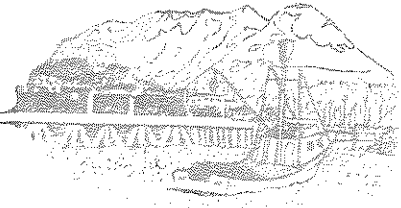


CITY OF CORDOVA



**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING, Monday April 28th, 2014
6 PM at City Hall**

AGENDA

Council Representative

Kristen Carpenter

Vice Chairman

Commission Members

Steve Barnes, Karen Hallquist, Kara Johnson, Marvin VanDenBroek

Parks and Recreation Director

Susie Herschleb

Administrative Assistant

Shannon Phillips

Cordova Parks and Recreation is essential for providing and fostering Parks, Programs and Facilities for all in pursuit of a healthy sustainable community.

- A. **CALL TO ORDER**
- B. **ROLL CALL:** Kristen Carpenter, Steve Barnes, Karen Hallquist, Kara Johnson, Marvin VanDenBroek, Susie Herschleb, and Shannon Phillips
- C. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
- D. **VISITOR COMMUNICATION**
 - 1. Kate Morse with the Copper River Watershed Project
- E. **CONSENT CALENDAR**
 - 1. 11-19-13 minutes (p. 1-2)
- F. **REPORTS**
 - 1. Directors report (p. 3-10)
 - 2. First Quarter Report (p. 11-14)
- G. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
- H. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - 1. Officially name the park known as the "Tot Lot" in memory of Noel Pallas
 - 2. Life Guard Training Options (p. 15-18)
-Marvin VanDenBroek
- I. **PENDING AGENDA**
- J. **COMMISSION COMMENTS**
- K. **ADJOURNMENT**

Minutes

November 19 2013

5:30pm City Hall

DRAFT

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

- A. Kristen Carpenter calls the meeting to order, 5:45 pm.
- B. **Roll Call:** In Attendance: Steve Barnes, Karen Hallquist, Kara Johnson, Kristen Carpenter, Shelly Bourgeois (absent), Parks and Rec Director Susie Herschleb and Admin Assistant Jim Fritsch
- C. **Approve Agenda:** M/Hallquist, S/Johnson. V/Unanimous - Approved.
- D. **Communication by Visitors:** None
- E. **Consent Calendar:** Motion to approve / Barnes. S / Hallquist.
 - 1. 9/25/13 minutes, Approved.
 - 2. 10/1/13 minutes, Approved.
 - 3. 10/9/13 minutes, Approved.
 - 4. 10/22/13 minutes, Approved.
- F. **Reports:** 1) *Directors Report.* No questions for Directors report. **Herschleb** states that TMI saltwater system for the pool was approved. There was a question on the air quality, with poor ventilation and reports of headaches. **Herschleb** expressed concerns with meeting OSHA and DEC guidelines. **Herschleb** had **Josh Hallquist** look into ventilation and he came back with a quote of \$66K. **Herschleb** followed up and found that DEC would not close an older pool due to an older ventilation system. She then looked into water quality and found that the saltwater system would improve air quality. **Johnson** asks how a saltwater system would improve air quality. **Herschleb** replies that byproducts would have lower pH and less acid would be needed, reducing the smell of chemicals. She also states that maintenance would be greatly reduced. This system is less corrosive than our current system. At this point we are uncertain how long the pool would be closed during installation. The new system was quoted at \$17K. Commission agrees that this would be a good upgrade.
Herschleb gives an update on **Cordova Amateur Youth Athletics Corporation**, stating they are currently offering basketball 5 days a week. We are offering a variety of afterschool programs for different age groups at this time. We are still looking forward to offering our spring basketball program, utilizing some of the NBC camp techniques. We hope to have a good relationship with CAYAK and offer the best possible programs for our youth.
- G. **Correspondence:** The letter from Joe Ardvison was discussed in the director's report.
- H. **Unfinished Business:**
- I. **New Business:**
 - 1) **Facility Usage Agreement:** **Herschleb** states that it would be a good idea to develop a facility usage agreement for after-hours non staffed building usage. This would be used for Adult sports programing similar to the school district policy. Commission agrees that it would be a

good idea to have a damage and/or cleaning deposit. **Herschleb** suggests that we use one usage agreement for multiple uses for a maximum of 6 weeks. **Herschleb** states that council feels we need to prepare the community for closing at 7:30. **Carpenter** suggests that we advertise and encourage feedback via the newspaper, city website, flyers, etc.

J. Pending Agenda:

- 1) **Herschleb** states she will be attending a comp. plan training.
- 2) Commission plans for upcoming community workshop regarding the parks and rec. master plan.
- 3) **Herschleb** asks commission to submit ideas for the Pool rules video.
- 4) Commission plans next meeting for Wednesday Dec. 11th at 5:30 pm.

K. Commission Comments: none

L. Meeting Adjourned:

M/Johnson S/Barnes Meeting adjourned at 7:13 pm

CITY OF CORDOVA PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT / DIRECTORS REPORT / APRIL 2014

WINTER TRANSITIONS:

The Parks and Recreation Department has been experiencing major transition for many months. I sincerely apologize to all of you for not being able to pull together a meeting until now. We are not 'deep'; when the work load increases or something happens unexpectedly my staff and I must set aside reporting to the commission in order to provide continuity of service to the general public.

This is exactly what happened with the New Year's Day roof leak at Bidarki. The floor was horribly damaged and the repair needed to be expedited in order for our Iceworm festivities to be scheduled as usual. This was certainly a challenge considering none of the specialty tools or people needed to repair the floor were in town or easily available. Thankfully the insurance company provided timely and skilled contractors.

The project lasted about a month. We used the closure as an opportunity to paint the walls in the gymnasium; tend to all of the light fixtures, scoreboard and inspect the sprinkler system. We had to get creative and reschedule all of our youth programming elsewhere for the month and realized just how much we do in our little Bidarki gym as a result of its sudden and unplanned closure. I wrote in my weekly report 1/31/14 to the City Manager;

66 kids this month @ the pool – 12 hours contact time. For youth; combined with open swims we offered a total 97 hours of pool time. This is an increase of 81 hours per month! It was a good move injecting Kristina's programming in at the pool – If I do say so myself!

We have 5 b-ball teams / 5 v-ball teams and 5 dodgeball teams signed up so far for tournaments starting Monday 2/3/14.

One special note: *Clearly this current situation (gymnasium closure) speaks volumes to those who assume that Bidarki programming could easily be scheduled at one of the 2 other gymnasiums in town. We absolutely need Bidarki if we want to continue to provide and/or expand recreational opportunities to our youth and public in general. Currently, the only time available to schedule at Mt. Eccles is 8-10pm this will not change until the middle of March. Clearly if the Bidarki gymnasium is not available - youth programming would be greatly impacted.*

I decided to include these excerpts from my weekly report because I want for myself and the Commission not to forget how important the Bidarki gymnasium really is to the community.

PERSONNEL TRANSITIONS

Shortly after the gym floor and our Iceworm events, Jim Fritsch let us know he would be leaving to focus on guiding for Points North. Jim gave a great 5 years; I posted this on the bidarki facebook page on his last day;

This our last day with this guy!! Jim has been an awesome addition to the City of Cordova Parks and Recreation Dept. We have been blessed for 5 great years. We wish him all the best in his new adventures. Clearly you can see from this photo that Jim was always 'game' ~ this photo was taken @ 27

mile sand dunes with our summer day camp; he's wearing one of our campers tie dyed shirts and had been playing in the mud....(and he was our admin. assistant!!!) Yup...we think he's pretty much awesome.



5114 [Like](#) [Share](#)

868 people saw this post

Needless to say, we were sad to see him go. This was our single biggest post on facebook; 868 people saw this post and 5,114 people liked it. There is no doubt 'Jimbo' made a BIG impact on our department.

This was another unforeseen transition and with staff turnover much of our time is spent in the selection process and training of a new employee. We were very lucky however, to pick up Shannon Phillips as our new Administrative Assistant. Jim was able to get in 4 solid days of training with Shannon prior to hitting the high slopes with Points North. This will be her first Commission meeting ~ but,

Shannon worked with us as a full time employee for three years as a recreation assistant. She is very familiar with how things work around here; smooth sailing so far.

Shannon has been tasked by our new City manager to 'tighten up' the way we control facility usage and data compilation. With the extra money from Providence Health Care Systems we are able to afford a new card swipe system for the Recreation Center. Shannon is in the beginning stages of educating herself about how this system will support us. She will report more as she learns.

Just a few weeks after Jim left, Kristina Maxwell gave notice that she too would be moving on. Kristina was with us for a total of 11 months. We will certainly miss her contributions when it comes to summer camp; this was by far her greatest strength.

We advertised her position (Rec Ops Leader) for the minimum 14 days and had a good response. We interviewed 3 applicants and selected one. Unfortunately, our selection was perhaps premature and we parted ways after the first week. This leaves very little time to start all over with the hiring process. Especially with summer camp right around the corner.

One of the applicants that was not interviewed turned in her application stating she would only be available for a year. We did not initially consider her for this reason, but her credentials were very good. I saw this as an opportunity to temporarily fill Kristina's position while staying on schedule for the first summer camp session. I decided to interview. I asked if she was interested in coordinating summer camp on a temporary basis (this would normally be the full time Rec. Ops Leader's roll). I am happy to say she will be joining our team for the summer! The Camp Coordinator may be familiar to you; Jessica Smyke is her name ;)

Tentative camp dates:

Session #1: June 9-13

Session #2: June 23-27th

Session #3: July 7-11th

Session #4: July 21-25th

Session #5: August 4-8th

Session #6: August 18-22nd

We are also planning ½ day activities on every week off. Interacting with kids from 1-5pm daily....

SEASONAL SCHEDULING: (BIDARKI)

The hours for Bidarki will change for the summer (starting May 20th); below is what we are advertising.

MONDAY– FRIDAY

6:00 AM– 1:00 PM & 4:00 PM– 10:00 PM (*Bidarki Recreation Center will be closed from 1-4 pm daily*)

SATURDAY

9 AM- 10 PM

We have also decided to offer limited hours to visit us for other purposes. To better track Camper park payments and pass sales we are asking that folks visit Shannon personally. Recreation aids will only be selling day passes at the front desk in the evening. All other sales will need to be done during administrative office hours; below is what we have decided upon:

If you wish to purchase a pass package; pay lot rent or register for day camp, the Parks and Recreation Department administrative office hours will be

9am-1pm M-F.

*****Day passes are available anytime*****

The options listed below are what we have scheduled as far as structured classes and/or recreation for the summer so far. Open gym is valuable in the summer, most folks are so busy they appreciate an open weight room or gym when they can make it in for a visit. I do anticipate a women's basketball league; Taylor Barnes seems to be the lead. This should be no problem after 6:30pm MW or F. There has been some interest in an adult kickball league @ the 'field of dreams' we are open to this idea and will advocate/negotiate with and around CLL to make this happen.

~CARDIO FITNESS CLASS~

MONDAY-- FRIDAY / 5:30-6:30 PM

~TOT-TIME~

TUESDAY, THURSDAY & SATURDAY / 10-12 PM

~ZUMBA~

SATURDAY / 9 - 10 AM

SEASONAL SCHEDULING: (POOL)

The summer schedule is unknown at this time. The pool schedule outside of lap swims is now and will be dependent on lifeguard availability. Our lifeguard training has been officially scheduled – June 23rd – 27th. Linda Krider and Meghan will be co-teaching. The class will be held in the evenings and we will not close the pool for the entire length of the class like we have in the past. The pool will be a little warmer than usual for those recreating or lap swimming during our lifeguard training. We usually crank up the heat for the lifeguards. They are in and out of the pool frequently and the warmth is greatly appreciated.

For those of you who have not noticed, we have been placing a 'swim at your own risk' sign in the entry and on deck during lap swims that we are unable to staff. Meghan will soon be able to rescue again, I believe her Dr. will release her from light duty in June. I do not however, anticipate Meghan sitting on deck for entire lap swims when she is back 100%. In the winter this shouldn't be too much of a problem because we are reasonably familiar with most of our patrons and their abilities. We would like to avoid using the sign for lap swims in the summer due to the influx of new faces. The good news is, finding lifeguards for dayshifts in the summer tends to be easier since school is out. I'll keep you posted as far as the summer scheduling @ the pool.

One last note – just to be clear – We will not place a 'swim at your own risk' sign on deck during any other activities outside of lap swim.

SALINE SYSTEM PROJECT:

This is a big project. It is however, well planned and should take less time than our old maintenance regime of grinding down the entire pool bottom and repainting. We will be placing the new ADA lift (pool side) and replacing the copper tubing in our heat exchanger with cupro-nickel tubing, in addition to plumbing in the new saline system.

The cupro-nickel tubing was an unplanned and unbudgeted project. I have copied a report I made to Council on this subject below;

"We are facing a difficult decision right now in regard to the current heat exchanger. We have collected a number of professional opinions on the topic of replacing the tubes in the pool's current heat exchanger, which are copper. The recommendation is to use cupro-nickel (a copper nickel alloy) which can stand up to the salt water that will soon be running through the system. We are disappointed that this option was not recommended to us (by the salt water system manufacturer) during the 2013 budget cycle and as a result is not funded for 2014. The cost to move to cupro-nickel tubing would be 11k including labor.

- *Is it reasonable to take the risk of not replacing the tubes until next fiscal year? We plan to install the salt water system in May. This would mean up to 8 months of running with the copper tubes which are 8 years old (the pool current heat exchanger was new in 2006).*
- *Will Council fund this in 2015?*
- *What would happen if the heat exchanger failed? We estimate a 6-8 week closure (minimum) because the tubes would need to be manufactured prior to being shipped. The labor is estimated to take 2 days."*

We (the City Manager and myself) decided after much debate to use money from both the pool's budget and Parks Maintenance budget to have the cupro-nickel tube assembly poured and en-route for this closure. Although the monies we used were meant for other expenditures, the providence wellness funds have allowed us a bit more leeway this fiscal year. I will revisit this decision with Mr. Robertson if we find ourselves desperately in need of funds that are no longer available.

The pool will close May 5th, we have scheduled the closure through the end of the month. We anticipate re-opening the first week of June.

DTK / ARC:

Dressed to Kill was a hit this year and we are pleased to say we made the money we needed to facilitate the American Ramp Company come to town. For those of you unaware of our fundraising goal; I have attached the informational flyer distributed to local vendors for our silent auction items. I have also attached the contractual agreement (not yet signed) that outlines the services they will provide for you to view.

Quote

Bio-Logic, Inc.
1150 Ballena Blvd Ste 253
Alameda, CA 94501

DATE	QUOTE #
4/23/2014	13746

CUSTOMER

City of Cordova Rec Center
Shannon Phillips

REP

DAG

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	QTY	RATE	Total
GA-PLUS	Gym Assistant - Plus Edition (for 500 members)		869.00	869.00
WS 5	Gym Assistant Networking Upgrade (up to 5-workstations)		500.00	500.00
PHOTO-BUNDLE	Photo Capture Camera + Software		150.00	150.00
PROSHOP	ProShop Software (POS for retail sales)		300.00	300.00
BC-Fusion	Fusion Omnidirectional Barcode Scanner w/stand, RS232 Interface		325.00	325.00
1-Port Desktop	USB/Serial Adapter (RS232), Single Port, for desktop readers		27.00	27.00
KTC 500	Custom Logo Keytags (500)		350.00	350.00
CD-Serial	Cash Drawer (Dedicated Serial Port)		250.00	250.00
CDMount	Cash Drawer Under-Counter Mount		42.00	42.00
	Subtotal			2,813.00
DISC- Bundle	Gym Assistant Bundle Discount		-5.00%	-140.65
	Subtotal			2,672.35
SHIPPING	Shipping		36.65	36.65
	First Year Technical Support is included with purchase, this is the price in the second year:			
SP-Plus	1-Year Support (Gym Assistant Plus Edition)		150.00	150.00
SP-Networking	1-Year Support (Networking)		75.00	75.00
SP-Access	1-Year Support (Access Control)		175.00	175.00

Please call toll-free 877-496-2778 if you have any questions about this quote.

Total

\$3,109.00



DTK 2014 ROCKABILLY REVIVAL



The City of Cordova Parks and Recreation Department is organizing the 2014 DTK (Dressed To Kill) event ~ "Rockabilly Revival!" ~ The funds raised from this event will be used to bring the American Ramp Company to town to design a custom skatepark/pumptrack for Cordova's youth. Currently Cordova has a number of capital projects that involve vital services at the top of its funding priority list. We must rely on fundraising and granting opportunities to bring this project to fruition for our kids in the near future! We know 'We Can Do It!' and ARC can help

American Ramp Company provides professional design services geared to create a completely custom skatepark/pump track design that is unique to your community. Our team of professional Skateboarders, BMX Riders, Landscape Architects, and Visual Artists will work directly with your community to generate ideas and develop your dream park. We then provide you high quality renderings of your design along with a fly-through video and a breakdown listing the quantities of different materials needed to build your park. This package gives you everything you need to obtain community support, solicit donations, and apply for grant funding.



WWW.AMERICANRAMPCOMPANY.COM

601 S. McKinley
Joplin, MO 64801
Toll-free: 800-RAMP-778
Local: 417-206-6816
Fax: 417-206-6888
sales@americanrampcompany.com



Date: 12 August 2013
RE: Cordova Skate Park
Attn: Susan Herschleb
Director of Parks and Recreation
City of Cordova
PO Box 1210
Cordova, AK 99574

American Ramp Company provides professional design services geared to create a completely custom skatepark design that is unique to your community. Our team of professional Skateboarders, BMX Riders, Landscape Architects, and Visual Artists will work directly with your community to generate ideas and develop your dream park. We then provide you high quality renderings of your design along with a fly-through video and a breakdown listing the quantities of different materials needed to build your park. This package gives you everything you need to obtain community support, solicit donations, and apply for grant funding.

Our Conceptual Design services will include the following:

Community Engagement Meeting

- American Ramp Company will host a live meeting with your local skaters to formulate ideas for your concept design.
- Review of sample designs with group to identify a preferred theme.
- Administer questionnaire exercise for skaters to provide individualized input.
- Summarize meeting findings with group.

Site Review

- Review location of skatepark for opportunities and constraints.
- Discuss potential locations for entry, spectator viewing, and drainage flow.

Design Webinar Revision

- Provide Flyer and Poster art to the City to advertise the design webinar at schools, local paper, and community centres.
- Presentation discussing project location, history, budget and design opportunities.
- Work session with general public and skatepark users to review initial conceptual design and general theme.
- Revise conceptual design based on feedback from initial webinar.
- Verify the design is responsive to the site and budget.

Video Fly Through

- Create video fly through of approved concept design.
- Send DVD of video for uploading to social media sites.

Cost Estimate

- Provide cost estimate for construction of approved skatepark design.

Material Quantity Take-offs

- Provide breakdown of material types and quantities to construct skatepark.

Deliverables

- Large poster size prints of final design
- DVD of fly-through video
- Cost Estimate
- Material Quantity Take-offs

Total Cost

- The Total cost for our interactive professional Conceptual Design Package = \$5,000
(\$2500 due at signing, \$2500 due at delivery of materials) Taxes extra.

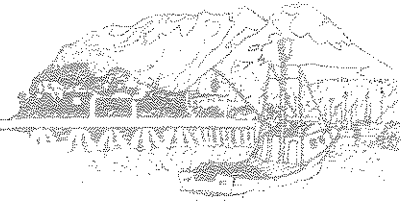
Approved By: _____ Signature _____ Date ____/____/____

Please complete all fields below before remittance.

BILLING CONTACT

Company Name: _____
Contact Name: _____ Title: _____
Phone: _____ Fax: _____
Remit to Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
E-mail Address: _____

CITY OF CORDOVA



DATE: 4/25/14
TO: City Council & Mayor Kacsh
FROM: Susan E. Herschleb / Director of Parks and Rec.
RE: 1st quarter report

At first glance our quarterly report looks impressive compared to last year. The truth is, we are just slightly behind last year. By Dec 31st 2013 we had not yet collected over 7k from our Odiak Camper Park tenants, this revenue inflates our totals. If we take revenue from Odiak Camper Park out of both the 2013 & 2014 report you will see recreation revenue totals are very close.

- 2013: \$7,691.00
- 2014: \$7,477.00

I believe that we may have surpassed 2013 revenue totals had we not experienced a lull in programming due to staff turnover and a month long closure of the gym floor due to repairs (New Year's Day roof leak). Usage totals are down slightly (likely for the same reason). You can clearly see that our revenue totals for programming are not reflected in our usage totals; this is because we scheduled all of our youth programming at the pool due to the gym floor repair ~ This really was a blast! We will continue to offer after school recreation @ the pool for youth.

We are excited to get our new card swipe system. It will help us tally usage totals and track memberships. The system comes with a magnetic door lock; if the membership is expired the patron will be unable to gain access to the facility. We are close to selecting our system but a few months out from actually implementing it.

I have attached the pools 1st quarter report; you will find a brief narrative by Meghan Schinella on the bottom.

Susan E. Herschleb
Director of Parks and Recreation / City of Cordova.

City of Cordova - Parks and Recreation Dept.

Bidarki Rec. Center 1st Quarter 2014

1st Quarter Revenue 2014

Month	Drop in	Passes	Programs	S.Cabin	Odiak	Other	Total	Pool
January	\$ 143.00	\$ 2,080.00	\$ 455.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 4,951.00		\$ 7,879.00	
February	\$ 128.00	\$ 1,900.00	\$ 430.00	\$ 185.00	\$ 466.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 3,184.00	
March	\$ 385.00	\$ 1,002.00	\$ 4.00	\$ 440.00	\$ 2,444.13		\$ 4,275.13	
Total	\$ 656.00	\$ 4,982.00	\$ 889.00	\$ 875.00	\$ 7,861.13	\$ 75.00	\$ 15,338.13	

1st quarter attendance

	sign ins	Programs	other	
Jan	1698			1698
Feb	1634	335		1969 * birthday party
March	1644			1644
Total	4976	0	335	0
				5311

City of Cordova - Parks and Recreation Dept.

Bidarki Rec. Center 1st Quarter 2013

1st Quarter Revenue 2013

Month	Drop in	Passes	Programs	S.Cabin	Odiak	Other	Total
Jan	\$ 287.00	\$ 2,740.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 135.00	\$ 1,429.04	\$ 100.00	\$ 4,731.04
Feb	\$ 252.00	\$ 1,025.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 135.00		\$ 50.00	\$ 1,487.00
Mar	\$ 257.00	\$ 2,250.00		\$ 395.00			\$ 2,902.00
2013 Total	\$ 796.00	\$ 6,015.00	\$ 65.00	\$ 665.00	\$ 1,429.04	\$ 150.00	\$ 9,120.04
2012 total	\$689	\$4,360	\$860	\$655			\$6,564

1st Quarter Attendance

Month	WR	Gym	TOT	Fit Class	Sauna	program	b ball	v ball	Total
JAN	892	356	91	180	49	350	100	100	2118
FEB	849	568	125	151	31		79	64	1867
MAR	814	641	126	139	52		75	60	1907
Total	2555	1565	342	470	132	350	254	224	5892

We have seen an early increase in memberships this year. This could be due to the fact that people are not completely exhausted from shoveling. Our daily fitness classes have seen an increase in participation along with a strong core of regular participants.

1st quarter programming consists of Iceworm revenue. This years event cost additional money due to facility rental fees and wages for officiating events.

Tot Time has become a very popular time on the schedule. Members and non-members enjoy this activity free of charge.

With the additionalwear and tear on equipment and extra set up and clean up, a minimal fee for non members could be a future consideration.

City of Cordova - Parks and Recreation Dept.

Bob Korn Pool 01 Quarter 2014

01 Quarter Revenue 2014

Month	Drop in	Passes	Cmb Passes	Rentals	Lessons	Other	Total
January	\$ 470.00	\$ 350.00					\$ 820.00
February	\$ 186.00	\$ 70.00		\$ 450.00			\$ 706.00
March	\$ 582.00	\$ 15.00		\$ 275.00			\$ 872.00
Total	\$ 1,238.00	\$ 435.00	\$ -	\$ 725.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,398.00

01 Quarter Attendance 2014

Month	AM-Lap	Noon Lap	PM Lap	AM-Ex	PM-Ex	Fam Open	Sat Lap	Sat. Open	Tot	Sun Lap	Sun Open	Total
January	117	80	75	27	9	95	14	73	81	28	97	599
Feb.	51	70	68	9	35	61	8	48	41	5	45	396
March	0	100	62	0	60	71	13	88	69	10	68	473
Total	168	250	205	36	104	227	35	209	191	43	210	1468

1/14/14 PM Exercise Class was cancelled due to low attendance and evening lap swim on Tuesday and Thursday nights were cancelled to try to save money in our temporary funds budget. 2/18/14 AM exercise class was cancelled due to low attendance and AM lap swim was cancelled due to no lifeguard availability, and the afternoon lap swim was extended from 10:30-12:00. Due to patron interest we added back Tuesday and Thursday evenings with a combined lap swim and exercise class. Due to the AM exercise class not happening the PM exercise class was well attended during this time. There were some complaints from the PM lap swimmers about the exercise class being distracting during their swims and not having enough lap swim space at times. 4/16/14 we added AM lap swim back to the schedule because of the high interest in having lap swim during this

LIFEGUARD TRAINING OPTIONS / CURRENT CHALLENGES:

WHAT WE HAVE DONE IN THE PAST AND WHY:

In the past we have offered two full lifeguard classes a year which can take as much as 40 + hours to finish based on the number of students and their skill levels. We normally close the pool during this time for three reasons.

- we increase the temperature of the pool water, which facilitates spending many hours practicing skills in the water but could be dangerous for those exerting themselves during a lap swim or exercise class due to heat exhaustion.
- The second reason is that the exact times of the water portions of the class are not able to be predicted and can vary on a daily basis.
- We often do not have the staff available during those times to maintain a partial schedule. Staff often participates in the class; some assist as the victim; some are used to lifeguard the class during the in water portions (A lifeguard is required for all of the in water portions of the class) and some are being re-certified during our annual trainings.

CHALLENGES IN PRODUCING ADULT LIFEGUARDS:

- Lifeguarding is a serious occupation and requires a serious commitment to continuing education and strength training. Few adults have the time outside of their regular jobs to do this.
- Few adults have maintained the skills and strength to be successful at aquatic rescues.
- Few are willing to work for a low wage, few hours and no benefits.

CHALLENGES IN EMPLOYING YOUTH LIFEGUARDS:

- We compete with the high paying fishing industry during the summer months and often lose.
- Most youth who have the ability to become a lifeguard both physically and mentally are also involved with extracurricular activities. They travel often or have other commitments during the school year. We often have 4-5 guards who are trained and sometimes none of them are available to cover the shifts.

OVERALL CHALLENGES:

- The number of available lifeguards is constantly fluctuating due to extracurricular activities.
- Incentive for lifeguards is low; fewer hours are available due to a shrinking budget and the pay is low for a highly skilled position.

WHAT ELSE IS OUT THERE? :

There are five main certifying agencies in the United States for swimming pool lifeguards. We currently use ARC / American Red Cross; all 5 are listed below:

- ARC / American Red Cross
- YMCA
- E & A / Ellis and Associates
- SAI / Starfish Aquatics Institute
- NASCO / National Aquatic Safety Company

WHAT TRAINING OPTIONS ARE CURRENTLY AVAILABLE TO US? :

ARC BLENDED LEARNING:

The best alternative option to the traditional full class has only recently become available and would shorten the class length. The American Red Cross has developed a “blended” learning lifeguard class. Part of the class is done by the student online prior to attending their first day of the lifeguarding class. This reduces the in class portion of the lifeguarding course by six hours. There are still 20-30 hours’ worth of pre-requisites, water skills, first aid, and CPR/AED training involved. This may be a good option for those who are proficient with a computer and have access to a computer.

ARC MODIFIED CLASS SCHEDULE:

One option for those who work a day job, in addition to the blended learning lifeguard class, is having the classes in the evenings and shortening the number of hours of the class each day. An evening class spread out over multiple evenings is an option if there is interest. So far we are not aware of anyone interested in this option. Below are some concerns about this model:

- The number of hours and the number of days it takes to finish the class will increase as more review will be required.
- By spreading out the time in between training sessions it’s possible the class failure will increase. Passing the water skills tests can be challenging, even during a class where you are immersed in it for five or six days consecutively.
- The first time implementing an evening blended learning class will be difficult for many reasons. Since we have not done a blended learning class yet, we do not know for sure how many hours it will take.

LIFEGUARD CLASSES THROUGH THE SCHOOL DISTRICT:

Another potential option for training lifeguards that was proposed last year by the Superintendent of the school district, Teresa Keel, was that Jeff Hamberger, create a curriculum for teaching lifeguarding at the high school level. It would be a semester long class. Jeff was certified as an American Red Cross Lifeguard instructor last summer. We are not aware of any formal plans to move forward with this idea at this time.

WHAT'S DIFFERENT ABOUT THE OTHER AGENCIES? :

- Approaches to aquatic rescue techniques.
- Methods for performing First Aid and CPR.

- Amount of time between required re-certifications for instructors and lifeguards. (*Some agencies require recertification every year rather than every two years. Other organizations lifeguard instructors have to renew their instructor certification every three years even if they teach.*)

A NOTE FROM MEGHAN SCHINELLA / POOL OPS LEADER / CITY OF CORDOVA;

I recommend that we continue to require American Red Cross lifeguarding certifications for those who intend to lifeguard at the Bob Korn Memorial swimming pool. I do not recommend we combine lifeguards who are trained by two different certifying agencies. With rescue techniques and the CPR being different, two differently certified lifeguards would find themselves unable to perform rescues together and work together effectively as a team.

Pool managers write EAPS (Emergency Action Plans) only to guide their lifeguards through the basic steps of an emergency. Rescues are taught and refined in lifeguard classes and during in-services. Details of those rescues are not included in an EAP or a safety plan. If we had a 'split staff' I would need to write a safety plan and modify one or the other's rescue technique in order for the guards to work together. This is not something I would feel comfortable doing. It is beyond my scope of training.

The cost of recertifying our staff with another agency would be high. At a minimum I would budget \$6-8,000 dollars. This would cover:

- 5 lifeguards getting recertified at 40 hrs. X \$12.00 per hour=\$2400.00
- Materials and certifications expenses (unknown cost)
- Travel and lodging to get me re-certified or to have an instructor come to Cordova could be as much as \$3000.00-4000.00.

The water safety instructors (for swim lessons), swim coaches and the lifeguard instructors we have trained would find it difficult to maintain their certifications in American Red Cross without having to leave town. The only way they would not have to leave town would be if I maintained two consecutive certifications, which would be costly and time consuming to do.

ARC has longer certification periods than the other agencies. This allows me as the Pool Operations Leader to have more control over what kind of in-service I offer and when I offer an in-service to my staff. Most often it is extremely difficult to schedule a time for an in-service or training when everyone is available. Training is a time consuming endeavor for both trainer and student. It is nice to know we have 2 years prior to having to recertify. I think an annual mandated recertification would actually be more difficult to implement and may even reduce the number of lifeguards we have available.

The American Red Cross has continued to change with the changing times. As a result, instructors and participants have kept up with the latest peer-reviewed aquatics lifesaving information. This is one of the biggest reasons that it is worthwhile to stay with them.

The very best solution to these challenges is to continue to request a full time benefitted lifeguard position. With a full time benefitted, committed lifeguard we could expand our schedule and offer better continuity of service to the community. This employee could not only assist with trainings and swim lessons but perhaps offer their own trainings independent of me. Currently I have difficulty planning my earned vacation time due to lifeguard availability; if I leave when there is no one to step in the pool closes to the whole community. I find myself working when I would otherwise take a sick day for the same reason. It is difficult for a single person to manage the pool, train, schedule staff and manage staff as well as all of the other things required and still be able to offer everything that the community desires.

Please let me know if you have any questions about any of this. I can be reached at the pool during the day, at 424-7200. Thanks for your commitment to aquatic recreation and your time.

Meghan Schinella

Pool Operations Leader
City of Cordova