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Dept. Head _____
Manager SW
Admin. Assistant MS

AGENDA REPORT

BEACHES, PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Meeting Date: November 12, 2019

Department: Beaches, Parks and Recreation
Prepared By: Carrie Brill, Aquatics Supervisor

Subject: *CONSIDERATION OF LONG COURSE SWIM HOURS AT THE SAN CLEMENTE AQUATICS CENTER.*

Fiscal Impact: Yes, if changes to the existing long course swim schedule are recommended on a seasonal basis, additional costs would be incurred through an increase in staff time, ranging from \$470-\$1,860.

Summary: Staff recommends that the Beaches, Parks and Recreation Commission provide a recommendation or give further direction in consideration of amending or extending long course swim hours at the San Clemente Aquatics Center, seasonally May 1st through July 31st.

Background: Since opening in 2012, the San Clemente Aquatics Center has offered 50-Meter long course (50M) lap swim on Tuesday and Thursday from 5:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. During long course lane setup, there are eight (8) 50M swimming lanes open, versus seventeen (17) swimming lanes during the 25-yard short course setup. In aquatics, long course swimming is valued as a greater aerobic exercise, and is a standard format for many competitive swimming meets including the Olympics and college meets. It is common for 50M multi-use community pools such as the City of Santa Monica and the City of Poway to extend their long course program offerings seasonally following the long course season for competitive swimming.

The City of San Clemente held an extended long course pilot program from March 8, 2019 through June 14, 2019, which added long course swim to Fridays from 5:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. As a competitive facility, many lap swimmers expressed support for the change in long course offering, typically acknowledging that they swam competitively through their youth and college. However, a majority of the recreation lap swimmers expressed disapproval of the additional long course day, citing that long course swim is more challenging, and the reduced lane allocations required participants to share lanes or swim in a circle pattern. To accommodate the reduction in lanes in the 50M pool, the 25-yard pool was open during the pilot program, offering six 25-yard lanes for public swim.

Discussion: In evaluating long course schedule options, staff reviewed other public pool long course schedules that may serve similar audiences to San Clemente.

- City of Carlsbad: Year-round, T/Th/F, 5:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m.; Seasonal (May-August), T/Th/F, 5:45 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
- City of Irvine: Does not offer long course swim

- City of La Mirada: Does not offer long course swim
- City of Mission Viejo: Does not have a 50M pool
- City of Oceanside: Does not have a 50M pool
- City of Poway: Year-round, T/Th, 6:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
- City of Santa Monica (Fall Schedule): M/W, 7:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.; T/Th, 5:30 a.m.-8:00 a.m.; Sat, 6:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Based on the findings of how comparable public pools/agencies manage long course scheduling and the findings from the long course pilot program, staff has compiled the following options and potential impacts in consideration of amending the existing long course schedule from two days per week three days per week. It is recommended this scheduling occur seasonally, May 1st through July 31st, aligning with the long course season for competitive swimming.

Option #1: Add Fridays, 3:45 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

- Avoids peak lap swim times, and allocates five long course lanes in the evening for public use.
- Broadens the reach of long course opportunity for individuals who may not be able to participate in morning long course hours.
- Senior Aquatics Partner San Clemente Aquatics (SCA) would need to schedule its practice time 15 minutes later to allow aquatic staff to flip the course setup.
- SCA would gain additional practice time and be able to take advantage of the extended long course hours. Currently the swim team only holds practice Friday mornings in the summer months.
- Fiscal Impact:
 - An additional lifeguard is required for lane change.
 - Additional staffing increases estimated at \$470.

Option #2: Add Friday, 5:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

- 25-yard short course lap swim currently has a large M/W/F following.
- May displace Friday short course swimmers to the Activity pool or require them to swim long course.
- During summer 2019, staff received numerous comment cards from Friday lap swim participants whom did not enjoy Friday morning long course.
- Affects the San Clemente Masters Swim ("Masters") program and SCA practice setup.
- SCA prefers this option for long course extension.
- Fiscal Impact:
 - An additional lifeguard will be required to close the pool on Thursday evening to adequately change the swim course setup; and change the setup to short course Friday mid-morning.
 - Additional staffing increases estimated at \$1,860.

Option #3: Move long course to Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 5:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m., and establish short course on Tuesday and Thursday, 5:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

- Aligns with comparable/surrounding agency 50M schedules during long course season.

- Currently the lap swim program has a large M/W/F short course following and T/Th long course following; this option flips the schedule.
- This option would cause a greater impact to the public, requiring them to alter their routine.
- This option will require that Masters and SCA flip the days they offer short course versus long course practices.
- Fiscal Impacts:
 - An additional lifeguard will be required for mid-morning Monday course change; no additional lifeguard staff will be required for Sunday/Wednesday/Friday evening change over.
 - Additional staffing increases estimated at \$740.

Option #4: No change.

- Continues established lap swim hours, causing no impact to existing programs and swimmer routines.
- Does not provide increased opportunity for long course conditioning during peak long course season.
- Fiscal Impacts:
 - None.

Recommended

Action: STAFF RECOMMENDS THAT the Beaches, Parks and Recreation Commission provide a recommendation in consideration of amending the long course swim schedule seasonally at the San Clemente Aquatics Center.

Attachments: None.

Notification: Interested Parties
Masters of San Clemente
San Clemente Aquatics Team
Swim Passport Members/holders