Pool Board Meeting April 14, 2020

In attendance via Zoom meeting: Dan Hirsh, Terry Irving, Melissa Perilstein, Nick Zaneto, Danielle Scala, Jon Miller, Carla Cole, Becky, Danielle McMahon, Jeremy Campbell, Elvia Hajjar, John Butler, Monica Tramontin.

Reports:

Becky, Jay, Melissa, Nick and Jon met about prepping for the 2020 season. Moving forward, Aquatics is approved. New membership software through current financial software will require new equipment for the pool.

Pool Management:

Seasonal employees can begin May 1st for cleaning, painting, etc. However, need clearance from state for safety regarding covid19. Will reach out to DPW for painting and repairing the water fountain that were discussed. Board voted that both projects should move forward. All staff positions have been filled for the season, which won't be paid until pool opens.

Snack Bar:

Contract for concession stand will be put on for next council meeting. Jeremy will coordinate with Fred Hall regarding if water is on so he can independently start cleaning snack stand. Carla suggested revamping the way the snack bar will be run due to covid19

New Business:

June 20th is best case scenario for opening the pool, Jon suggested adding on the September weekends (losing four weekends in May, gaining three weekends in September). With reduced hours, should have enough high school aged kids to lifeguard the pool, but still concerned regarding staffing in September. Jeremy expressed similar struggle with snack bar. Concern raised by Danielle, Carla, Terry and Elvia that September would be a wash for many families and suggested reducing fee's for relief to families. Will most likely lose memberships due to covid19, lack of swim team, pool membership as a luxury, etc. More emphasis on pro-rated rate, but need to be sensitive to operating costs.

The 10% increase to membership rates has been memorialized. Considering giving 5% reduced rate for truncated season, but pool opening all dependent on the virus. Board discussed fixed costs for opening and maintaining the pool and increase to minimum wage. Still need to consider engineering study. Using surplus for functioning, not revenue dependent. Non memberships (summer camps, parties, etc.) keeping us afloat financially, have to consider not having these contributions this season if we open. In capital ordinance, Becky will send email with exact numbers, Pool Commission eager to see these numbers. Minimum for Aquatics will be at least 15k just to open. All will depend on when Middlesex Health Department gives permission to open. Nick suggests we will do the basic set up and open for long term health of the pool.

Danielle motions for reducing rates at 5% for truncated season, seconded by Carla, 5:0 in favor. Under current policy, no refunds. If pool doesn't open, suggest offering future credit for next year. But currently planning on opening registration on May 15th, all depending on if pool opens.

Looking into getting dive blocks put back in based on engineering findings. Engineering suggested on doing a three year study, but Commission asking for five year plan for improvements, emphasis on learning about lifespan of the pool. Having trouble finding company that will refurbish diving boards, Nick suggests keeping them for this season, will try to clean and prep independently. Jonathan suggests getting new diving boards for 2021 season.

Family fun nights and movie nights still up in the air, Danielle will hold off on until May meeting. If open, first kid night would be July 7th, Family Fun night July 3rd.

Monica will reach out to the league regarding swim season. Nick has hired staff and Kelsey has hired the coaches. Dive coaches have also been selected if pool opens. Swim team would start once pool is cleared to open.

Carla mentioned looking into electric hand dryers and push hand soap dispenser, but Nick feels comfortable with what they have.

Next meeting is Wednesday, May 13th at 7pm via Zoom.