

**HILLSDALE SWIMMING POOL
COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING October 14, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Hillsdale Swimming Pool Commission was brought to order at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday October 14, 2015. The announcement of the meeting was read by Commissioner, Paul Muller, in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Law of the State of New Jersey

Roll Call:

PRESENT: Commissioners, Rosemary Metz, Paul Muller, Lee Ann Everett, Managing Director, Patty Hughes, Council Liaison, Anthony DeRosa

ABSENT: Chairman, Jay Campbell, Commissioner Jack O'Hara,

Guests: Frank & Linda Parisi, Kathy Sampath, Don Wagner

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve minutes with corrections:

Motion: Commissioner Metz Second: Commissioner Muller

All were in favor and the minutes were approved with corrections.

Correspondences: None

Topics for Presentation/Discussion

Potential Bubble RFP:

Commissioner Muller reported that He and Chairman Campbell met with Bob Benecke along with Council Members John Ruocco, Frank Pizzella, Borough Administrator Susan Witkowski, Patty Hughes and the Borough CFO Michael Kaufmann. They were all in agreement with the idea of doing the bubble but there was a debate on how to go forward. The idea that was presented was that they go out to bid for the project. The concern was having it run by one individual instead of an organization. Bob Benecke stated that he will compose the RFP, this way we can get the best for our swim club. Commissioner Metz asked Don Wagner who would be running the bubble, him or Phoenix Aquatics and he responded that it would be through Phoenix Aquatics. Commissioner Muller said the first order of business would be for the Commission to vote on whether or not we want to have an RFP written up to see if there are other organizations that would be interested. The RFP is only a request for a proposal for a bid to be done. This would be non-binding. The time frame for this seems to be by the end of the year.

Motion made by Commissioner Muller to have an RFP written up by Bob Benecke and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Everett.

All were in favor and the motion passed.

Commissioner Muller will email Mr. Benecke and let him know to please draft the RFP.

MEMBERSHIP:

Patty has come up with some program ideas to compete with the new Montvale facility and some other promotional ideas as well.

Some of her suggestions were guest pass price reductions for adults and kids. Most other club guest rates are under \$10.00 – Patty reported that we are one of the highest for guest rates. She also suggested Scuba diving lessons, swim camps, twilight memberships, late night Friday food truck vendors, kiddy pool only membership, expand movie nights, new resident date, senior citizen day, membership appreciation day with giveaway's, date night, adult swims and bbq, singles night and other fun functions. These will be brought up again when it gets closer.

Commissioner Muller responded that he had met one of the owner of Blue Water Divers (the owner lives in River Vale) which is located in Rochelle Park. Patty said she will reach out to the owner (Lorraine) to see if this is some type of programs that they would be interested in doing as well as some other businesses.

Commissioner Muller said that Bob Benecke stated that he had price sensitivity ~ in general. He was going to do an analysis with the member's vs the cost. May registration this year seemed to be about 10% higher. Perhaps we need to advertise more. Commissioner Muller asked Patty to get some numbers on the cost to advertise. We should reach areas further now where pools have closed.

A suggestion was brought up to target corporations. We should come up with a brochure and send them out. We need to give prices on renting out the pool, perhaps Fridays in June and Fridays in September. They can rent the pool as a catered or non-catered event. Patty feels that we should not be open in September. Sports start, college kids go back to school and it is really hard to get people to work.

SNACK BAR:

The contract for the snack bar is now over. At present, the area again has been left in a disgusting manor. It has not been cleaned at all for the end of the season. Patty stated that Pete said he would be back this weekend to clean it up.

Patty suggested that the snack bar should be run in house. Commissioner Muller feels that it is too big of an undertaking. Patty will have the old contract updated and ready to go out to bid. Commissioner Metz suggested to Patty to come up with a plan if we were to run the snack bar. How things would work so we can have a better understanding. Commissioner Muller asked Patty to have the bid package sent to them via email when ready.

PUMP DIVING:

Patty made a suggestion that since it is in the contract with Lehman that instead of spending the \$15,000 on the main pump this year, we replace the diving pump which is about \$6,000.00 and then we could budget for the others in the next year's budget. It's time to stop patching, as all these pumps really need to be replaced. To order this pump will take a couple of weeks. We can order it and pay for it now and install it in the spring. Patty stated that we had a \$50,000 Capital improvement budget and that \$15,000 is part of Lehman's contract. We can move it around a little but we would need to do the rest next year as it is part of their contract. Commissioner Muller asked that we wait until the next meeting so that he can see the numbers.

Council Liaison DeRosa asked Commissioner Muller if the Board plans on having a plan by the end of the year and Commissioner Muller responded yes.

REMAKS FROM CITIZENS:

Linda Parisi asked if all the electric bills are paid for by the pool itself or if they are paid by the town. Patty responded that all the bills are paid through the Borough.

Mrs. Parisi also stated that from the conversation she was given the understanding that Bob Benecke had mentioned to extend the season. She felt that this is a disaster. Her kids work at the pool and it was basically a waste of their time. Perhaps partial memberships or different types of memberships would be helpful. Commissioner Muller stated that Mr. Benecke recommended that we don't do partial memberships.

She feels that this is wrong and that there are people out there that may be interested. The River Edge Pool does this and it may be worth looking into. Perhaps even a weekend only membership.

Kathy Simpath who lives in Pearl River said that they have a YMCA that has a camp and has now opened the pools for evenings and weekends. Many Stonybrook members have left to do this. She also feels that we need a variety of memberships.

Don Wagner from Phoenix asked when we will have a plan. Commissioner Muller responded that it's all based on who submits a proposal and then we will go from there. Mr. Wagner asked if he will need to submit his proposal being that we already have it and Commissioner Muller stated that he would. Muller responded that we have told the council that we will have everything ready by the end of the year. Mr. Wagner was quite upset as he is the one that came to us with this proposal and it could possibly go to someone else. Commissioner Muller stated that we have to do what is best for our pool and our members. It didn't sit well that one person would be running the whole operation so that is where the idea of doing an RFP came from.

Linda Parisi again stated that she feels that we keep dragging this on. One of our concerns was that we didn't want to hand it over to someone else. Now we are opening it up to others to come in and run it? Commissioner Muller stated that we need more information to see if we have the best deal possible. By the end of December we should have a plan.

Frank Parisi asked why we are not doing an independent study like Woodcliff Lake. Commissioner Muller stated that Mr. Benecke said we don't need to do that.

Linda Parisi asked if there will be an issue with the stream in the back. Is there any way that people can start working on those issues in the meantime to help speed up the process? Commissioner Muller stated that the stream is not an issue. One issue is the water line and that the building by the pool has no heat. The commission will have to be the ones that will have to look into that which they are already doing.

Mr. Wagner stated that he already has someone come out and look into this and the gas line is als very adequate. The water line would need to be lowered.

CLOSED SESSION:

None

Motion to Adjourn: Commissioner Metz
Everett

Second: Commissioner Rosemary

Meeting closed at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Kohan

Minutes Secretary