



1603 22nd Street
Anacortes, WA 98221
360-293-0673 (phone)
360-299-2953 (fax)

MINUTES

Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
Pool's Long Range Planning (Formerly MCIP) Committee
Fidalgo Pool and Fitness Center
Tuesday, March 29, 2016, 5:00 p.m.
The Public was invited.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair and Commissioner Jeremy McNett at 5:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Commissioner Jeremy McNett, Commissioner Mel Larsen,
Executive Director Marilyn Stadler, Maintenance Manager
John Little, Aquatic & Fitness Manager Carla Bigelow,
Libby Grage, Sandy Hatfield, Commissioner David Way

Committee Members Absent: Keith Rubin, Dr. Mick Donahue, Christine Mathes, David Lervik

Non-committee Commissioner: Andrew Olson

Public: Lori Johnson

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following email was sent to fpfcmcip@gmail.com:

From: <Sunsh78242@aol.com>

Date: March 8, 2016 at 2:58:13 PM PST

To: <fpfcmcip@gmail.com>

Subject: Attention Commit Planning

I wish Anacortes would stop all improvements and use some self discipline regarding the "gotta have more" attitude. Do you not realize people need food, clothing and there are so many big families with many children who are struggling to put food on the table. The cost for a family to take their children to the Fidalgo Pool is prohibitive in many cases.

When I was young, we did just fine with far less and it does help you appreciate and builds character within.

Sincerely,
Barbara Andersen

I tried to enter this under survey but couldn't find it under "Take A Survey"

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners – MCIP Committee minutes of March 1, 2016 were reviewed by the Committee and Commissioners.

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded (LITTLE/BIGELOW) that the committee members approve the minutes from the March 1, 2016 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: A motion was made, seconded (MCNETT/LARSEN) that the Commissioners approve the minutes from the March 1, 2016 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

SURVEY

- ***Survey Results*** – The survey results are under the Capital Plan section of the fidalgopool.com website. Commissioner Jeremy McNett expressed his concerns that around 4%, but it was actually 16 out of 715 responders at 2.2%, stated that they are concerned how renovations would be funded. He continued by saying that the committee and Commissioners should look for other means of funding rather than from taxpayers. As the committee moves forward, members should assess energy saving grants, support fundraisers and launch a capital campaign. The Committee may also recommend renovating a section at a time depending on what funding is discovered throughout the process.
- ***Outreach Plan*** – Executive Director Marilyn Stadler will write up a summary on the survey results and a description on how the public can access them on the fidalgopool.com website. She will send this information to the committee who will share it with their contacts on the outreach plan. She will also contact the Anacortes American, Fidalgo Living, Anacortes Now and our email list. In addition, she will alert the public to the Committee’s upcoming workshops.

WORKSHOPS

- ***Dates and Times*** – The first public workshop will be Saturday, April 16, 1- 3 pm and the second is scheduled for Thursday, May 12, 5 – 7 pm since May 14 is not available. Most of the committee members also believe that having one workshop in the evening and one on a Saturday may be more convenient for the public.
- ***Agenda*** – The Committee discussed the workshop agenda and decided the following:
 - Welcome and Introduction
 - Survey Results
 - Facility Tour
 - Participants’ Comments
 - Pool Day Passes for Further Research
 - Adjourn
- ***Presentation Plans***
 - **Workshop Set-up**
 1. The downstairs Fidalgo Pool conference room will be set up with chairs.
 2. The results for each survey question in pie chart form, excluding the comments, will be posted around the conference room. Note cards with pens will be available for participants to write down comments about the results and place them in box for compilation. Committee and public will be able to review the information after the workshops and participants’ research are completed.
 3. A table in the lobby will display the comments section of the survey; clarifications on some comment misinformation appearing in the survey, information on what tax payers fund in the levy, how the fitness center bond/loan is paid by user fees and not by tax dollars, the success of the current use of the

facility over the last several years, how Fidalgo Pool impacts local businesses, who uses the pool, and visits in program categories per year.

4. A large piece of Butcher Block paper will be placed on a table for children to draw their ideas about Fidalgo Pool & Fitness Center
 5. Light refreshments will be served, such as coffee, tea, water, and cookies.
- **Presentation**
1. Executive Director Marilyn Stadler will facilitate both workshops. She will begin the presentation by explaining that the committee is tasked to develop a long range plan for Fidalgo Pool & Fitness Center. This will include a summary of what the committee has done so far.
 2. Marilyn will discuss how the committee members outreached to the public to obtain their initial input through the survey.
 3. She will go around the room and briefly explain the pie charts.
 4. The participants will be broken into groups; some will tour the facility with staff while others will work with committee members to discuss their opinions and questions on the survey results.
 5. After every participant has a chance to tour and comment, participants and their family members will be encouraged to use the facility a day on us within two weeks of the workshops. The goal is to gain further research on what the facility needs.
 6. Participants will also be asked to send any additional comments after the facility use to fpfcmcip@gmail.com.

COMMITTEE TASKS FOR WORKSHOPS

- Marilyn Stadler will develop a PowerPoint presentation of the survey results, each result will be in pie chart form.
- Commissioner Jeremy McNett will print the pie charts poster-size.
- Carla Bigelow will help with staffing the tour.
- John Little will develop talking points for the staff doing the tours.
- Marilyn Stadler will ask Friends of Fidalgo Pool and Fitness Center to help with the refreshments.
- The Committee will use the language Pool's Long Range Plan instead of MCIP.
- John Little, Jeremy McNett, Carla Bigelow, Mel Larsen, Marilyn Stadler and Sandy Hatfield will work with facility participants to answer questions and take comments at the April 16th workshop.
- John Little, Jeremy McNett, Marilyn Stadler, Libby Grage and Sandy Hatfield will work with facility participants to answer questions and take comments at the May 12th workshop.
- ED Marilyn Stadler will ask the absent committee members to assist with one of the workshops.

ADJOURN

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded (MCNETT/WAY) to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 pm. The motion passed unanimously.

The next schedule meeting of the Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners – Pool's Long Range Planning Committee will be Tuesday, May 24, 2016, 5 pm in the Pool's conference room.



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MINUTES

Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
Long Range Planning (Formerly MCIP) Workshop
Fidalgo Pool and Fitness Center
Saturday, April 16, 2016, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
The Public was invited.

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Committee Members Present: Commissioner Jeremy McNett, Executive Director Marilyn Stadler, Maintenance Manager John Little, Sandy Hatfield, Aquatic & Fitness Manager Carla Bigelow, Keith Rubin, Dr. Mick Donahue

Public: Commissioner Andrew Olson, Jennifer Lewis, Tom Conroy, Gay Woods, Jim & Lenore Robb

SURVEY RESULTS

Executive Director Marilyn Stadler explained the survey process and the results. The survey was conducted in the 31 day period from Monday, February 8, 2016 to Wednesday, March 9, 2016. Seven hundred and fifteen individuals responded. The major concerns of responders include updating current systems such as Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning unit, making the facility American with Disabilities Act compliant, renovating the locker rooms, adding warmer pools, and having family/privacy changing rooms.

There is a table in the lobby that displays the entire survey results, including the comments section of the survey; clarifications on some comment misinformation; information on what tax payers fund in the levy, how the fitness center bond/loan is paid by user fees and not by tax dollars, the success of the current use of the facility over the last several years, how Fidalgo Pool impacts local businesses, who uses the pool, and visits in program categories per year.

QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

- Gay Woods indicated that warmer pools are needed. She also stated that some of the pool patrons, who weren't present at the workshop, are concerned about the shower heads in the locker rooms, the broken toilet and two sinks in the ladies locker room and the exterior siding of the building.
 - John Little, Maintenance Manager is planning to change all the shower heads and the replace the toilet. Those items have been received and are being prepared for installation. The two sinks are a bigger problem than just replacing them. The wall and the plumbing behind the sinks will need to be addressed, a more complicated and costly issue.

- Commissioner McNett explained to match the exterior siding of the main building with the fitness center siding would cost more than \$180,000. Repair and painting of the building would also be more than what our current special project budget can handle. The Levy & Maintenance Committee and the Commissioners are investigating the best way to handle the exterior updates.
- Tom Conroy stated that the pool is rented out to people other than Fidalgo Island residents, including Burlington Edison and Sedro-Woolley School Districts. It was explained that these school district rent the facility after closure hours. They don't have any other facility available to them. His other concerns included being opened more hours during the weekend, rent the pool less for parties, parking, and increase time for open and lap swimming. He commented that tax payer money should not have been used to build the fitness center. It was stressed that the fitness center bond/loan is paid by user fees & rental income and not by tax dollars.
- Jennifer Lewis stated that survey takers were split evenly in the different age ranges and some age ranges may have not considered the needs of the other patrons. For instance, a senior citizen without children may see no need for the slide replacement, but young parents are probably more inclined to support it.
- It was discussed that a large percentage of surveyors would like to see more children and teen activities. If the survey question about the water slide had followed the children and teen activity one, it may have had a different response level.
- A concern was voiced that parents would do their best to answer on their families behalf, but they may not be aware of what their children and teens would like to have here.
- It was asked that the neutral answers be taken out of the result analysis and that just Extremely and Very Important responses be compared to Less Important to Not at all important ones.
- Some thought that the temperature of the current pool is an issue since seniors and children don't tolerate cooler temperatures well when the competitive teams and swimmers need cooler temperatures to prevent overheating.
- Family/privacy changing rooms seem to be used more in the evening hours.
- Lenore Robb stated that more privacy is needed in the locker room areas for dressing. The family/privacy rooms may help some, but additional measures in the locker room are also a necessity.
- The pie chart results on the conference room walls should be positioned from highest Extremely and Very Important percentage to the least Extremely and Very Important percentage.

FACILITY TOUR

- Maintenance Manager John Little & Aquatic & Fitness Manager Carla Bigelow toured the participants around the facility.

POOL PASSES FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

- After participants toured and made comments, they were given a family pool pass to use the facility on us within two weeks of the workshop. It was explained that the committee would like to gain further information on what the facility needs by their first hand use.

ADJOURN

The workshop of the Pool's Long Range Planning Committee was adjourned at 3:15 p.m. The second workshop is scheduled for Thursday, May 12, 5 – 7 pm



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MINUTES

Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
Long Range Planning (Formerly MCIP) Workshop
Fidalgo Pool and Fitness Center
Thursday, May 12, 2016, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
The Public was invited.

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Committee Members Present: Commissioner Jeremy McNett, Executive Director Marilyn Stadler, Maintenance Manager John Little, Sandy Hatfield, Christine Mathes, Commissioner David Way

Public: Marcia Books, Joan McGee, Sue and Mia McCollum, Tom Conroy, Susan Lienesch, Heljda Saas

SURVEY RESULTS

Christine Mathes welcomed the public and committee members to the workshop. She had attendees introduce themselves before explaining the survey process. The survey was conducted in the 31 day period from Monday, February 8, 2016 to Wednesday, March 9, 2016. Seven hundred and fifteen individuals responded. Executive Director Marilyn Stadler presented the survey results from the highest percentage of Extremely Important and Very Important to the lowest. Some of the major concerns of responders include updating current systems such as the Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning unit, making the facility American with Disabilities Act compliant, renovating the locker rooms, adding warmer pools, and having family/privacy changing rooms.

There is a table in the lobby that displays the entire survey results, including the comments section of the survey; clarifications on some comment misinformation; information on what tax payers fund in the levy, how the fitness center bond/loan is paid by user fees and not by tax dollars, the success of the current use of the facility over the last several years, how Fidalgo Pool impacts local businesses, who uses the pool, and visits in program categories per year.

QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

- Joan McGee indicated that she is a lap swimmer and that the current pool temperature is too warm for competitive swimmers and active aerobics participants. She also stated that future pool upgrades must meet community needs and that all ADA requirements, water system upgrades and other current maintenance issues are in the plan.
- Sue McCollum stated that the pool needs to have more natural lighting and additions similar to a pool facility in Bavaria, Germany. She shared information with the Committee that appears at the end of the minutes.

- Heljda Saas discussed her concerns about meeting the pool needs of elderly patrons, such as her parents. The current pool does not have handrails all around the sides of the pool. She is concerned for their safety.
- Tom Conroy expressed that the District and Committee must have more public input on the long range plan. Christine Mathes explained what outreach the Committee has completed so far. The Committee plans to continue encouraging public involvement as they move forward.

FACILITY TOUR

- Maintenance Manager John toured interested participants around the facility.

POOL PASSES FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

- After participants made comments, they were given a family pool pass to use the facility on us within two weeks of the workshop. It was explained that the committee would like to gain further information on what the facility needs by their first hand use.

ADJOURN

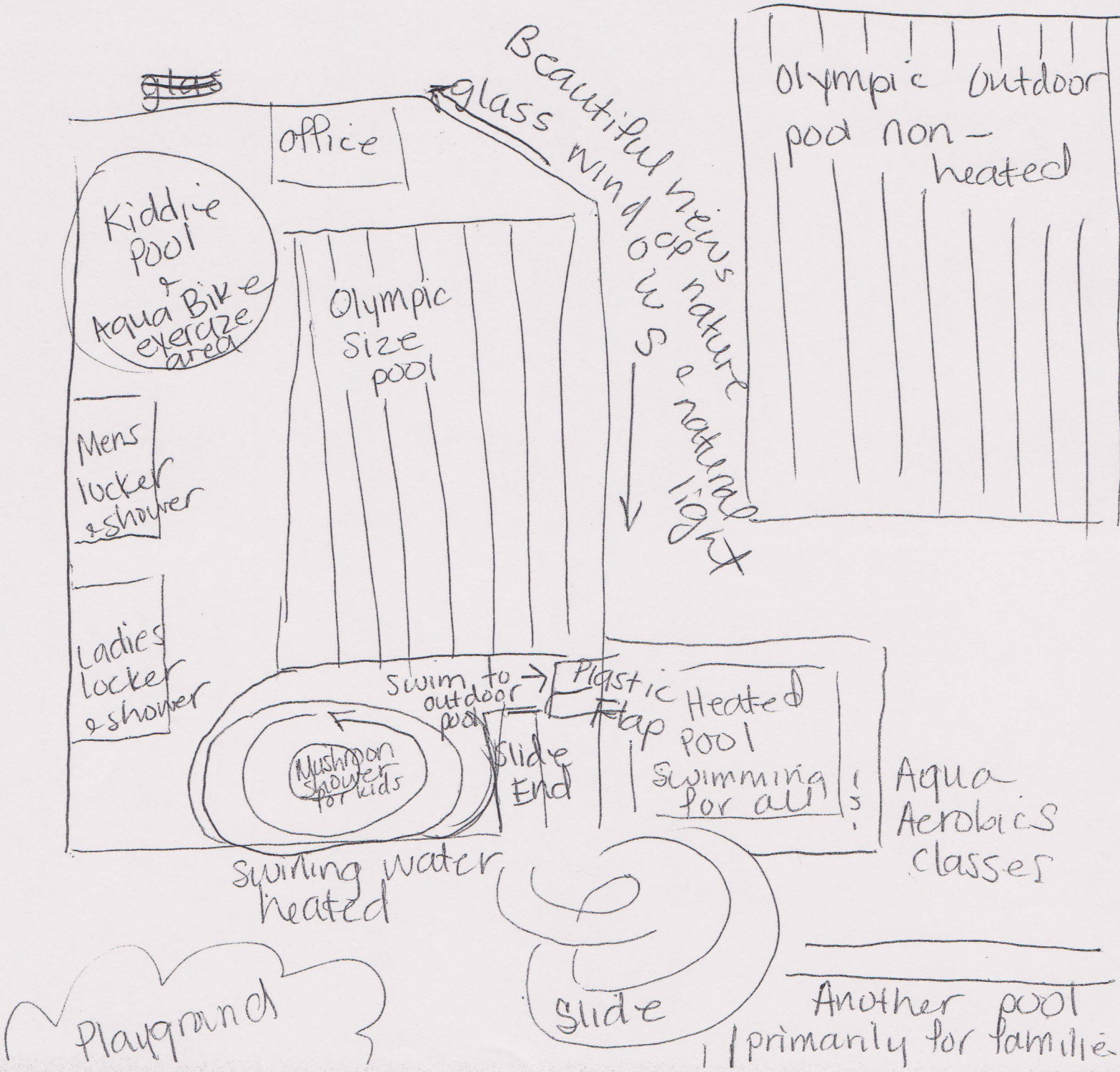
The workshop of the Pool's Long Range Planning Committee was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.



* Located in Bavaria, Germany
This was our local pool while living there w/ the
Army for 3 years



2 walls around pool had these windows for natural light. Temperature in local area (Bavaria, Germany town of Kelheim) is very similar to ours in Anacortes. I believe in hot weather, the large windows can slide open.



~~glass~~

office

Beautiful view of nature
glass
Bright natural light

Olympic Outdoor pool non-heated

Kiddie pool & Aqua Bike exercise area

Olympic size pool

Mens locker & shower

Ladies locker & shower

Mushroom shower for kids

Swim to outdoor pool

Plastic Heated Lap pool
Swimming for all

Aqua Aerobics classes

Playground

slide

Another pool, primarily for families

Summary on Work Shop Comments

The following comments were received about the Long Range Planning (formerly MCIP) Survey results at the two workshops on April 16 and May 12, 2016.

- Some thought that the temperature of the current pool is an issue since seniors and children don't tolerate cooler temperatures well when the competitive teams and swimmers need cooler temperatures to prevent overheating.
- The shower heads, the broken toilet and two sinks in the ladies locker room should be fixed.
- The exterior side of the building needs to be addressed.
- The facility needs to be opened more hours during the weekend and rented less for parties.
- Increase parking and time for open and lap swimming.
- The survey takers were split evenly in the different age ranges and some age ranges may have not considered the needs of the other patrons
- It was discussed that a large percentage of surveyors would like to see more children and teen activities. If the survey question about the water slide had followed the children and teen activity one, it may have had a different response level.
- A concern was voiced that parents would do their best to answer on their families behalf, but they may not be aware of what their children and teens would like to have here.
- Family/privacy changing rooms seem to be used more in the evening hours.
- More privacy is needed in the locker room areas for dressing. The family/privacy rooms may help some, but additional measures in the locker rooms are also a necessity.
- Future pool upgrades must meet community needs and all ADA requirements, water system upgrades and other current maintenance issues
- The pool needs to have more natural lighting and additions similar to a pool facility in Bavaria, Germany.
- The current pool does not have handrails all around the sides of the pool.
- Public input on the long range plan must continue to be encouraged.

May 7, 2016

MCIP Committee
Fidalgo Pool and Fitness Center
1603 – 22nd Street
Anacortes, WA 98221

Dear Commissioners McNett, Larsen, and Way; Executive Director Stadler; Maintenance Manager Little; Aquatic and Fitness Manager Bigelow; Dr. Donahue; and Committee Members Mathes, Lervik, Grage, Hatfield, Rubin and Conroy,

I have reviewed the Capital Plan tab on your website and explored all that you have posted with interest. I do not find neither the March 1 nor the March 29 minutes yet posted or I would have read those minutes as well.

First of all, I applaud all of you in your commitment. It's a big task and you have already done a lot of work and put a lot of thought into this massive project. That is patently obvious by what has been posted. There are so many issues to consider!

Our background:

We have lived in Skagit County since 1993. Our son grew up here and was educated by the Anacortes School District. When our son was young I was a stay-at-home mom and as we researched low-cost things to do, I composed a resource called Things to Do with Kids Within 2 Hours of Mount Vernon. That self-funded project grew to 26 pages over the years and I distributed it to local co-op preschools, PTA groups, libraries, and Chambers of Commerce. My aim was to spread the word on all of the wonderful things out there for young families and the costs associated with each activity. As our son grew I found myself back to work and our son became immersed in studies. Although that project languished, online publications produced by others, such as SkagitKidInsider, have done a great job of replacing it.

As a result of the above-described project we experienced almost all of the area pools available to the public and also many of the private pools. In particular we became enamored with the indoor wave pools in lower B.C. which my husband and I still visit monthly during the winter months. In particular we enjoy the saunas and the Jacuzzi/hot tub. I do a few laps, still climb the stairs and slide down the slides, and then go sit in the steam room, the dry sauna and the Jacuzzi/hot tub. My husband, with mobility issues, focuses on the Jacuzzi/hot tub. The only other area **public** Jacuzzi/hot tub we can find is in Bellingham at the Arne Hanna Aquatic Center. So, in summary, we would be most interested in seeing a Jacuzzi/hot tub and, if possible, a steam room and/or dry sauna added.

A wave pool would be a wonderful addition to Skagit County and I think would be a tourist draw. However, that being said, I note in B.C. there are two types of pools: wave pools for general community use and what I call standard pools, which are set up for swim teams like our Thunderbirds, with diving boards, and also areas for synchronized swim teams. I don't think pools can be both wave and standard because the designs are quite different. But maybe that's **an idea**: Leave the current pool as is and build a new facility to incorporate a wave pool, Jacuzzi/hot tub, steam room and dry sauna.

Looking to the Community:

The Potlach pool in LaConner has been demolished and will not be replaced, leaving a void for area residents. Although I have not recently visited the YMCA in Mount Vernon, I have heard from friends that not much has changed; that pool is poorly lit, often cool, and in need of updating. The only other county option for public swimming is Clear Lake, which is open only in the summer and sometimes closed due to water quality issues. Private pools accessible to the public for a fee include Riverside Health Club and Soothing Waters on Samish Island. Shelter Bay (outside of LaConner on the Swinomish reservation) has two pools but they are only available to Shelter Bay residents. Private pool and Jacuzzi/hot tub options would be a membership or a \$15 per person drop-in fee to Riverside or a membership to Thousand Trails outside of LaConner. The only other option I can find for an indoor pool and hot tub would be a visit to the KOA campground in Burlington. So that's it for Skagit County.

In conclusion, my letter hopes to point out that while we have always supported the Fidalgo Pool, we are not finding the amenities we desire: a Jacuzzi/hot tub, a steam room and/or a dry sauna. I cannot help but think there may be other county residents willing to drive a ½ hour to partake in these therapeutic activities.

Sincerely,

Valerie Newsom

Valerie Newsom
2315 – 35th Court
Anacortes, WA 98221
(360) 299-8981

From: William Turner [mailto:bill.h.turner@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, May 09, 2016 7:01 PM
To: Marilyn Stadler
Subject: Re: Long Range Planning Workshop

It would be better if you provided a time for comments that wasn't dinner time. This is family time. How about a weekend in midday also.
Bill Turner

Sent from my iPad

On May 9, 2016, at 3:33 PM, Fidalgo Pool and Fitness Center
<services@mail.ezfacility.com> wrote:

Fidalgo Pool & Fitness Center will have another workshop for the public and the committee to discuss the results of their recent capital improvement plan survey. The workshop will include a brief presentation on the results, a discussion period, a tour of the facility and an opportunity to offer comments. The workshop attendees will also be asked to use the pool within two weeks of the workshop without charge so they can report any other facility issues that need to be addressed.

The workshop is scheduled for Thursday, May 12, 5 – 7 pm in the pool's conference room. A large piece of Butcher Block paper will be placed on a table for children to draw their thoughts about Fidalgo Pool & Fitness Center. Light refreshments will be served. The District and its committee members encourage the public to attend. Any questions or comments may also be emailed to fpfcmcip@gmail.com or mailed to: MCIP Committee, Fidalgo Pool & Fitness Center, 1603 22nd Street, Anacortes, WA 98221.

If you do not wish to receive emails from us, you can [unsubscribe](#) or [manage your subscriptions](#).

The Fidalgo Pool & Fitness Center District has appointed a committee to develop a long range plan (master capital improvement plan) for the facility. Public input is essential to the planning process. In the committee's initial work, it was decided that a survey would help determine what the public wants and believes is needed for the facility now and for generations to come.

Committee members reached out to community, government and business leaders; service organizations; and publications, including the Anacortes American to explain the committee's purpose and to encourage survey participation. A direct mailing campaign was also sent to 10,000 Fidalgo Island residents explaining how to access and participate in it.

The survey was conducted in the 31 day period from Monday, February 8, 2016 to Wednesday, March 9, 2016. Seven hundred and fifteen individuals responded. The major concerns of responders include updating current systems such as Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning unit, making the facility American with Disabilities Act compliant, renovating the locker rooms, adding warmer pools, and having family/privacy changing rooms.

Survey question results, including the comment section – “Are there any other items that you would like to see at Fidalgo Pool & Fitness Center?” and clarifications on comment misinformation appear on the pool's website. One can access the information under Survey Results of the Capital Plan section of fidalgopool.com or by clicking <http://fidalgopool.com/capitalplan/take-a-survey/>.

The next step in the planning process is to have two workshops for the public and the committee to discuss the survey. These workshops will include a brief presentation on the results, a discussion period, a tour of the facility and an opportunity to offer comments. The workshop attendees will also be asked to use the pool within two weeks of the workshops without charge so they can report any other facility issues that need to be addressed.

The first public workshop on the Fidalgo Pool & Fitness Center survey will be Saturday, April 16, 1- 3 pm and the second is scheduled for Thursday, May 12, 5 – 7 pm in the pool's conference room. A large piece of Butcher Block paper will be placed on a table for children to draw their thoughts about Fidalgo Pool & Fitness Center. Light refreshments will be served. The District and its committee members encourage the public to attend. Any questions or comments may also be emailed to fpfcmcip@gmail.com or mailed to: MCIP Committee, Fidalgo Pool & Fitness Center, 1603 22nd Street, Anacortes, WA 98221.

April 11, 2016

Front Desk Staff,

The following information is out in the public concerning two upcoming workshops we are holding:

The first public workshop on the long range planning survey for Fidalgo Pool & Fitness Center is Saturday, April 16, 1- 3 pm. The second is scheduled for Thursday, May 12, 5 – 7 pm. Both will be located in the pool's conference room. These workshops will include a brief presentation on the results, a discussion period, a tour of the facility and an opportunity to offer comments. The workshop attendees will also be asked to use the pool within two weeks of the workshops without charge so they can report any other facility issues that need to be addressed. (See the passes below. Please collect the passes for me.)

A large piece of Butcher Block paper will be placed on a table for children to draw their thoughts about Fidalgo Pool & Fitness Center. Light refreshments will be served. The District and its committee members encourage the public to attend. Any questions or comments may also be emailed to fpfcmcip@gmail.com or mailed to: LRP (MCIP) Committee, Fidalgo Pool & Fitness Center, 1603 22nd Street Anacortes, WA 98221.

Thanks,

Marilyn



Public Workshop

May 12, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.



The Master Capital Improvement Plan (MCIP) Committee is working to determine what Fidalgo Island voters want and need at Fidalgo Pool & Fitness Center. Don't miss this chance to hear the MCIP survey results, take a behind the scenes tour, and provide your input. Workshop attendees will be provided with a complimentary pass to use the facility within a week of the sessions to report any concerns they discover. Let your voice be heard in shaping the future direction of Fidalgo Pool and Fitness Center.

Thank you for your support of FPFC!





AN ANACORTES COMMUNITY ASSET

Fidalgo Pool & Fitness Center has provided wellness and recreational services for all age groups in our community and Skagit County for over 40 years. This favorite facility by many has proven to be a huge Anacortes asset by stimulating economic growth and supporting health. Did you know?

FACILITY VISITS	CHILDREN & TEENS ACTIVITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitors from Fidalgo Island, La Conner, Oak Harbor, Mount Vernon, Burlington, Guemes, Lopez and Orcas • 36,894 visits in 2013, 56,539 in 2015, and still growing in 2016 • Swim team meet families & friends from Canada and all regions of Washington State. • Field trips from elementary & middle schools, church groups, and tribal communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swim lessons, starting with 6 month old infants, includes middle & high school age youth • Thunderbird Aquatic Swim Team, 90 - 120 youth members compete with athletes from 11 different states • Swim & Athletic Camps • Kids R Best Fest • Splash n Dash, triathlon for youth 4 – 16 years old. • Parks & Recreation Sailing Safety Class • After School STEM Aquatics Robotics • Recreational swim & summer league
ADULT & SENIORS PROGRAMS	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patrons 18 - 100 years old; oldest patron 97 years of age • Masters swim team, recreational & lap swim, water walking • SilverSneakers®, Silver&Fit® & At Your Best® - three healthcare programs pay for their insurers to use the facility. • Specialty aquatic & fitness classes such as Yoga, Zumba, Pilates, Water Exercise, Deep Aquatics, High Intensity Interval Training, TRX, and Muscle Strength. • Weight & cardio training • Active Military Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forty five full and part time employees, beginning at age 14, 42% under 18 years old, receive specialty training such Cardio-pulmonary Resuscitation, lifeguard, and blood borne pathogens. • Scuba & Kayak Training stimulates purchases at area dive and marine shops • Over 3,600 individuals attending swim meets annually stay at local hotels, eat at restaurants, and shop in Anacortes • Dance Instructors, Music Teachers and Physical Trainers rent space and equipment from FPFC for their small businesses
INJURED, DISABLED & THOSE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS PARTICIPATION	SCHOOLS & MARINE CENTER USE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Island Hospital Physical Therapy three times a week in the pool, 625 rehab patients annually • Special Olympics • Aquatic & fitness classes for patrons with chronic illnesses, such as arthritis, diabetes, and other health issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anacortes High School • Burlington Edison High School • Sedro–Woolley High School • Home School Swim Program, students can receive school credit • Shannon Point Marine Center Scuba Training

FIDALGO POOL & FITNESS CENTER

Master Capital Improvement Plan Survey

Results Analysis

Survey name: Fidalgo Pool & Fitness Center
Master Capital Improvement Plan Survey

Start date: Monday, February 8, 2016

End date: Thursday, March 9, 2016

Number of respondents: 715

The first part of the survey was intended to provide some general demographic information about the survey responders.

- 82% were Fidalgo Island voters.
- In the following age ranges 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, and 65-74, each had approximately 20% of the responses; the remaining three categories compiled the remaining 20%.
- 91% have used or family has used Fidalgo Pool & Fitness Center.
- The two major categories for the number of household members include 43% of households having two, and 19% having four.

The next part of the survey asked responders to list on a Likert Scale what items were extremely important to not at all important for Fidalgo Pool & Fitness Center. The survey questions, based on the highest percentage of importance level, were ranked and are listed below. The ranking is determined by two levels – 1) Extremely Important & Very Important, and 2) Low Important to Not at all important.

Q27- Modernize heating ventilation air conditioning (HVAC) & hot water systems

Likert Scale with Importance Level	% of Total Responses	# of Responses
Extremely Important & Very Important (E & V)	74%	519
Low Importance & Not at all Important (L & NI)	6%	44

Q26- Add current code fire alarm & sprinkler system

Likert Scale with Importance Level	% of Total Responses	# of Responses
E & V	71%	495
L & NI	9%	62

Q25- Upgrade facility to be Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliant

Likert Scale with Importance Level	% of Total Responses	# of Responses
E & V	69%	480
L & NI	8%	58

Q5- Warm Water Pool for Young Children & Seniors

Likert Scale with Importance Level	% of Total Responses	# of Responses
E & V	67%	476
L & NI	11%	77

Q28- Change to energy efficient lighting

Likert Scale with Importance Level	% of Total Responses	# of Responses
E & V	64%	449
L & NI	10%	71

Q10- Increase recreational activities for children & teens

Likert Scale with Importance Level	% of Total Responses	# of Responses
E & V	62%	435
L & NI	12%	82

Q20- Expanded & updated locker rooms with efficient layout, increased number lockers, improved plumbing, better lighting, improved water saving showers, and other appropriate upgrades

Likert Scale with Importance Level	% of Total Responses	# of Responses
E & V	60%	419
L & NI	10%	70

Q7- Physical Therapy Pool for Rehabilitation

Likert Scale with Importance Level	% of Total Responses	# of Responses
E & V	56%	396
L & NI	13%	95

Q18- Family/Private Changing Rooms

Likert Scale with Importance Level	% of Total Responses	# of Responses
E & V	49%	344
L & NI	22%	153

Q6- Resistant water track for those people covering from walking problems & for swim recreation use

Likert Scale with Importance Level	% of Total Responses	# of Responses
E & V	48%	338
L & NI	16%	113

Q9- Jacuzzi

Likert Scale with Importance Level	% of Total Responses	# of Responses
E & V	34%	239
L & NI	36%	255

Q11- Indoor walking/running track			
	Likert Scale with Importance Level	% of Total Responses	# of Responses
	E & V	33%	231
	L & NI	35%	248

Q14- Elevator to upstairs fitness room & balcony			
	Likert Scale with Importance Level	% of Total Responses	# of Responses
	E & V	32%	227
	L & NI	33%	230

Q15- Drop-off area at the front entrance			
	Likert Scale with Importance Level	% of Total Responses	# of Responses
	E & V	31%	220
	L & NI	29%	203

Q12- Sauna or Steam Room			
	Likert Scale with Importance Level	% of Total Responses	# of Responses
	E & V	30%	209
	L & NI	39%	273

Q17- Revision of front desk & reception area to better accommodate patrons			
	Likert Scale with Importance Level	% of Total Responses	# of Responses
	E & V	25%	174
	L & NI	32%	222

Q21- Provide a child care facility with outdoor play area			
	Likert Scale with Importance Level	% of Total Responses	# of Responses
	E & V	25%	178
	L & NI	36%	249

Q8- New Water Slide			
	Likert Scale with Importance Level	% of Total Responses	# of Responses
	E & V	24%	168
	L & NI	39%	277

Q24- New multi-purpose room for conference vendor/party rentals & staff training			
	Likert Scale with Importance Level	% of Total Responses	# of Responses
	E & V	21%	150
	L & NI	40%	281

Q19- Personal Training & Physical Therapy Privacy Rooms		
Likert Scale with Importance Level	% of Total Responses	# of Responses
E & V	19%	133
L & NI	37%	262

Q13- Spin Exercise Room		
Likert Scale with Importance Level	% of Total Responses	# of Responses
E & V	19%	133
L & NI	38%	269

Q23- Better Drink & Food Service		
Likert Scale with Importance Level	% of Total Responses	# of Responses
E & V	15%	106
L & NI	52%	367

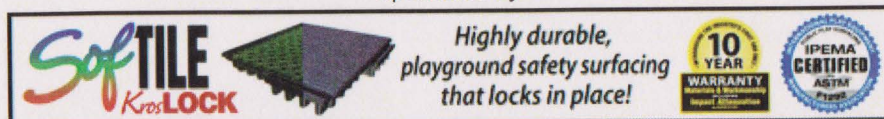
Q16- Structural Connection with the Anacortes Senior Activity Center		
Likert Scale with Importance Level	% of Total Responses	# of Responses
E & V	14%	99
L & NI	49%	344

Q22- Outdoor Patio		
Likert Scale with Importance Level	% of Total Responses	# of Responses
E & V	12%	87
L & NI	50%	349

RECREATION MANAGEMENT

IDEAS AND SOLUTIONS FOR RECREATION, SPORTS AND FITNESS FACILITIES

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Ever-Expanding Aquatics

Tips for Programming a Profitable Pool

By Joe Bush

Aquatic programming is everywhere and all the time, but don't take it for granted.

The days of offering only swimming lessons and water fitness are long gone. Generations change and with them their preferences and goals, and if public facilities want to fund their operations, they have to be creative and resourceful. The economic crisis of nearly a decade ago hit municipal bodies as hard as private. It's not enough to be a swimming lifer to run a successful revenue-generating aquatics department.

"We had a lot of closures, especially during the downturn, and budgets are tight," said Roy Fielding, aquatics director at the University of North Carolina Charlotte, also known as The Pool Professor.

"We're having to be more creative because these facilities are costing more. They're not going to keep a person around very long if they can't produce an income. A pool historically has been a money loser in recreation. A \$25 million facility, it's tough to recoup that.

"You've got to build variety into your facility or you won't have a long stint, in my opinion."

Fielding's words are supported by data gathered by USA Swimming, whose member clubs and teams comprise one of the country's largest renters of pool space. Mick Nelson, facilities development director for USA Swimming, said that because of this sensitivity to pool availability, his organization began tracking pool closings in 2009.

To date, 1,661 pools have closed, according to the organization.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CITY OF SUMMIT

Bad budgeting and old-

"If the pool is not programmed for financial sustainability, it will not be there for us to use," he said. "The cost to build and operate a facility is escalating at over double the cost-of-living

fashioned aquatic programming make pools lose money, and that can be corrected.

nonprofit, can fix the problem, USA Swimming encourages pools to follow its Total Aquatic Programming suggestions to increase income, cut operational cost, and plan for repairs and renovations. Nelson knows pools need help, but is optimistic.

"The fact that pools lose money is a myth," he said. "There are too many successful aquatic programs in the country to make a statement like that, but we hear it from the public sector all of the time. Bad budgeting and old-fashioned aquatic programming make pools lose money, and that can be corrected."

Nelson suggests three general solutions:

- New pool design with multiple pools, taking into consideration the four pillars of aquatic programming and their recommended water temperatures: learn to swim (water temp at 87 to 88 degrees); rehab and therapy (90 to 92 degrees); adult aquatic exercise and membership programs (87 to 88 degrees); and competitive swimming and recreation (80 to 82 degrees).
- Having people who are going to direct the staff and programming for pools understand all of the options and buy into staff certification by the various aquatic organizations.
- A modernized plan for multi-leveled programming at different cost and professional budget development.

Three years ago, Nelson said, USA Swimming's aquatic programming specialist wrote a detailed Aquatic Programming Manual in collaboration with other industry programming executives. It was published with the help of a grant from the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and is available in electronic form for free from USA Swimming.

The hope is that infrastructure can one day meet the requirements of the planners, Nelson said.

"The evolution in programming is already here, but the new pool model has to catch up," he said. "All of our new pool designs have at least two pools. Three are preferred, and they all have different temperatures, accesses and depth to facilitate programming. No one temperature can satisfy all of the aquatic programming a community wants and needs."

Justin Caron, a principal and vice president of Aquatic Design Group, said shapes of pools are important to programming as well. Caron explained that in a hypothetical new facility, the number and types of pools depends on the business model.

"What are your goals financially? Is this a facility you're comfortable subsidizing? If so, how much?" Caron asked. "Is it a facility that needs to break even, or is this a facility that wants to be a profit center? Once we understand that, it helps to shape the directive within a given budget."

Caron said rectilinear pools are meant for competitive activities—swimming, diving, water polo, synchronized swimming and, one of the newer ideas, underwater

increase each year, so a modernized plan for multi-leveled programming at different cost and professional budget development is a must."

USA Swimming has identified the three top reasons for the closures: unexpected renovations draining the budget; not enough income; and overwhelming expenses.

Nelson said that because no single organization, especially a



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hockey. They are not meant to rake in revenue, however.

Moneymakers such as therapy classes, swim classes, recreational open swim and birthday parties need shallow water and curvilinear design, he said.

"For a client looking to break even on a facility, our general recommendation is you need to have as much fun water space as you do competitive water space," Caron said. "You just can't charge swim teams and water polo teams enough money to make competitive water, deep water, profitable, whereas you can charge a lot more for the curvilinear pools, the shallow water, the splash pads, water slides, the currents.

"The more recreational water, the more profitable; the more deep water, the more subsidy."

Caron said facilities that can't afford to remodel can make the most of the competitive pools when they aren't being used for their natural purposes. Fill them with inflatable obstacle courses and slides and bridges and climbing structures, deck-mounted climbing walls, zip lines, hamster balls, goals and inner tubes for inner-tube water polo, and sell wristbands for play periods, Caron said.

"Those things are pretty inexpensive, and they're easy to make money on, and they utilize the rectilinear water space," he said. "In a three-pool facility, they have a competitive pool, a warm water therapy pool and a multipurpose pool. The competitive pool is going to be mostly empty, and those sorts of things add another fun element without compromising the primary purpose of that body of water."

Creativity and trend-following are mandatory for programmers, said Caron. Other than underwater hockey, he said to watch for a popular college game named Pool Battleship to show up in non-campus facilities. In this game, between two and four people captain a canoe against other similarly manned canoes with the object to be the last canoe floating; sinking is done by pushing water into the other canoes. Another activity for experimentation is paddle boarding classes, he said. Paddle boards are not expensive and don't take up much room.

Other revenue-raising considerations include monetizing poolside areas, Caron said, opening up possibilities of outdoor birthday parties or other group events. Retrofitting can include new private party spaces or converting storage rooms to wet/dry classrooms.

"What is a facility doing that it hasn't in the past?" Caron asked.

"Cabana rentals are big now, shade is a premium everywhere. Facilities have figured out they can charge \$50 dollars or \$20 dollars or \$100 dollars, depending on the market and demand for a private cabana. You don't have to fight for chairs."

Caron's nod to thinking outside the pool for programming and revenue is not outrageous. In Summit, N.J., Judith Leblein Josephs helps run the Summit Family Aquatic Center, a 43-year-old facility that was renovated and rebranded in 2004. She said at any one time just one-third of members and guests are in the pool, meaning the others are open to activities on deck.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CITY OF SUMMIT

Moneymakers such as

"Aquatic programmers focus on the water and the aquatic experience, but I think that aquatic programming includes so much more," said Josephs, the city's director of community programs. "Outdoor aquatic centers should be seen as a

therapy classes, swim classes, recreational open swim and birthday parties need shallow water and curvilinear design.

The facility has a mascot and themes each season, and tries for a balance of events and activities that reward members as well as reaching out to prospective members with fee-free programming that is subsidized by sponsors from the community or public entities like the fire department or police department.

"Deck-side education can be entertaining and enlightening," Josephs said. "Why not create a Splash and Learn Series where your guests can learn CPR, AED, safe boating, water safety tips, sunscreen application, skin damage exams and more? These can often be no cost to you other than planning time, a pop-up tent and a sign. Fire departments, EMS and police departments welcome these opportunities, especially in the summer months."

Josephs said not all programming should be focused on short-term revenue; some planning needs to be devoted to awareness, attracting new members and reactivating dormant ones. She suggests charitable events such as food drives and lap swim pledges. Have low-key concerts at night, invite local dance groups, entertainers or fitness studios to show off their talents, partner with a library for poolside story time.

She makes it clear that special care should be taken to reward active members with events just for them. Aquatic-themed art contests with facility-related prizes such as future memberships or gift certificates, scavenger hunts, and themed parties are popular in Summit, and this year they held the inaugural Doggy Dip after the pool season ended. Eighty dogs owned by members got to swim in the leisure pool, and proceeds went to the facility's scholarship fund.

This sort of creativity extends back to water-based programming in Summit. Josephs said instead of revamping a learn-to-swim program, why not simply refresh?

"Before branching out from the basic learn-to-swim program, take a look at how you can improve the current program," she said. "If you find that the learn-to-swim program you are currently offering has not grown, perhaps it's time to 'brand' the program and make it special. Create more of an experience and it will improve the perceived value of the program.

"Do you have report cards at the end of the program? Can you have your mascot visit the graduation for a photo op for parents? Rename the program, add a few tweaks and you'll see improved attendance and new excitement. Win their confidence in the learn-to-swim program, and the rest will follow."

Before branching out, take a look at how you can improve the current program.

"Plan a special weekly or monthly swim for them with trained teen peer mentors. Mix instruction with water play with the children and their mentors, and create a safe and non-judgmental aquatic experience. The kids, their parents and

community center without walls. Indoor aquatic facilities have great value in their deck space, often overlooked for programming. In other words, aquatic center programming doesn't have to be wet.

"Sure, you want people to use the restrooms, visit the snack bar and take a little rest, but then what? Our guests are active folks with varied interests. Keep them interested and they'll keep coming back."

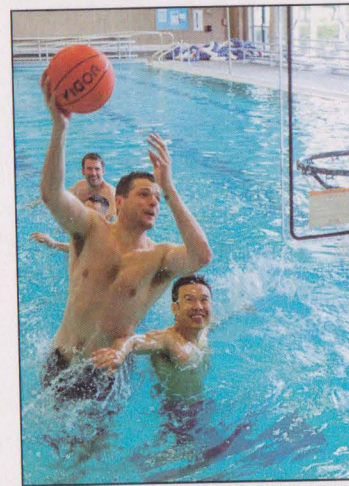


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Other suggestions from Josephs include partnering with local healthcare groups to help make senior aquacise programs available for free or reduced fees, and making just the right time and space for special needs community members to enjoy the pools.

"Many children with special needs often find our aquatic facilities today too high-energy, noisy and intimidating, Josephs said.

the children and their mentors, and create a safe and non-judgmental aquatic experience. The kids, their parents and

the teen mentors will all have a great experience."

In general Josephs said to use social media for feedback for evaluation and suggestions, and never stop planning and organizing.

"With the busy schedules of families today, scheduling your aquatic programs for success also includes careful selection of days, times and rain dates," she said. "Sometimes good programs fail because of bad timing or price and not for the value or popularity of the program."

Across the country, Mark Olson is not only adjusting to a new job but a new facility. Olson has been the aquatics program manager at the year-old Alga Norte Aquatic Center in Carlsbad, Calif., since early summer after 12 years in much the same capacity in Poway, Calif. He said creating, implementing, scheduling, training and analyzing never stop as he and his staff try to balance the necessary and the legacy programs with testing the new.

The facility has two warm water pools (a 56-meter competition pool with a bulkhead and viewing bleachers and a 25-yard, 12-lane swim instruction pool), a spa, a splash pad, cabanas and meeting rooms for its standard programs like masters swimming; swimming, diving and water polo teams; lifeguard and swim instructor classes; swimming classes; aquatic fitness classes; birthday parties; and kids camps. There are inflatable structures and hamster balls.

"We're still building our program and trying to find out what's the best value that our customers and patrons want," Olson said. "We are trying to be competitive and, at the same time, as a public facility, to cover our programming costs and our operating costs, so we're looking for the newer things. We're looking for different avenues for customers to participate in our programs, and then sign up for other programs when they see what else we have.

"One of the challenges we have is we just don't have a lot of space. Even with the two pools here, we're fairly programmed out. As a public facility, we have to be sensitive to making sure we're offering something for everybody, but at the same time trying to be engaged in bringing in revenue we need to operate."

Create more of an experience and it will improve the perceived value of the program.

the programs," Olson said. "Times change and people change, and if you're not getting the right feedback, both from your instructors and your internal participants as well as those that are taking (classes), from a customer standpoint it's going to be hard to try to move and adapt to what the changing needs are.

"The people, especially where we work, have resources. They'll go to where they can get what they want, so we have to be able to be sensitive to that. If something's not working, no matter how nostalgic or how ingrained it is, sometimes there needs to be change in order for a program to succeed or a facility to succeed. Constant evaluation and constant adjustment where needed in order to be successful: That's the foundation."

With so many classes and staff members, one of Olson's main challenges is scheduling. At peak season, Olson has approximately 150

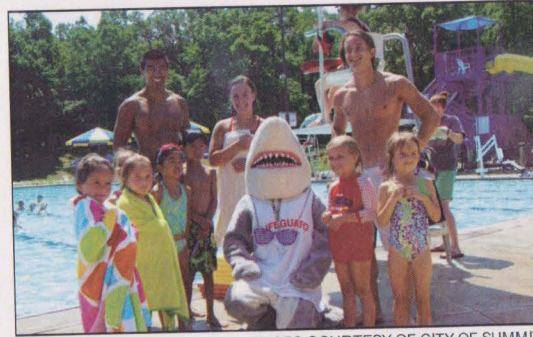


PHOTO COURTESY OF CITY OF SUMMIT

Olson said one of the fundamentals in programming for him is the willingness and ability to adjust. Flexibility to completely change or just tweak classes, personnel or schedules is necessary but only triggered by a feedback system between staff and administration and members. Olson said his facility uses paper surveys as well as online surveys.

"The general thing for programming, it's got to constantly be evaluated both from an internal perspective as well as a user perspective, engaging with the people who are actually taking

part-time workers to supervise. He's found help from a web-based employee scheduling software.

"It helps us centralize everybody's schedule, and staff can have access to it remotely if they need to change something or they're sick, they can notify everybody with a click rather than make a bunch of phone calls," Olson said.

The technological help will only become more important if everyone involved with the facility's success does their job, from the city's marketing department using social media and brochures and banners to Olson's staff staying in tune with the public.

"The biggest thing is the experience," Olson said. "Word-of-mouth goes a long way, and a good experience is worth a lot more in our opinion than any marketing campaign, and we try to drill this into our staff—how (people) feel when they leave dictates if they come back and if they bring friends."



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Grant Writing Advice and Tips: The Grant Helpers Blog

Grants for Swimming Pools, Water Parks

Posted by Alisyn Franzen on Thu, Aug 7, 2014 @ 12:08 PM

As summer comes to a close, TheGrantHelpers.com continues to get a great number of requests for information swimming pool grants, aquatic center grants, water park grants, and other similar types of funding.

In this blog article, we provide you a few examples of grants that might assist your municipality or non-profit organization in finding grants for the construction, rehabilitation, or running of aquatic swimming and leisure facilities. If you have any questions, or if you would like to speak to a specialist about finding additional funding for your project, please do not hesitate to [contact us](#). After all, next summer will come around sooner than you expect, and many of these grant opportunities require some advanced planning before submitting a proposal.

Grants

[National Swimming Pool Foundation \(NSPF\)](#)

NSPF awards grants of up to \$35,000 to 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organizations. The Foundation encourages healthy living, prevention of pool and spa injury, illness, drowning, and more. NSPF does not consider “requests solely for building, equipment, educational, and/or other programs.” However, because they focus on preventing injury and the increased health benefits a pool and spa can offer, enhancements or upgrades that increase safety might be considered.

The deadline to submit a grant request is June 1 of each year, and applications are reviewed by August 31 of each year. To learn more, download the [NSPF Grant Guidelines](#).

[Outdoor Recreational Grant Program](#)

The National Park Service’s Outdoor Recreational Grant Program awards park districts and local government agencies grants to acquire, plan, and develop land for public

recreational purposes. Swimming pools, bike and walking trails, tennis courts, soccer fields, restrooms, and water facilities are just some of the eligible projects for this grant. Deadlines and amount of funding given varies from year to year.

Community Facilities Grant Program

The United States Department of Agriculture's Community Facilities Grant Program awards funding to repair facilities used for community purposes, public safety, and health care. Municipalities with fewer than 20,000 residents are eligible for this grant, but communities with fewer than 5,000 residents or with median incomes below 60% of the state's median income receive highest priority.

Community Entitlement Grants Program

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development supports the Community Entitlement Grants Program, which awards grants to municipalities with over 50,000 residents and counties with more than 200,000 residents. The purpose of the program is to support community projects that improve the economic development and living conditions of residents. Projects may include land acquisitions, construction and rehabilitation of facilities, and more