asked the board if the Aquatic Center has every offered to help with lifeguards. Terry said that if Rosa Peters asks for help or assistance she will help them how she can. Terry also said that at the Aquatic Forum a couple of weeks ago her staff asked Rosa Peters representatives if they needed anything and nothing was brought up.
- i. Ms. Lindstrom wanted to know what other water sports the Aquatic Center is working on offering the public. Bill discussed that the new summer swim league is open to anyone and that he is wanted to offer water polo. The issue with offering more sports to the younger age group is the depth of the pools. Also the issue with the breaking windows was brought up. Jeremy also stated that those programs in the evenings would take room in the pools from members and participants.
- j. Ms. Lindstrom asked the board if the Aquatic Center would work with the Civic League with an ice cream social. Terry said that her and her staff would be happy to help any way possible. Carol also suggested that the Aquatic Center look into doing the ice cream social in conjunction with a movie night.
- k. Ms. Lindstrom asked the board if the Aquatic Center has ever considered using their employee lot as handicapped lots. Terry said that the issue has never been brought up but she would be more than happy to talk to the town engineers about what they can do about more spaces.
- l. Ms. Lindstrom wanted to know that if there is a sliding scale for participants who use the warm water as therapy and their insurance does not help cover the cost. Terry stated that the Aquatic Center is working with VA Premier.

End of public comment.

Shirley Hallock asked Terry about the vendor set up outside the Aquatic Center during the last meet. Terry explained to Shirley that any food served during meets is done through the meet. No food is served by the Aquatic Center at any time.

Under old business, Jeremy brought to the boards attention some issues that Councilman Showalter has.

- I. The first issue Mr. Showalter has is he wants town residents and non-residents to be charged separate fees for day passes. Steve Simmons brought up the idea of using the same card from the Recreation Center and when each person scans it can show if they are resident or non-resident. Terry said that the Aquatic Center's main goal is customer service and that cannot be delivered if the staff is having a line out the door and asking everyone to go back to their car for two proofs of residency. Michael said that if he were to come in and was asked to go back to his car, he would not come back in. Terry informed the board that from July 18th-August 1st there were 3,738 residents and 2,900 non-residents that accessed the Aquatic Center. The board gave a recommendation to look at the system and see how much it would cost the Aquatic Center to issue cards for day passes and how time consuming it would be for staff and participants. Jeremy stated that there is obviously so simple answer. Bert brought up the revenue project and how it is dead-on even with charging the same rate for day passes.
- II. The second issue was the charging of a "dry pass". Mr. Showalter has gotten complaints about paying a dry pass even if they are not swimming. Jeremy stated that they Aquatic Center should keep the dry pass. Bert said that at first he was against the dry pass but now he couldn't imagine the pool deck full of people who did not pay. Terry informed the board that Randolph Park and The Frog Pond charge the same fee if swimming or not.
- III. The third issue was having better accountability of daily passes (resident and non-resident) on monthly reports. Terry stated that her staff has been keeping track of resident and non-resident daily participants for a month and will continue to do so. Shawn Worthley will work on that report and give numbers when he has them.

Jeremy made the statements to table I until the next meeting. He recommended to keep the dry pass the way it is. He stated that it is necessary and loitering can be a huge issue. Steve Simmons made it a motion and Michael seconded the motion and the board voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Locklin, Hallock and Simmons. NAYS: None.

In new business, Shirley asked Terry what is planned in the summer to control the deck. Terry discussed that the doors are hard to open and she does not foresee it's going to be an issue. If Terry sees it becomes an issue, the staff will address it at that time. Terry also informed the board that there will be staff monitoring the deck at all times during the summer.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 3, 2011.

Meeting was adjourned.