

MINUTES
AQUATICS BOARD
Tuesday, March 30, 2021
City & Borough of Juneau – Zoom Conference

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

- A. **Meeting Convened at 5:00pm** by Chair Muldoon.
- B. **Members Present:** Kristin Bartlett, Don Beard, Scott Griffith, Lena Merrell, Tracy Morrison, Tom Rutecki, Pat Watt.
Member Absent: Molly McCormick,
Ex Officio: George Schaaf, Parks & Rec Director
Liaison Present: Carole Triem – CBJ Assembly
CBJ Staff Present: Kollin Monahan, Aquatics Manager, Sarah Landen, Admin Assistant
Other: Several members of the public were present to address the Agenda item on Commercial Use
- C. **Agenda Changes** – Mr. Muldoon requested moving Item I, Commercial Use Regulations up to precede Item F, Staff Report.
- D. **Approval of Minutes** –of the February 23 meeting were approved with one correction.
- E. **Public Participation on Non-Agenda Items** - None
- F. **Standing Agenda Item – Commercial Use of Aquatics Facilities**
- Mr. Schaaf provided background on why the Board is enacting regulations and policy regarding commercial use of the pools. In 2019 the Parks and Recreation Department were reviewing governance of commercial use of all facilities, including parks, trails, Treadwell Arena and the pools. Title 67.01.08 and 67.01.09 of the CBJ Code require that commercial users of all Parks and Recreation facilities have permits. The existing regulations did not address commercial use of the pools, and the Board had not adopted an policy on the issue.
 - The Board reviewed and commented on draft regulations and heard from private swim instructors regarding their concerns. A big issue was the cost of liability insurance. Therefore, working with the CBJ Risk Manager, staff developed an option that seemed reasonably affordable and met CBJ's risk requirements. (See minutes of January, 2020).
 - A draft policy that would implement the regulations was also developed and was now before the Board for discussion, pending completion of the regulations. (See attached). The amounts of any fees are not specified in the policy but would be set by the Board annually along with all other fees at the time of developing a fee schedule for the budget.
 - Mr. Schaaf noted that the goal is to not reduce access to swimming lessons and therefore the existing status quo for private lessons continued until the pandemic closed the pools.
 - At this point several members of the public offered comments as follows:
 - Patricia Morgan, Douglas, is a long teacher of private lessons and also is a CBJ employee who teaches water aerobics. She worries about the costs of commercial use fees and does not want private lessons to become cost prohibitive for parents.
 - Julie Benarksi, N. Douglas, spoke as a parent stating that private lessons work much better for her than the Pool lessons, in terms of schedule flexibility and ease of signing up. There is high demand for private lessons, please keep them affordable.
 - Samantha Hammerly, Valley, has been a private teacher for a few years and knows private lessons are in high demand. She wanted to know the timeline for implementation,

- and to be sure that lessons for adults are kept available. Please keep fees affordable and ensure equity across the various sports.
- Madison Bargas, Valley, has been a private instructor for 6 years, agreed with previous comments. She is afraid the Board is trying to make it hard for teachers, and please be considerate of their needs.
 - Kayla Miller, Valley, is a mother of 3 and private swim lessons are very important. Please keep them affordable since they are much easier to sign up for and offer more scheduling flexibility.
 - The Board discussed the draft policy as follows:
 - Mr. Muldoon – the intent is to not make the cost of private lessons any more expensive than necessary and the Board recognizes the need and demand for lessons in a community with so much access to water.
 - Mr. Griffith – the required certifications look good, and wondered if the required background checks had to be done through CBJ’s process. Mr. Schaaf said yes.
 - Ms. Morrison – we need both private and public lessons, and we need to keep it affordable for parents.
 - Ms. Watt – we should honor existing swim passes and asked if staff could distinguish pass holders from non-pass holders taking or providing lessons. Mr. Monahan said yes. Ms. Watt said she will offer an amendment to the draft policy so that it honors existing passes.
 - Ms. Morrison – agrees with Ms. Watt
 - Ms. Merrell – has children and has used both private and public lessons. Our intention is to expand access to lessons and offer more flexibility to parents. Annual passes should count to get in for lesson.
 - Ms. Triem – Suggested striking language on not allowing memberships/passes.
 - Mr. Griffith – There is a big need for community lessons. Suggested a one time annual permit-fee.
 - Ms. Bartlett – Suggested that daily commercial use fees are reasonable.
 - Mr. Muldoon – Asked the board to be ready to discuss the following at the April 27th meeting:
 - Application Fee
 - Annual Fee
 - Admission Fee
 - Commercial Fee
 - Mr. Rutecki – Suggested to make the external private lessons as close to CBJ lessons in terms of cost/price.
 - Next Meeting April 27th at 5:00pm via ZOOM.