



July 2013 State of the Mountain View Pool Report  
Submitted by the  
JeffCo Aquatic Coalition Board of Directors  
July 11, 2013

Usage

Anecdotal sampling by JAC members indicates the pool usage is strong. We look forward to seeing usage and revenue data. 7 AM lap swimming has often exceeded 8 simultaneous swimmers, the 8 AM Aqua Power class is approaching 30 participants, Wednesday open swim exceeds 50 participants, swim lessons are fully subscribed, and the Saturday and Sunday open swims are well populated.



8 – 9 AM MWF Aqua Power Class, July 10, 2013. Photo by Janis Fisler

The over capacity participation in the 8AM Aqua Power class needs attention. Participants are spilling into the lap lane(s) and are too cramped for the exercise routine being offered. It has been reported that exercisers are bumping into each other due to the over crowding. As new participants continue to arrive, regular participants are losing interest due to overcrowding.

A month ago JAC requested that a second class be offered from 9-10 AM instead of closing the pool for maintenance. JAC also requested to not offer Short Course lap swimming during this class. We hereby reiterate consideration of these requests. At \$5 per participant, this popular class is a revenue generator as well as an opportunity to serve the community.

Pool staff

JAC appreciates the city's efforts to keep us informed regarding the ongoing pool staff transition to union status. We also appreciate being asked to be involved in the selection process for the new head lifeguard.

We understand that there is a possibility for the pool manager and part time staff to attend a WICA workshop in Sequim to receive training on how to more effectively interact with the



public. Some members of JAC are interested in attending. We would like to hear further about this opportunity.

The photos of pool scenes and personnel up in the lobby are a welcome sight. It will be even better if we can have first names attached to the personnel photos, since the lifeguards don't wear nametags. Some JAC members have expressed a willingness to volunteer time to help improve the lobby displays.

The part time pool staff are well trained, do a good job, and interact effectively with the user community. We encourage the city to fully support this valuable asset.

### Facility

Cleanliness of the men's and women's changing rooms, though improved, continues to be an issue. We reiterate our request to see a maintenance schedule and protocols with sign-off sheet for various duties (i.e. toilet cleaning, filling soap dispensers, sanitizing floors, removal of hair from drains, removal of toilet paper scraps) posted in each changing room. Currently the sign off sheet and a (new) list of cleaning items are posted in the staff office behind doors that say "staff only", and therefore not in public view.

Showers in the men's changing room were not cleaned during the pool closure, and have not been "deep cleaned" since the reopening, now more than 3 months ago. Accumulated soap scum on the tile floors and walls remains. The metal ledge above the row of showerheads has not been cleaned in months, if not longer.

Latches on the toilet stalls in both the men's and women's changing rooms need replacing. This seems like a simple maintenance item.

The water fountain in the women's changing room does not work.

Ceiling lights in both the men's and women's changing room are secured with bailing wire and the fixtures need replacement. We understand that a budget request has been made for this, and we would appreciate an update on its status.

The temperature in the men's changing room continues to be a problem. One of the JAC Board members has been monitoring the temperature in that room recently, and it has been consistently in the high 80's, with no ventilation. A fan was temporarily installed and made a huge improvement. Hopefully a fix to this problem can be found.

With only minor glitches, the quality and temperature of the water has been adequate. There have been a couple times when the pool was closed because the pH level was outside MVP



standards. However, one user checked the state standards and found the pH level was within state acceptable ranges. As unexpected pool closures are disruptive, we request that the difference between MVP and state standards be resolved or explained.

In past years on hot days pool staff opened the exterior doors to the natatorium and installed portable fans to improve the air circulation. We have recently been told that state law requires the doors to be closed. We can find no reference to this law in W.A.C. chapter 246-260 (Washington Administrative Code, Water Recreation Facilities, Rules and Regulations of the Washington State Board of Health).

Many swimmers have pointed out that the backsplash tile around the inside edge of the pool was not cleaned during the closure and still has not been done. We would like to learn when this cleaning would be accomplished to remove the “ring around the pool.”

#### YMCA and other user groups

On June 14<sup>th</sup> we voiced our concern that the YMCA aquatic programs are almost double the price of pool classes and double the City Council approved class fees, even though they are the same classes offered by the pool with the same instructor before the closure. In addition, YMCA class users cannot pay for YMCA classes at the pool office, the YMCA and pool punch cards are not interchangeable, pool staff are not allowed to sign users in for YMCA classes, and there is no sense of partnership between the two organizations. The programs offered by the YMCA were not listed in the pool schedule issued June 24, but have now been added as of July 8. All these factors are barriers for citizen participation in these programs for fitness and wellness (Deep H2O Aqua Aerobics, Zumba, Balance and Movement, Pre Natal).

In the short term, simply implementable remedies could be instituted: displaying YMCA flyers in the same rack as the pool schedule, allowing pool staff to punch YMCA cards, and allowing pool staff to respond to inquires about YMCA offered classes. Other issues need addressing before the Fall schedule is developed. What we would most like to see is pool management working to partner with user groups, addressing the outsourcing of classes, and taking a closer look at rental fees. We look forward to meeting with YMCA and City staff as soon as possible to resolve this interface for the summer schedule and seek a better plan for the fall.

#### City/School District collaboration

We are encouraged that negotiations between the city and the school district seem to be nearing completion. Working together to improve the facility will increase the financial stability of the pool program, which we feel is necessary for the well-being of the community.