

**HILLSDALE SWIMMING POOL COMMISSION**  
**REGULAR MEETING September 9, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Hillsdale Swimming Pool Commission was brought to order at 7:35 p.m. on Wednesday September 9, 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, Commissioners, Rosemary Metz, Paul Muller, Jack O'Hara, Lee Ann Everett, Managing Director, Patty Hughes, Council Liaison, Anthony DeRosa

**ABSENT:** none

**Guests:** Tony Adrignolo, Edie Orlando, Linda Parisi, Kathy Sampath, Don Wagner

**Open Meeting to Public:**

Pool Member, Tony Adrignolo spoke to the Commission. He stated that Patty does a great job at the pool. He feels that since our tax dollars go towards the pool, one should expect some privacy. On 8/29/15 he arrived at the pool early and found that the Phoenix Swim Club was still using the pool when it was open to members. Mr. Adrignolo checked the website for the Phoenix Swim Club and it shows that they use our pool and one other. On this particular day, there was a person there videoing one of his swimmers in the pool. He had some type of apparatus that was running alongside the pool and the camera was in the pool. Mr. Adrignolo said that he did not wish to be videotaped in any way; he did not sign any waiver to have his image taken or be in any video. Don Wagner from Phoenix responded that he videos his kids to look at their skills. He had asked the manager, Kevin that was on duty if he could continue even though the pool was now open and he was allowed. For this particular situation, Mr. Wagner was videotaping this swimmer for a professional. Mr. Wagner stated that he was using a GoPro Camera which only shoots about 3 feet away and at no time was the camera recording any other person. The footage that Mr. Wagner films goes directly to the swimmer and is not put up on their website or You Tube. It is for that swimmer to use. Mr. Adrignolo was good with Mr. Wagner's response

Commissioner Muller asked if Mr. Wagner has release forms from his members to put pictures and videos on his website for situations like this. Mr. Wagner responded that he cannot be certain that he has a signed waiver from everyone. Mr. Wagner assured the Commission and Mr. Adrignolo that his footage would not be posted on his website or on any other website like You Tube. Once Mr. Adrignolo asked him to stop filming, he did. Again Mr. Adrignolo was satisfied with his response.

**Public Meeting was now closed.**

**Membership:**

Total Membership - \$655,255.00  
Residents - \$240,033.00 – 436 Families  
Non-Residents - \$415,222 -493 Families

The goal was \$739,000.00 in which we are down (~~\$84,484.00~~)  
We had \$9,153.00 in waivers and the credit card fees were \$3,911.00.

Chairman Campbell stated that extending the discount for an additional week did help.

Chairman Campbell reported that the full Borough Council wants to meet with the full Stonybrook Commission on 9/21/15. Chairman Campbell is strongly opposed to doing this. He feels that a committee should be made rather

than having the full commission meeting with the full council.

Council Liaison, DeRosa said if the Commission does not meet it would look like the Commission is hiding something. Council Liaison, DeRosa stated that the whole Council is concerned about the pool. They have a vested interest and responsibility. There is no political agenda here and someone does not have their own political plan.

The feeling that a plan for going forward isn't there. There has not been anyone reporting to the Council at the Council Meetings as to what the situation is at the pool. The Council has no idea what the Commission is thinking.

Commissioner Muller stated that it has always been the Council Liaison that reports back to the Council.

Chairman Campbell said that the numbers that they have come from the Borough. The Borough CFO can pull up the numbers at any time – it's not something the Commission makes up – it all goes through the Borough and can be requested by the Council at any time. The issues that are going on are not unique to Hillsdale, they are going on everywhere. The real issue is what we do. Chairman Campbell stated that he can report where the pool is now but that you don't need the whole Commission to do this.

Council Liaison DeRosa stated that the Council wants to see where the pool is financially and what the plan is from here.

Chairman Campbell replied that the rates were supporting what the pool has to give back to the town in lieu of taxes. The town should not be looking at the pool as revenue.

Commissioner Muller wants to know what exactly the Council wants. Council Liaison DeRosa responded that the Council wants to know what the Commission is thinking and he's sure that the Commission is feeling the same about the Council. The 9/21/15 meeting is a special meeting that will be open to the public so both can understand what is going on.

Chairman Campbell feels that this meeting will involve into a bigger issue. It should be done at a smaller level. Commissioner O'Hara suggested that they Council come to one of the Pool Commissions meetings.

Chairman Campbell asked the members of the commission their feelings on attending this meeting and it was unanimous that they all want to get together but first we need to work as a commission and with Bob Benecke before a meeting with the Council can be had.

Commissioner Muller reported that the Economic Development Committee was giving us until the end of the year to come up with a plan and we were all good with that. The report from Bob Benecke was just received and now we are being asked to meet without even having a time to review that report and come up with a plan.

What is needed is more time to evaluate the report and meet with a committee and not the whole Council.

Chairman Campbell stated we can present a plan to a small committee - probably at the end of October and then if we are all in agreement we could then meet with the full council. It's a finance problem. We met with the Economic Development Commission, then we met with the Economic Developer and we just received his report so we need time to review that report.

So we would like to request a meeting at the end of October with the Finance Committee as this is a finance problem.

#### **Topics:**

**Benecke's Report** – Commissioner Metz feels that all of Bob Benecke's points are valid and factual. Commissioner Muller met with Bob Benecke and he has a lot of great information. At his meeting with Bob Benecke, he was originally against doming the pool, but in the report contradicts that and he now shows he is for it.

The dome is one partial solution.

Don Wagner reported that the dome would be an aluminum frame structure and the outside would be like a tent. It could even possibly cost less to heat the pool during the winter. Solar covers would remain on when the pool is not being used to help keep the heat in and to help with evaporation.

**Survey Monkey** - The survey that was sent out really screamed about the rates. Chairman Campbell asked Commissioner Muller to present the findings of the survey in some type of readable report. It came over as a pdf and it needs to be in a better format and we need the demographics. Commissioner Muller said he would work on that. Also we would really like to see some type of spreadsheet showing if we lower the rates what we need in membership and so on. We need to be able to break even. 1300 members is really our maximum at the pool. We need to compare it to other towns and their pools. Our rates are basically double what other towns have. The most comparable pool would be Ramsey. We need to ask Bob Benecke to make us a spreadsheet to see what we need to do.

Patty Hughes said that the numbers from the NJ Pool Manufacturers are that 60% of the pools around us are failing. There is a meeting in October and Patty will hopefully hear what other towns are planning and can report back.

In summary – this is what we need:

-We will need Bob Benecke to prepare a spreadsheet with the information requested above to see what we need to do to break even if we lower the rates.

-Councilman DeRosa will supply us with the school projections

-Commissioner Muller will prepare a report with the survey monkey results.

**Dome:** Chairman Campbell stated that we are all in agreement that this should be done as it is a brilliant approach. We should take \$250,000 and we should pay for the dome. Patty said that this amount would only cover the cost of the dome.

Mr. Wagner reported that his approach was to do all of this.

He would rent a concert trailer with bathrooms, pay for the utilities, maintenance, chemicals.

The breakdown numbers are - approximately:

Pool salaries/operators:	\$90,000
Lifeguards:	\$37,000
Finances (including cover):	\$50,000
Utilities:	\$30,000
Set Up:	\$10,000
Maintenance:	\$17,000
Insurance:	\$5,000
Permits (est):	\$1,000
snow removal:	\$1,750
Capital fund reserves:	\$7,000

All are approximate – but it should be in the ballpark of about \$261,000. The net income in the winter will be about \$137,000. Also you can add on the lease rental fee that will be paid. You can add in private swimming, clinics, fitness will all be additional income. Mr. Wagner stated that he could have a waiting list of up to 50 families if he had the place. If he had a place he could have up to 300 swimmers. He would want all lanes from 3:30-9:00 to manage the kids that he just has right now. At Festa would be paying about \$14-15 dollars and hour/per lane or \$160.00 an hour and that is in the winter.

Chairman Campbell wants to know are we as a Commission prepared to lease out the area to have it built and have Mr. Wagner run it as he sees fit. Commissioner Muller stated that Woodcliff Lake has already hired an engineer to do a study to see if it can be done there. He feels that we need to meet with Bob Benecke to see what are options are.

Chairman Campbell allowed comments from the public at this point.

Hillsdale resident Edie Orlando stated that she feels that Chairman Campbell is wrong. There are so many teams that would come if we had a dome. She suggested that we should take it to the town to vote. The Commission responded that he is not against the dome at all. The issue is giving the rights over to someone else. Ms. Orlando responded that what is so upsetting is how long this is taking and now seeing that other towns have been approached and that they are considering it.

Another pool member, Kathy Sampath stated that she is a non-resident member. She pays a lot of money to come to this pool. She is here because she cares about the pool. She wants to know what is going to be done going forward. There is an option here. It's time to move along or the opportunity will be lost, and then what will happen to Stonybrook.

Pool Member, Linda Parisi also feels the same way. She sees all these other town pools closing its doors. Now that the JCC has closed these kids need a place to go. Her daughter is a lifeguard here and she has been a member for many years and she sees what is going on at the pool. She hears from others what is going on. This is an opportunity that needs to be taken seriously and considered before the opportunity is no longer there.

Chairman Campbell responded that the group as a Commission needs to find out what needs to take place. Commissioner Muller feels we need to make a decision that is best for all, whether it be a dome, a permanent fixture or semi-permanent. We just can't solve this problem quickly.

**Pump repair:** Patty reported that for the 2016 season all the pumps in the pump house will need to be replaced. They have been fixed so many times that they cannot be band-aided any longer. The approximate cost would be about \$40,000.00

**Staffing:** Patty also reported that they are having a huge problem with staffing. They just don't have enough people, especially life guards. Right now they only have 6 lifeguards that can work for town day. Patty has been buying the guards lunch which is costing her about \$42 a day out of her pocket. Salaries are higher at other places and people just don't show up when they are scheduled to work. Stonybrook member, Linda Parisi added that her daughter works as a lifeguard at Stonybrook as well as another place and her salary is higher at the other location. She feels that one of the problems might be that Stonybrook usually hold 2 life guard classes but this year due to an issue only one was held. You usually get about 4 lifeguards out of this class.

**Murray Family Refund:**

Patty reported that this is for 2 seniors. Due to an illness one of the members was not able to come to the pool. The Commission responded that there are no refunds as stated on the membership form.

**Email from the Ross Family:**

Patty received a nice email from the Ross Family and how they enjoy the pool and what a great job Patty does and how hard she works. They wouldn't change a thing except that the rates need to be lowered.

**Referral Refund:**

There was a family that was not able to use their referral money and wanted to have that money in cash. The commission responded that they can use the referral money next year.

**Clothing/caulking:**

2 members that were sitting on the side of the pool had caulking on their suites from a repair that was done and did not dry. They asked Patty for \$200.00 to replace their swimsuits. Patty responded that she did not have that authority but would bring the request back to the board. The commission gave Patty permission to give them a guest pass to reimburse them.

One last public comment from pool member Edie Orlando. She asked why the commission can't send the report that was received to the Council. Council Liaison DeRosa responded that the Council does already have the report.

**CLOSED SESSION:**

None

**Motion to Adjourn:** Chairperson Jack O'Hara

**Second:** Commissioner Rosemary Metz

**Meeting closed** at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Kohan

Minutes Secretary