



City of Hastings Parks & Recreation

920 W 10th St, Hastings MN 55033

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“Creating Community Through People, Parks, and Programs”

Parks & Recreation Commission Memorandum

To: Parks & Recreation Commission Members
From: Barry Bernstein, Parks & Recreation Director
Date: 10/4/2012
Subject: Middle School Pool Leisure Programming

Commission Action Requested:

Recommendation to proceed with leisure activities at the Middle School Pool

Background Information:

The Joint Powers Committee made the recommendations for the City of Hastings and the Hastings Community Education Department to work together in jointly offering leisure activities at the newly renovated Middle School Pool. I assigned staff member Darbie Johnson, Aquatics Manager with this task. I received the attached memo from Darbie explaining her professional opinions.

Financial Impact:

Through Joint Powers, with expanded leisure programming at the Middle School pool, 5% of the City of Hastings Aquatics salary will be paid for through Joint Powers. Any revenue/loss through programming leisure activities at the renovated Middle School pool will be deposited in the Joint Powers budget.

Staff Recommendations:

It is my recommendation to proceed with programming leisure activities at the Middle School pool utilizing the City of Hastings Aquatics Manager to plan, coordinate and supervise such programming.

Parks & Recreation Committee of Council Discussion:

Next meeting is Thursday, October 11 at 7:00 a.m.

Attachments:

Memo from Darbie Johnson, Aquatics Manager

Civic Arena

2801 Red Wing Blvd.

Ph: (651) 480-6195

Fax: (651) 437-4940

Aquatic Center

901 Maple Street

Ph: (651) 480-2385

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920 W 10th Street

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“Creating Community Through People, Parks, and Programs”

10-3-12

To: Barry Bernstein
From: Darbie A.D. Johnson
Re: Hastings Middle School Pool Programming

Per your request I have compiled potential programming ideas for the Hastings Middle School pool. This includes a list of recommended supplies, dates/times for programs, potential expenditures for staff costs, as well as my professional facility concerns. Please review and share with the Joint Powers Committee members, as well as any other key individuals of your choice. Let me know if you or others have any questions.

Below is my recommended list of required equipment that should be in place prior to any programs being conducted at the Hastings Middle School pool. As I am sure the school district is aware, there are Department of Health and State requirements that will need to also be checked. The supply list below takes into account that lap swim and swim lessons can share equipment. The reason for 3 staff uniforms and rescue tubes is during open swim I have allotted for 3 staff. It is my recommendation that 2 staff be on site at all times. During swim lessons there should be an instructor(s) for each class and a lifeguard on duty. During open and lap swim it is recommended to have lifeguard(s) on duty and another staff person to collect fees and rotate out the lifeguard(s).

Pool Equipment Required

<u>Equipment</u>	<u>QTY</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
• Backboard w/head immobilizer and straps	1	\$500.00
• Lifeguard uniforms (suit, whistle, lanyard)	3	\$200.00
• Rescue Tubes	3	\$150.00
• AED	1	\$2500.00
• First Aid Kit/Pocket Masks	1	\$50.00
• Phone on Deck	1	
• Kickboards, Pull Buoys, Pace Clock (lap swim)	5/10/1	\$500.00
• Kickboards, Noodles, Life Jackets (swim lessons)	10	\$300.00
• Money Box bolted to floor (collect \$ open/lap swim)	1	\$100.00
• File box for accident/incident, swim lesson info	1	\$10.00
• Paperwork, timecards, evals, lesson plans	copies	\$15.00/session
• Swim Lesson participant reward	10-15/session	\$50-150.00/session

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Suggested Aquatic Programming

Lap Swim

The boy's high school swim team did not return my emails on early morning practice schedule during these months of Jan/Feb/Mar. Tuesday and Thursdays are typical days for swim meets so I guessed they would not have practice in the morning. It is recommended to advertise that on Saturday lap swim will share lanes with the Shark team practice.

During the weekdays, custodians arrive at 6AM so a 615AM start is really the earliest available. High school class begins at 750AM so ending at 715AM should give staff enough time to change clothes and get to school. If walk-in lap swimmers are welcome, a cash box will need to be available and secured in the pool area. If school year passes are available a type of card or button will need to be issued so on-site staff is aware that payment has already been received.

Dates: January 7-March 30 (no Feb 2 due to swim meet)

Tuesday and Thursday 615AM-715AM

Saturday 8AM-10AM – shared with Shark Team Practice

Cost: \$3.50/day or \$50.00/school year

Expenditure: Lifeguard(s) X 2 X \$9.25/hour = \$18.50 on Tue/Thur and \$37.00 on Saturdays

Open Swim

If walk-in swimmers are welcome a cash box will need to be available and secured in pool area. It is recommended to provide staff 15 minutes prior and 45 minutes at the end of the program for patrons to shower/leave the pool/building area.

January 5-March 31 (No February 2 due to swim meet)

Saturdays 1-3PM

Non School Days 12Noon-2PM

Cost: \$4.00/person

Expenditure: Lifeguard(s) X 3 X \$9.25/hour X 3 hours = \$83.25. Custodial Staff X 1 X \$50.00/hour X 3 = \$150.00

NOTE: will need 59 paid swimmers to pay for staff costs

Group Rentals

Rental groups will be allowed to bring in cake and/or party decoration supplies. A policy will need to be discussed as to who cleans up this area after rental – Lifeguards or Custodians. Rentals will be available on Saturday/Sundays and recommended that if interested to call ahead for dates/times available. Consider advertising that the pool water temperature is between 78-80 degrees so rentals are aware prior to securing a date. It is recommend to provide staff 15 minutes prior and 45 minutes at the end of the rental for patrons to shower/leave the pool/building area and for clean up.

January 5-March 31

Cost: \$120.00/hour with a 2 hour minimum for up to 50 swimmers

Expenditure: Lifeguard(s) X 3 X \$9.25/hour X 3 hours = \$83.25. Custodial Staff X 1 X \$50.00/hour X 3 = \$150.00

Revenue: \$6.75/ 2hour rental

Swim Lessons

Swim Lesson Programming Concerns

One of the major goals I have and continue to achieve with the swim lesson program at HFAC is patron retention. Patron retention is something I focus on at a very young age with swim lessons, as the average span for retention is from age 4 to age 10. When students first attend swim lessons it is more often than not the first time the student has been in a teacher/student class, the first time they have been in a class without a parent, and possibly the first time they have been in the pool. These factors are very sensitive and so important to be aware of because if one of these factors doesn't work out, chances are students are not going to return. If a student cannot relax because they are shivering and they cannot hear the instructor because the 2 adults on the deck coaching swim club are "barking" or using whistles, the learning capabilities are literally unattainable.

I have combined the Hastings Area Swim Team (HAST), the Hastings High School Girls Swim Team, the Hastings High School Boys Swim Team, and the SHARKS practice schedule onto one master calendar. I have yet to receive day programming schedules/permits from the Hastings School District Physical Education Department or the YMCA for their programming permits, other than dates, but no times.

AVAILABILITY - After reviewing the schedule there is little to no consistent available time to schedule swim lessons. Between home swim meets and holidays it is apparent that it is not possible to have a consistent routine swim lesson schedule. The swim teams and HAST have the time frame of 3PM to 9PM reserved most weekdays and 8AM-11AM on Saturdays. I have discussed with several other aquatic professionals as to whether or not they share swim lesson time with competitive swim team practice. Most all professionals agreed with me that this type of sharing situation is not conducive to the learning environment of the swim lesson students. Many coaches use whistles, music, and loud voice commands during practice which unfortunately will be severely distracting for swim lesson participants. I also conducted an online survey with the 300 summer Hastings Family Aquatic Center swim lesson parents to get a gauge on alternative swim lesson option. 60% of the 75 responses stated they would register for lessons if they were consistent 2 days a week for 4 weeks. 20% of the 75 responses stated they would register for lesson if they were 8 Saturdays and 10% would register for 8 Sundays. The final 10% chose Other for their choice.

WATER TEMPERATURE -I have discussed the proposed water temperature range that the pool water is going to be kept at with Jim Huberty - lead custodian for the school district. He informed me that the water temperature range will be 78-80 degrees. This is a great temperature for competitive swim teams and clubs. However it is recommended by the Aquatic Exercise Association, the American Red Cross, and the US Swim School Association that for optimal learning environments and safety for students during swim lessons, water temperature should range from 84-86 degrees for school aged children and 90 degrees for child and parent classes. Teaching lessons in 78-80 degree water temperature not only puts your students at risk for early hypothermia but your instructors as well. It is my recommendation that the pool water temperature (78-80 degrees) at the Hastings Middle School is

not suitable for swim lesson programming. Professionally I am not interested in promoting or running a trial program when I am educated enough to know that children's health will be compromised.

If the pools water temperature and the sharing with swim clubs/teams are factors that cannot be adjusted or changed, than professionally I am declining the opportunity to proceed. I am not willing to put my name on or promote a program that I know is unsafe for the students and in an environment that is not conducive to learning. In an effort to reach out and explore how other communities deal with this situation, I asked Michelle Snider, with the Minnesota Recreation and Parks Association to forward on a description of this opportunity/situation to aquatic professionals of her choice in the Metro area. I have collected the responses and am willing to share them with you upon your request.

My suggestions for a successful swim lesson program include;

1. Remove permits from HAST during the months of January 2013 and March 2013 on weeknights from 6-8PM and program swim lessons on Monday/Wednesday evenings where the water temperature can be increased to 85 degrees. You could also run lessons on Tuesday/Thursday evenings with the exception of January 10 or 17 when the Hastings High School has a home swim meet.
2. Start preparing for the 2013-14 school year before HAST/SHARKS permits are submitted. Dedicate exclusive time to swim lessons on specific dates/months and increase the water temperature to 85 degrees. Swim lesson session could run weeknights from 6-8PM and/or Saturday mornings from 9-11AM. Lesson dates could vary from 2 consistent nights for 4 weeks or 1 night/morning a week for 8 weeks.

Please let me know if you have any questions.