

MINUTES
AQUATICS BOARD
Tuesday, December 27th, 2022 @ 5:30pm
City & Borough of Juneau – Zoom Conference

Statement of Philosophy:
Create Community through People, Pools and Effective Swim Programs

- A. Meeting Convened at 5:33pm** by Chair Muldoon.
- B. Members - Present:** Tom Rutecki, Will Muldoon, Kristin Bartlett, Molly McCormick, Tracy Morrison
Absent: Scott Griffith, Lena Merrell
Ex Officio: George Schaaf, Parks & Rec Director
Liaison Present: Christine Woll – CBJ Assembly
CBJ Staff Present: Terra Patterson, Aquatics Manager, Nicole Quinto, Admin Assistant
Other: None
- C. Agenda Changes** – Approved by Ms. Bartlett
- D. Public Participation on Non-Agenda Items** - None
- E. Dissolution of Board-** Chair Muldoon asked Director Schaaf to review the City Administration’s reasoning for considering the dissolution of the Aquatics Board. Director Schaaf discussed that currently the Parks department has five boards and committees with 41 board seats total. As a whole, the assembly has been looking to reduce the 30 boards and committees. He was asked to assist with this process in December. An ordinance was introduced during the last assembly meeting, and would consolidate all Parks and Recreation boards and committees. He was asked to reach out to members of these boards and committees to provide their input.

Director Schaaf reviewed some of the history concerning the inception of the Aquatics Board and the community’s input through the process.

It has been determined that it is difficult for the Parks and Recreation staff to manage multiple boards. Additionally, both the Aquatics Board and Parks and Recreation board have found it difficult to fill in seats and maintain a quorum. Approximately half of the board meetings were cancelled in 2020. In 2021 25% or the meetings were canceled and 40% of the meetings in 2022 were canceled.

Chair Muldoon asked the board if they had questions for Director Schaaf.

- The first questions came from Chair Will Muldoon- He asked for an explanation of the difference between Aquatics Division and Eagle Crest. Director Schaaf discussed the main differences including their board structure and that aquatics is a fundamental service which provides imperative services such as teaching residents to swim.

- Chair Muldoon also inquired about the budget process and where the department is at with budget planning. Director Schaaf explained the budget process and the timeline for the board to provide input on the budget.
- Will Muldoon also asked about what measures are being put in place to ensure diversity of city boards. Director Schaaf addressed the challenges he has encountered in ensuring diversification in boards as there is an ordinance in place stating that appointment to boards cannot be based on race, color or, creed. This limits Director Schaaf to attempting to go into the community to recruit more diverse participation from citizens.
- Director Schaaf reviewed his proposals for specific items that the PRAC board would now be responsible for reviewing to ensure this board's input was considered by the department.
- Ms. Woll gave input from the Assembly level in the process of dissolving the board. She reviewed what discussion the assembly has had up to this point on the matter. She is interested in feedback from the committee. Comments can be submitted prior to the HR Committee. The next step in the process is that the dissolution of boards is on the agenda for consideration for the January 9, 2023 HR Committee meeting.
- Tracy Morrison provided input on her disappointment with the current direction of the Aquatics Board being dissolved. She expressed frustration in the lack of input the board has had in planning. She wants to avoid the possibility of one or both pools closing. She asked about renovation plans being put into place for the Augustus Brown Pool. Director Schaaf responded to Ms. Morrison that currently eight million dollars has been approved to renovate the August Brown pool by public vote.
- Ms. Woll reiterated that no final decisions have been made on the course of dissolving the Aquatics Board and encouraged the board to provide feedback.

F. Meeting Follow-ups:

Staff will follow up with the board to gage their interest and availability in a budget presentation.

G. Adjournment – Ms. Morrison moved to adjourn @ 6:26 PM.

Upcoming Meetings: Not currently set