

**CITY OF ROCKPORT
MINUTES
SWIMMING POOL OPERATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
3:30 p.m., Monday, January 24, 2022
Parks Department Office
402 E. Laurel, Rockport, Texas**

On the 24th day of January 2022, the Swimming Pool Operations Advisory Committee convened at 3:30 p.m. at the Parks Office located at 402 E. Laurel, and notice of meeting, giving time, place, date, and subject, was posted in accordance with the Texas Government Code, Section 551.041.

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

J.D. Villa-Chairperson
Rick Martinez, City of Rockport Director of Parks & Leisure Services
Wendy Laubach

OTHERS PRESENT:

Joe Riekers, Community Aquatics & Skate Park Manager
Katie Griffin
Brittany Elkins
George Bennett
Thea Edmundson

1. Call Meeting to Order.

With a quorum of Committee Members present, the Meeting of the Swimming Pool Operations Advisory Committee was called to order at 3:30 pm by chair J.D. Villa on January 24, 2022. at the Parks Department Office, 402 E. Laurel, Rockport, Texas.

2. Citizens to be Heard.

At this time, comments will be taken from the audience on any subject matter that is not on the agenda. In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, the Committee may not discuss or take action on any items that have not been posted on the agenda.

Thea Edmundson stated she would like to see the committee members be advocates for the pool instead of diminishing it and that she would like to see the attitude of committee members change to positive and not negative. She also stated the pool is an asset, used by the elderly and aging. She then mentioned communication enhancements such as newsletters and upgrading signage throughout the community.

3. Deliberate and act on approval of July 26, 2021, regular meeting minutes.

MOTION: Committee Member Laubach introduced a motion to approve the special meeting minutes of the July 26, 2021, minutes as written. Committee Member Martinez seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

4. Hear and deliberate on 2020-2021 Fiscal Year Fourth Quarter Budget Report.

Mr. Martinez introduced Finance Director Katie Griffin. Mrs. Griffin explained the year end report, 2020-2021. Thea Edmundson mentioned that the City of Rockport covers the deficit and what is needed is to increase usage and desirability of the pool and what it offers to the public to bring in more visitors, therefore increasing revenue.

5. Hear and deliberate on 2021-2022 Fiscal Year First Quarter Budget Report.

Mr. Martinez gave the committee time to look over the report after learning how to correctly understand the format. Katie Griffin also discussed how the pool used 20% of the budget in the first quarter which is not out of parameters for the scheduled expenses. She mentioned that there are fixed expenses that are budgeted for maintenance if the pool is open or closed for any reasons. No further discussion was had.

6. Hear and deliberate on Aquatics Manager Operations Report, including staffing, equipment and facility maintenance, special events and programs.

Mr. Riekers stated the pool held a class with 10 people and hired half of the class, but then lost the same number of current guards. The overall staffing has been twice the coverage amount to cover for any situations because of the new state guidelines. He mentioned the need for retention of summer staff working during the winter months and trying to come up with ways to retain staff. Chairperson J.D. Villa asked if the pool attends recruiting days and any of the local workshops. Mr. Riekers responded they attend the high school, chamber and RV parks and advertises on the Aquatics Association online recruitment site. There was a heater service that was found and hired to service the heater, went with a boiler company instead of pool heater service. They treat the burner like a car and gives codes for diagnostics, this included an annual maintenance service and upgrade. This will cause the heater to burn more efficiently. Mr. Riekers stated there are two special events planned, the Valentines Special and the Doggie Dunk. He mentioned there are two grants the USA Swimming, which is a grant for adult swim classes providing floatation devices to provide to people who can't swim and the Association for Aquatic Professionals grant. The pool recently hosted an instructor class for the Aransas Pass Aquatic Park who held class at their facility and the swimming portion at the Rockport pool. He stated they will be hosting another guard class for Port Royal. He then mentioned the Red Cross Swim Lesson Program using the former Friends of the Pool grant money and they currently have two adults signed up. Thea Edmundson stated the schools water safety program, 6th grade swimming, maritime club, Rockport Police and Sheriff's Department also utilize the pool.

7. Deliberate and act on pool rentals, admissions, and concession rate increases.

Mr. Martinez stated that this was discussed during past meetings, but no action taken on the issue. It was placed back on the agenda for further discussion and possible action. Mr. Riekers stated that he did some research on other area pools, to see what their fee structure was, compared to the Rockport pool. He found that some fees were higher and some lower, for certain services. He suggested a 15% rental rate increase, which would be more in line with other area

pools. Katie Griffin asked about adding parties during the operating hours using the pool picnic tables as party zones. Mr. Martinez commented that the intention to adding parties and or afternoon party rentals, has always been a desire, but we have not been able to staff them, because of staffing shortages. Chairperson J.D Villa had a motion to raise pool rental rate to \$225.00 immediately for the current 2021- 2022 FY, as a pilot year to see the results. Mr. Riekers asked permission to raise extra rental options at the same percentage. Chairperson Laubach asked if she could see all the rental rates and asked Mr. Martinez if he would recommend this change in rates. Mr. Martinez replied he would not recommend the change in rates because it would only increase revenue by a fraction, and further commented that if the other government entities would be more supportive of the pool, we would not be having this discussion. Further, this rate increase could also backfire, resulting in a decline of utilization resulting in less revenue. Chairperson Villa rescinded his motion, and instead asked for a special meeting to gather more information and to discuss other options regarding rate increases. Moving on to admission rates Mr. Riekers stated the daily rate is currently at \$5 and his research has seen the median average for pool around the area is sitting at \$6.00. Mr. Martinez stated the Aransas Pass Pool rate is \$8.00 but that the park, compares to a mini water park. Mr. Riekers stated the Aransas Pass Pool has five different areas for swimming, in addition, it offers many slides, which attract visitors. Chairperson Villa made a motion to table the discussion for a special meeting to bring more information with good faith estimates. The motion was seconded by Mr. Martinez. The motion was passed to hold a special meeting to discuss rates.

8. Deliberate and act on re-naming the current Aquatic & Skate Park.

Mr. Martinez stated that the skate park had been relocated from the Aquatic Park to Memorial Park, therefore it would be in the best interest to re-name the Aquatic Park. After discussing possible name changes between committee members, a motion was made by Chairperson J.D. Villa to change the name to Rockport-Fulton Community Pool. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Martinez. The motion was carried.

9. Hear and deliberate on items for inclusion on next agenda.

Special meeting in March 2022 to discuss and act on rate increase.

10. Adjournment.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 5:12pm.

**SWIMMING POOL OPERATIONS
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**



J.D. Villa, Chairman

Parks and Leisure Services
Pool Committee Meeting Attendance Chart
Visitors Attending

Date: JANUARY / 24 / 2022

(PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME)

- 1) BRITTANY ELKINS
- 2) Thea Edmondson
- 3) Joe Reel
- 4) Katei Luff
- 5) George Bennett
- 6) _____
- 7) _____
- 8) _____
- 9) _____
- 10) _____
- 11) _____
- 12) _____
- 13) _____
- 14) _____

Parks and Leisure Services
Meeting Attendance Record
Pool Committee Members

Date: JANUARY / 24 / 2022

Pool Committee Members Attending this date:

- 1) WENDY LAUBACH
- 2) JD VILLA
- 3) Rick MARTINEZ
- 4) _____
- 5) _____
- 6) _____
- 7) _____