

DRAFT

PIEDMONT RECREATION COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, January 18, 2012

A Regular Session of the Piedmont Recreation Commission was held January 18, 2012, in the City Hall Council Chambers at 120 Vista Avenue. In accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2(a) the agenda for this meeting was posted for public inspection on January 13, 2012.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Hunt called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Brian Cain, Teddy King, Kim Hebert, Dick Hunt, Nick Levinson, Terry London and Stephen Mills

Staff: Recreation Director Mark Delventhal, Recreation Supervisor David Weisgerber, Aquatics Staffer Barbara Selway and Recording Secretary Chris Harbert

City Council Liaison: Vice Mayor John Chiang

City Aquatics Consultant: Jeff Eorio

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no speakers for the public forum.

REGULAR CALENDAR

The Commission considered the following items of regular business:

Minutes

The Commission corrected a typo on page 3 of its November 16, 2011, meeting minutes.

Resolved, that the Recreation Commission approves as amended its meeting minutes of November 16, 2011.

Moved by Mills, Seconded by Levinson

Ayes: Cain, King, Hebert, Hunt, Levinson, Mills

Noes: None

Absent: London

Commissioner London arrived at 7:40 p.m.

**Public Hearing:
Proposed Changes
to Community
Pool Schedule**

Chairman Hunt opened a public hearing on proposed changes in the community pool's use schedule for the period April 7, 2012 through May 17, 2013.

Correspondence was received from: Steve Nicholls; Matthew Hinsch; Steve Krohn; Duncan Watry; Mary Louise Morrison; David Theis & Sarah Royce

Messrs. Weisgerber, Eorio and Ms. Selway opened the informal workshop format of the public hearing with a description of proposed use schedules for both the main pool and medium pool for the following periods:

- Spring - Weekends (April 7-June 10, 2012)
- Late Spring - Weekdays (May 21-June 15, 2012)
- Summer - Weekdays (June 18-August 17, 2012)
- Summer - Weekends (June 16-August 19, 2012)
- Fall - Weekdays (August 20-November 2, 2012)

- Fall - Weekends (August 25-October 28, 2012)
- Winter - Weekdays (November 5, 2012-February 1, 2013)
- Winter - Weekends (November 3, 2012-March 24, 2013)
- Early Spring - Weekdays (February 4-May 17, 2013)

The user groups assigned to specific times and pool lanes were: lap swimmers; Piedmont Swim Team; Lessons; Recreational Swim; American Red Cross Water Safety Classes; Master Adult Swim; Water Exercise Classes; Piedmont High School; PHS-pre swim team (Rec. Dept. fee class).

Mr. Delventhal stated that the proposed use schedules were formulated based on the following objectives:

- Reduce concurrent activities for the safety, comfort and quality of each program;
- Set clear time frames for programs to optimize growth;
- Minimize schedule reductions to preserve pass integrity
- Adjust schedule for community youth users to a suitable time of day;
- Offer a consistent schedule throughout all seasons

and to provide (1) water safety instruction classes for the community; (2) youth aquatic programming; (3) seasonal recreational swim; and (4) water fitness. During the staff presentation, various improvements to the pool facility complex were highlighted.

After the schedule presentation, the Chairman recessed the meeting at 8:15 p.m. to allow audience members to study the proposed schedule matrixes posted around the room. The meeting was reconvened at 8:25 p.m. with a question and answer session between audience speakers, staff and the Commission.

Public testimony was received from: Catherine Ogle; Alice Talcott; Jon Sakol; Francoise Putting; Duncan Watry; Michelle Turner; Karen Hird; Robert Crown; Clive Chandler and Nathan Moon

During the Q & A session, the following concerns, suggestions and schedule modification requests related to the following topics were expressed:

- **Lap Swimming** -- (1) lap swimmers rely on a set daily schedule -- eliminating the ability for lap swimmers to use the pool on Saturday mornings between 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. in order to exclusively accommodate the Piedmont Swim Team will not be well received; (2) it is more likely that the PST kids would prefer the 9:00 a.m. start time for Saturday morning practices; (3) if the PST Saturday morning start time remains at 7:00 a.m., it is unlikely that there are enough participants to utilize all 6 lanes of the pool -- would prefer that 1 or 2 lanes be reserved on Saturday mornings for lap swimming beginning at 5:30 or 6:00 a.m.; (4) strongly endorse the City's efforts to rebuild evening lap swim interest; (5) prefer that during the Fall-Weekday schedule, one hour lap swim be inserted between the PST time from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and the PHS time from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and (6) early morning lap swimming time should be available 7 days a week, all year long.

- **Lessons** -- (1) are typically extremely profitable (both private and group) and emphasis, therefore, should be placed on growing the department's lesson programs and water safety classes year round; (2) it is critical to have well-trained instructors who **all** teach the same recognized "brand" of swim system training style; (3) increase lesson opportunities for non-residents to generate more revenue; (4) consider closing the pool to "lessons only" during blocks of time to maximize revenue generation; and (5) strongly support City efforts to include master adult swim classes and water fitness programs.
- **PHS and PST** -- (1) should pay for their pool time; (2) PHS and PST should not be afforded "prime time" usage slots in a community pool -- prime time should be reserved for paying users, otherwise the City will lose its paying customers; (3) other pool locales should be examined that could accommodate PHS and PST pool needs; (4) most municipalities do not assign school usage during prime times; and (5) as enrollment and use demands grows in the PHS and PST programs, lap swimmers and other pool users could be squeezed out from more and more pool time under the proposed "exclusive use" principle.
- **Scheduling and Fees** -- (1) consider charging different usage/group rates for different use times -- should charge more for "prime time" usage; (2) need more flexibility in the scheduling so that all user groups have access during most time frames rather than strive for total scheduling consistency; (3) unfair that there is no recreational swim availability in the main pool during spring and fall weekdays; (4) the proposed schedule excludes youths, who are not members of PST or PHS, from using the pool during a large block of afternoon time; (5) the City should inform the community as to the number of users in the PST and how much does the PHS and PST pay the City to use the community pool -- is it a flat fee or per member based?; (6) unfair that the PST and PHS have exclusive use of the pool from 3:30 to 7:00 p.m. during Early Spring & Fall-Weekdays.

The Commission thanked speakers for their input, stressing that pool use scheduling can always be adjusted if it is not meeting the community's needs. In preparation for the next staff report/proposal on this issue, the Commission requested staff to consider the comments and suggestions raised tonight and to:

- provide early morning lap swimming time 7 days a week, all year long;
- reconsider whether a 8:00 a.m. start time for PST on Saturday mornings would be more convenient for PST kids;
- increase emphasis on growing the department's lesson/water safety programs, especially between the hours of 10 a.m. and 12 noon;
- not automatically reject the premise of "shared use" so as to preserve flexibility in accommodating the various user needs as well as offering family-friendly options during the 3:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. time frame;
- consider inserting a lap swim hour between the exclusive PST and PHS block of time;
- re-analyze and collect more user data to ascertain if it supports the usage assumptions upon which the proposed scheduling matrixes were based;
- determine if evening hour pool time is underutilized and, if so, target efforts to better market this time;

- assign pool priority to growing the lap and department swim programming and schedule PHS usage as time allows.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, February 15 at 7:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Hunt adjourned the meeting at 9:50 p.m.