

**Aquatics Committee (AC) Meeting**  
**Virtual**  
**NOV 17, 2020**  
**Time: 7:00-9:00 PM**

**Draft Minutes**

**Call to order at 7:00pm (meeting is being recorded).**

**Attendees**

Members: Cynthia Hilton, Guy Land, Carla Fletcher, Jennifer Connor, Kristi Sawert, MacKenzie Kearney

Absent: Howard Seamens and Trish Madden

Staff: Helena Machado and Maija Paegle

Visitors: 26 guests in Microsoft Teams

**I. Welcome, Minutes & Updates**

- Minutes for meeting held on October 13, 2020 were presented and approved as submitted. Jennifer motioned to approve, Carla seconded the minutes and they were unanimously approved.
- Vacancies & Committee Leadership Appointments
  - Kristi was reappointed for her 3<sup>rd</sup> 2-year term on 10/22.
  - Cynthia thanked the Committee for its support during her term and summarized some the Committee's achievements. She moved to elect Jennifer as the chair, Guy seconded. There were no other nominations. The vote in favor of Jennifer's election was a unanimous.
  - Jennifer happily accepted the appointment. She announced no December meeting and meetings will resume on January 19, 2021 (third Tuesday of every month).
  - Cynthia thanked Guy and MacKenzie for their dedication and service.
  - Cynthia thanked the community for all the interest in serving and all 25 applications. The new appointments will take place for the School Board on 12/3 with a 12/1 retroactive start and the County Board nominations will take place on 12/15.
- Committee Liaison Appointment
  - Cynthia will be the liaison from the FAC committee.

**II. Public Comment(s) (2 minutes max)**

- Bill Young: Thanked Helena and the pool staff on how they are handling COVID-19. He commented the pool has been a nice respite. He asked if time could be carved out for Masters swimming?
- Helena to answer in her presentation.

**III(a). SY2020-21 Work Plan**

a. Charter Update – Jennifer will reintroduce this topic and the AC's recommendations in the new year due to other more pressing issues before the Boards.

b. Board Swimming Pool Policies/MOA Revision

- School Board Policy - Revision to SB Policy M-15/APS PIP M-15-1 on swimming pools Working Group (WG) Meeting 9 NOV 2020 – Kristi Sawert/Helena Machado
- Kristi: Group created goals and created a draft. The next meeting the WG will go through the draft.
- County Board Policy – No update at this time.
- MOA Revision – Helena Machado/Maija Paegle: This is tabled until after policy review is completed.

[Clarification for the above for the public: The School Board is currently updating its policy on running swimming pools in the County.]

c. FY 2022 Budget/CIP

- Cynthia reported the County budget shortfall is between \$27-69 million dollars. The decrease in revenue from the pools being closed for four months was \$400,000.
- Cynthia, Kristi, and Jennifer wrote a letter to the School Board explaining the budget shortfall is due to the pandemic and not to the new cost recovery model.
- Pool budget is slowly recovering.

d. CPI – Howard Seamens: Howard was not on the call.

III(b). SY 2020-21 Work Plan Monitoring

a. Ed Center Pool Parking – Howard Seamens (not on call).

- Helena: The construction has not been happening due to COVID-19 so the lot has been open. Construction may begin in January and there will be advanced warning.

b. Career Center BLPC/PFRC – Cynthia Hilton/Kristi Sawert (Defer to FAC report)

c. COVID Developments Impacting Pools – Defer to Helena's report.

d. Opening of LBP – Defer to Maija's report.

IV. Pool Operations & Maintenance – Helena Machado

- COVID-19 monitoring – The new November 6 guidelines do not impact the pool operations currently.
- Participation continues to increase (good for the budget) but this means peak time sessions are selling out quickly. Remember to book 24 hours in advance.
- Memberships (1, 3, and 12 months) may be purchased online.
- Swim passes can now be converted to pre-paid packages. Contact the office at 703-228-6264.
- Attendance rate is high. Waitlist option requires engagement from swimmers.
- Reservations can be canceled up to 15 mins ahead of time; allows others to have the spot.

a. Cancellation of VHSL Winter Sports - Swim Teams – Cynthia Hilton:

- Originally after the Superintendent decided that high school sports were not going to take place, the AC was going to respond by submitting a letter commenting on school swim teams. However, the Superintendent revised his decision and now is allowing high school sports, if COVID trends allow.
- High school swim and dive team season will run December 14 – February 6. Swim meets will begin on January 8.
- HS teams and community use cannot share the pool space at the same time. Currently, the time that HS teams would be in the water is used by rentals who are a significant revenue stream to APS. To compensate, community swim will shift about an hour later.

b. Registration Double Bookings, “No-Shows,” and Non-residents - Helena

- Only one session can be booked per day. First booking will be kept all others will be canceled.
- Helena’s Proposal: Effective December 1, all no-show bookings will be charged the appropriate drop-in fee.

Vote: Unanimous rollcall vote in favor of the proposal.

- Helena’s proposal: All non-Arlington residents must purchase a 12-month membership to continue to swim. Current 30 day and 3-month memberships will be honored.

Vote: Unanimous rollcall vote in favor of the proposal.

c. Cost Analysis

- Current shortfall \$400K for the year.
- Participation numbers went up and cost per splash went down to what was projected in the budget, currently in the \$4.50/4.75 range.
- The half year budget report is coming.

d. Face covering required: APS mask guidelines updates – Masks must secure under the chin (no gaiters or bandanas).

e. Continue to follow COVID-19 Protocols

- Physical distancing: Reminder to maintain 10 feet, during check-in, locker rooms, and on deck entering and exiting.
- Reminder to get into the correct lane and there are only two swimmers per lane.
- Reminder to use both sides of the pool to enter and then exit on the same side you enter.
- Very low risk when swimmers pass each other in the water.

f. Thanksgiving Holiday Schedule

- Wednesday: Closing early but adding some family swim pods in the afternoon.
- Thursday: Closed on Thanksgiving.
- Friday: Pools on modified schedule from 8am-4pm.
- Saturday & Sunday: Regular Schedule.

g. Solar Panel installation at Washington-Liberty

- November 30 – December 4
- Entry to the pool will be by the door by the diving boards.
- Catherine Lin (Director of Facilities and Operations): Explained the solar array installation at schools throughout the County. The installation will be completed by a crane. For safety, the bus loop, pool front door, and pool parking lot at W-L will be closed to allow for the operation of the crane that will be lifting the panels to the W-L roof.

h. Masters Swimming

- Maija and Helena commented on how they have worked to try to find space for Masters Swimming and have it be equitable given other use demands, but have not been able to accomplish this yet. Maija explained the County’s Masters coaches are also currently furloughed. Maija and Helena will look to see if Masters could be reintroduced in February.

j. Committee Questions/Action: Votes noted above.

V. DPR Programs – Maija Paegle: AAC swim team will be on a modified schedule while high school swim and dive is in season. There are still no recreational classes currently.

- a. Webpage improvements: Maija will be posting a historical document archive and a link to the AC's position statements on the Committee's webpage.
- b. LBP Update: The project is still on track to open to the public in the Summer of 2021.

## VII. Liaison Reports

### a. Sports Commission – Kristi Sawert

- Kristi reported on how the Sports Commission received the AC's letter transmitting recommended changes to the Committee's Charter. Among other things, the Charter revisions would remove the caveat that the AC reports to the County Board through the Sports Commission. The Sports Commission chair was not happy and does not think that one sport should have direct access to the County Board. Additionally, the AC Charter revisions would expand the Committee's advisory role to include the pool at Long Bridge Park (LBP). Given that aquatics is more than a sport, the advice of the AC should cover all uses of public pools in the County. Even though the AC's request would not change the scope of the Sports Commission's advisory role, the Commission does not think that the AC should be an advisory committee for LBP pool.
- Cynthia and Kristi commented that aquatics is the only sport that has a committee already and that it was created many years ago. The Sports Commission wants the AC to be a subcommittee, however, subcommittees are not Board appointees. The AC has School Board appointees as well as County Board appointees.

### b. Facilities Advisory Committee (FAC) – Cynthia Hilton

- Cynthia reported the FAC met on 11/16 and discussed the facility optimization report. This report looked at every school in the County to determine maximum student capacity using the capacity of the school's cafeteria as a cap on enrollment. This is the first-time shared space of each school was used to look at student enrollment capacity. This type of evaluation is significant and necessary. Cynthia brought up the topic of capacity for buses to take students to pools to teach water safety classes as well as the capacity to do these instructional tasks in pools during the school day as another limiter of the capacity, and as a metric to justify the need to build additional pool capacity.

### c. Budget Advisory Committee – Katherine Christensen

- Katherine reported that the call is out to everyone about closing the gap on the shortfall in the County's budget. She also shared there is some work being done on capital planning on some of the longer-term issues. She said she would share with the BAC the AC's letter on the budget shortfall and the success of the Committee's cost-recovery framework.

## VIII. Old Business

### a. APS Policy Revisions Updates

- APS is systematically reviewing and updating as necessary all policy (and PIP) documents. APS Engage Page: Shows APS policies and the schedule for when they are up for review. <https://www.apsva.us/engage/policies-for-revision-amendment/> Cynthia reported that the policy working group (PWG) originally focused on swimming pool policy. However, with School Board policy rollouts, she tasked the PWG with the responsibility to review all policies when

they come up for review and recommend to the AC which policies may apply to aquatics and what comments and/or questions the Committee may want to submit.

- For example, one of the latest policies, “Use of School Equipment” states that APS supplies and equipment should not be used for personal use. Before COVID-19, the public used the APS kickboards, buoys, noodles, etc. at the pools.
- Some policies that may have nothing to do with pools, may apply to pools!
- Kristi recommended that the APS the new swimming pool policy and PIP(s) include a provision that allows the pool policy to take precedence over other policies in aquatic facilities.

#### IX. New Business

a. Next Meeting – Jennifer Connor: JAN 19, 2021, 7-9pm, Microsoft Teams format.

b. Goodbye to/from Board Member with terms ending

- Guy told all the members of the committee what a delight it has been to serve and a joy to work with Cynthia. He believes a great cost recovery system has positioned the swim community well with much greater visibility on broader policy discussions. He also applauded Jennifer and Kristi for leading.
- MacKenzie told everyone she has enjoyed her long ride of 14 years and that the last two years have been the most interesting. She is still very involved USA Swimming and is an official for APS swim teams.
- Kristi thanked Cynthia, MacKenzie, and Guy from the bottom of her heart for their advocacy work for aquatics in Arlington.

#### X. Adjourn

- A motion was made by MacKenzie and seconded by Guy to adjourn the meeting at 9:00pm.