

Truth or Consequences Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes
of regular meeting held at the Recreation Department Building, 2800 S. Broadway, Truth
or Consequences, New Mexico, February 3, 2014, 6:00 pm.

Pledge of allegiance: Carole Wheeler, Vice-Chairman

Roll call: members in attendance

Millie McLeod

Carole Wheeler

Pat Freemyer

Destiny Mitchell

Also present: Juan Fuentes, Peter Baca, Chuck Wentworth, Amy Claesson, Randle Lawson, Collysue Lawson,

Approval of Agenda: motion made by Pat Freemyer, seconded by Destiny Mitchell, passed by ayes of members of board

Approval of Minutes for regular meeting-January 6, 2014, motion made by Destiny Mitchell, seconded by Pat Freemyer, and passed by ayes of members of the board

Comments from the public: Amy Claesson, vice-president of the Sierra County swim team and the Tiger Sharks board. Thanks to this board and past boards that have supported a covered pool. We request that the city consider a reduction of fees for the swim team. We understand that the city needs revenue for the pool to pay for the expenses the new cover causes. In the past, the city has allowed the swim team practises and meets to be free for the participants. We request that the pool usage fees for the swim team be reduced and that the members be certified as lifeguards so that city employees won't be needed during practices and meets. We have given you a suggested fee schedule (enclosed in minutes). Thank you for letting us speak. We would still like to contribute, but we would like to pay a reduced fee for the members of the swim team. The teams usually practice 10x a week. We have 80 active members of the teams. The president of the swim team, Dana Berkstresser, also spoke, saying that she has three children needing the use of the pool and about the need for the year round pool and her children, who participate in the triathlons needing a covered pool. There are people interested in buying passes for pool usage.

Randal Lawson spoke, asking the city manager if the pool manager was a certified lifeguard and asked if there is a set date for the pool opening. Juan Fuentes stated that the pool manager was a certified lifeguard.

Collysue Lawson asked Juan Fuentes if there is a list of applicants interested in serving as lifeguards.

Recreation Department Needs Assessment/Update:

Peter Baca gave his monthly report: Soccer, Little league baseball, and peewee basketball have had their registration and all had a good turnout and will start playing soon.

All new systems are in the fish pond, new water lines and picnic tables for the new park area behind where the old fire house used to be. After landscaping, that park will be ready for use. 150 trout were put into the pond by the New Mexico Game and Fish Department. The temperature of our pond is superior to the NM fisheries' ponds.

A new thatching machine will be in next week.

Vandalism has stopped for time being.

We received new bags for the doggie bag dispensers in the park. We only put ½ a roll of plastic bags in the dispensers, since they disappear. Most of the problems are at Ralph Edwards Park.

The project now is trimming trees in the parks.

We have to hang the backboards at the tennis courts. The wind barriers are held by zip tie holders which are inexpensive to replace.

Juan Fuentes: Emergency lighting and audible alarm have been installed and tomorrow we will have a formal walk-through and the state will be called to give a final inspection, to give a final approval. The entrance to the pool will be heated. Two or three board members should be helping the city to plan for honoring those who worked on the pool cover, for the grand opening.


Staff for the pool: We are starting off with part-time staff, because pool will only be open part-time. Most of the lifeguards are certified or being certified. We are working with Goodwill to staff the front office. I would have to check with our insurance carrier to see if we could use volunteers in the pool. The opening date depends on when the state will come and approve of the pool so it can be opened. The occupancy will change because of it being an enclosed structure. Amy Claesson wanted to know if the hours will include times after the close of business days. A suggestion of closing the pool during the middle of the day and opened after people get off work to utilize that time of the day, and to maximize the fees collected, since those who work will be able to swim at that time.

Gazebo: Our facilities department is working on having the gazebo finished with an approved plan to finish by the middle of March. There will be a public auction at Ralph Edwards Park and one of the items will be the mobile home at the park, to make that part of the park available for the beautiful views. A dog park was suggested as usage of the park.

Cameras are outdated and not functioning well, so cannot be counted on. Cameras cannot be repaired. We will hope to rely on the public to report vandalism in all of the parks.

Adjournment: Motion made by Millie McLeod, seconded by Pat Freemyer, motion carried by ayes of members.

Next Recreation Advisory Board meeting will be held on March 3, 2014 at 6:00 pm

chairman ~~5/5/14~~ 

SIERRA COUNTY SWIM TEAM



Portion of letter to City delivered Feb. 3, 2014

The Sierra County Swim Team would first like to thank the City of Truth or Consequences for the recent and long term efforts to creating a year round pool recreation facility for the community. The youth swimmers are eagerly awaiting the opening of pool for the winter season in hopes to resume doing what they love - swimming!...

The Swim Team board is kindly requesting the City's (1) inclusion of youth swim team practice times while establishing a Winter/Spring and Summer Schedules and (2) consideration of an alternate fee structure for the youth swim team...

With the upcoming availability of a year round pool, youth swimmers will have the opportunity to develop stroke technique and condition outside of the past 2 month season. In order for the youth to do so, the Sierra County Swim Team will be a year around swim program devoted to instruction and weekly practices (much like the other youth athletic leagues in the community). The TorC Tiger Sharks, a competitive youth swim team and member of the Sundance Aquatic Association, will continue to swim from May 1st to August 1st, as per Sundance Aquatic Association guidelines...

Since the swim team's inception in 1986, the team has worked with the City to schedule practice times and have been waived of admission or facility use fees (much like the arrangement with all other youth athletic leagues in the City, i.e. baseball and soccer utilizing the fields). All City of Truth or Consequences recreational facilities (regardless of facility upgrades, repairs and maintenance costs) have been made available, without fees, for use by local athletic groups for the education and promotion of youth development. Nevertheless, *we understand the added costs the City has incurred due to the pool enclosure project and would like to help support the City or Truth or Consequences in this project...*

During review of the Pool Fee Structure for 2014, the groups are requesting the City to consider the following requests:

Group	Season	Schedule Request	Fee Structure Request	Estimated number of Swimmers
Sierra County Swim Team	Aug. 2 to April 30	2 One hour sessions/week <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Tues or Wed, after 4pm. Suggest last hour of operation Preference: 4-5pm or 5-6pm o Sat. morning Suggest First hour of operation Preference: 8-9am or 9-10am 	\$1/ swimmer per practice. Waive fees for non swimmers and fee waiver of weeks not scheduled.	10-20 *estimated as this is the first season with this opportunity
TorC Tiger Sharks	May 1 to Aug. 1	10 One-1.5 hour sessions/week <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o M-F a.m. and p.m. Suggest First and last hours of operation Preference: 7-8 30am and 4-5 30pm 	\$25-50 /week Waive fees for non swimmers and fee waiver of weeks not scheduled.	40-80 * Peak team size 80, 2013 had 30 members

incurred and are willing to recertify) who are willing and ready to follow City requirements to volunteer their time and expertise as we have expressed over time. We realize staffing the pool is just one financial challenge the City is strategizing as we approach the launch of the year round covered pool operations. We are excited for the opportunity to alleviate some financial challenges and work with the City to schedule practice times in such a way to reduce City staff costs. For example, scheduling youth practices for the opening or closing hours at the pool during the off season, August through May; our certified lifeguards would volunteer to lifeguard during practices, working alongside possibly one City pool employee. We would also be willing to determine in kind arrangements for the City of TorC, if lifeguards are needed for special events, or for better coverage. We would like to help the City save money as well as allow our swimmers to maintain a year around practice schedule.

The Sierra County Swim Team would be able to afford \$1.00 per swimmer per practice. The board estimates that during the off season (August to May), it is estimated there would be from 10 to 20 swimmers making use of weekly/bi-weekly practices. Several of our swimmers are underprivileged and would not be able to afford to pay the \$2.00 per day for entrance to the pool for over seven months on top of the additional cost of inclusion on the team. We appeal to you to consider Sierra County Swim Team members to pay \$1.00 per swimmer per practice during scheduled swim team practices August through May and waive fees for non swimmers (mainly parents observing and helping with team efforts during practice times).

The TorC Tiger Sharks, who have traditionally practiced 5-10 times per week during the competitive training season (May-July), would however be able to budget \$25-50 per week for use of the swimming pool. The summer swim program has higher number of registrants and is more intense and demanding in many way of the swimmers (financial, time, equipment, travel, competitions, etc.). Past practices have been held up to 3 hours a day (split into 2 sessions, a.m. and p.m.), Monday through Friday, June 1st through August 1st. The TorC Tiger Sharks at their peak have had 80 swimmers, and more recently have about 30, due to the 2013 temporary pool closure. The TorC Tiger Sharks are want to support the pool by paying user fees given terms of practice schedule frequency and duration to keep the team competitive are agreeable. Also, please waive fees for non swimmers (mainly parents observing and helping with team efforts during practice times).

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Thank you for the opportunity for youth (and all community members) to swim year round and for the demonstration of your willingness, in recent face to face conversations, to receive our request and proposal and work towards an agreeable arrangement.

Many children rely on this program and many of them excel at it. The youth swim program helps children learn responsibility and leadership, as well as learn important skills that can be useful to their futures. We have had several state champion swimmers come from the Sierra County Swim Team. Additionally, the team has been a training ground and 'feeder program' for future aquatic and recreational programs-many have hired as highly valuable and qualified lifeguards for City of Truth or Consequences.

We look forward to partnering with the City of Truth or Consequences for a mutually beneficial swim year, and to help make Sierra County a better place to live and grow. Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to receiving direction from the City in the very near future to work towards an agreement prior to the pool's reopening.

Respectfully,



Amy Claesson, Board Vice President
575-740-1501 / torctigersharks@gmail.com

cc: City of Truth or Consequences Recreation Board, Juan Fuentes, Don Armijo and Johnny Burnett