

**HILLSDALE SWIMMING POOL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING April 22, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Hillsdale Swimming Pool Commission was brought to order at 7:32 p.m. on Wednesday April 22, 2015. The announcement of the meeting was read by Chairman, Jay Campbell, in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Law of the State of New Jersey

Roll Call:

PRESENT: Chairman, Jay Campbell, Vice Chairman, Paul Muller, Commissioners, Rosemary Metz, Lee Ann Everett, Managing Director, Patty Hughes, Jack O'Hara Council Liaison, Anthony DeRosa

ABSENT: None

Guests: Pete LaBarbiera

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: From March 12, 2015

Minutes were approved with the following correction – add Jack O'Hara absent and one typo.

MOTION TO APPROVE REGULAR MINUTES:

APPROVED: Commissioner Muller

SECOND: Commissioner Everett

CORRESPONDENCE: None

TOPICS FOR PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION:

1. Snack Bar – Pete LaBarbiera:

First Jay Campbell apologized on behalf of the Commission for a letter that was sent to Pete. Jay confirmed with Pete he has a \$20,000.00 cash bond on file for the Snack Bar, Jay wanted to discuss ideas on how to improve the club and some potential changes. First and foremost, there is the need to keep the place clean.

Pete responded that he feels that they work hard and they have a healthy menu. There is a wide variety of items and that there are several low cost items on the menu. He has Chris Kobel, who is a teacher working as his manager there. Most of his employees are teachers and college kids. Pete stated that both he and Chris have taken the food handlers course. He feels that they have top notch hygiene. Pete runs several different locations, Hillsdale, Woodcliff Lake, Glen Rock, Allendale, and Park Ridge.

Patty's concerns are the cleanliness of the floors, they are really bad. However they are a bit cleaner right now as the hot water heater went. It seems that someone turned the breaker on and the water from the new hot water heater flooded the snack bar area.

Gail had told Pete previously that the cutting board that is in the snack bar had to go, yet it is still there.

The suppression guy comes in and he ends up having to clean the equipment because it's been sitting there dirty before he can even do his work and this is not part of his job.

Pete replied that the equipment is cleaned only in the fall. Patty said it has to be cleaned in May too as it sits all winter long.

Rosemary stated that they whole area is really disgusting. We may reach a point where we may not renew. These issues need to be resolved. The service is good but there are

quality issues.

Patty reminded everyone that most of the equipment in the snack shed belongs to the Borough but the upkeep of that equipment is Pete's responsibility as stated in the bid contract.

Pete agreed and took full responsibility for the upkeep of the equipment and for what builds up over the winter. But he stated that it's a long summer and he also teaches and there are a few factors that play a part in this.

Jack suggested that a major cleanup be done at the end of the season and at the beginning. A final inspection should also be done. Patty said that she will come up with a check list.

Pete suggested that it seems like there are a lot less out of towners at the pool – possibly due to the high prices for a non-resident. Jay stated that we are giving a 15% discount to new members this year. Pete feels that the price is just too much so families are looking at other towns. Also kids are doing more sports camps and parents choose this instead of the town pool because they can't afford both. He suggested that we offer a payment plan and adding Wi-Fi. Patty replied that we are offering a payment plan this year and the cost of the Wi-Fi is just too much, it is around \$1,200 to add this.

Paul said that he feels that Pete needs to also come up with ideas to get a better value. Paul feels the price of the food is expensive. He needs to gear the food more towards the adults. Maybe to go dinners are an option. Pete replied that he has several salads and they are adding more flavors for smoothies.

Patty said that Friday nights in July are movie nights. Maybe Pete can set up a movie and a dinner combo theme. Also he needs to add some type of morning items. Coffee, bagels would be a great start for the swim team times; offer some type of limited menu in the morning. We can send out email blasts to make people aware of new items, daily specials. Even expand on an idea of \$5.00 at 5:00 O'clock idea.

Paul referred back to the cleanliness of the snack bar. We really need to have some standards of cleanliness throughout the season. We need to adopt some guidelines and have them followed and inspected.

Patty said that during the open house, Pete should have someone walk around with samples from the snack bar and this can help drum up more business. Patty requested that the snack bar be ready to go by May 20th so that they can inspect it – preferably before our next meeting on May 13th if possible.

As far as the floor issue, it needs to be stripped and waxed once a year. If not the dirt gets embedded. Someone is coming next week to do this. Paul suggested that we rip up the tile floor then epoxy it. Patty will get a price to do this.

Pete thanked everyone and left the meeting.

Jay followed up that we need to put together cleaning standards and then email him with any issues. This way we will have a record of the problems. Jay gave Patty Pete's email address.

2. Membership –

Membership in 2014 from March 1, 2014 – April 22, 2014 was 295 families at a total of \$200,793.00. This year from March 1, 2015 – April 22, 2015 is 335 families at a total of \$213,364.00. We are up \$12,571.00 and we are up 40 families.

3. Mailings:

All the mailings went out. Notices went to the schools, the Borough website and the ad was run in the Pascack Press. It will also be in the Community Life in the next issue. Patty also has been sending information to new homeowners through the building department when they do the new homeowner inspections.

4. Swim Team Rental

The Phoenix Aquatics need to know how much they have to pay for the 2015 season. Last year the cost was \$19,500.00 and the season before that was \$18,000.00. Jay stated that we should increase the cost by 10%. Patty will propose the minimum of \$22,000 and maximum of \$25,000.00.

MOTION TO APPROVE RATE MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM FOR SWIM TEAM RENTAL:

APPROVED: Chairman Campbell **SECOND:** Commissioner O'Hara

All were in favor and the motion was carried.

Paul stated that we really need to breakdown the costs when they use the pool. It will need to include the utilities, hours they use the pool and then we need to set a pricing per hour rate.

Patty mentioned that they bought new solar covers for the pool to help keep the heat in. Patty will research what other clubs do.

5. Certified Pool Operator

Patty took the class this past week and passed. She is now certified until 2020. The cost of the class was \$300.00.

6. Landscaping

Bid packets were just released by the Administrator. Bids are not due back until April 30th. The Borough hopes to award the bid by May 5th. Until then we are stuck. Jay said that is ridiculous. We will need to hire a landscaper now to do a cleanup. We cannot wait until then, the pool is opening soon.

7. Liaison to the Mayor and Council

Anthony said that it looks like the membership numbers are encouraging. This time last year was 295 now 335. It looks like we are on track with the new ideas.

Patty stated that we need to think about reducing our resident's rates. Mr. Benecke told her that our rates are too high. The money that the town was taking in lieu of taxes was

too much. We really need to concentrate on breaking even at this point. Jay stated that we need to make a spreadsheet and see if we lowered our rates 20% - how many people we would need to make up the difference. We should also do an audit of the facility. Paul has questions about the reserve and the cash, but we don't need an audit for that.

Patty and Roe also went to the new Life Fitness in Montvale. They reported that it is really expensive but really nice. They have several different plans that you can do. The cost is approximately \$310 per month for a family. They are open from 4:00 am – 12 midnight. They joined the NJ Pool Managers Association. They offer a lot of extras and a lot of programs. Some are included with your rates and there are also a lot of other extras that you have to pay an additional fee.

REMARKS FROM CITIZENS:

None

CLOSED SESSION:

None

Motion to Adjourn: Commissioner Muller

Second: Commissioner Metz

Meeting closed at 9:12 p.m.

Next Meeting Wednesday May 13, 2015 at 7:00 pm, Hillsdale Borough Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Kohan
Minutes Secretary