

Six Month Report - Aquatics

March 10th, 2015

The last fall and winter have brought various challenges and successes to the aquatic facility. We are excited to be offering new programs and extending our outreach in the community. Our staff training continues to grow with new standards for swim instructors and our maintenance regimen and facility issues have kept us extremely busy during the last six months.

Traci has obtained her WSIT (water safety instructor trainer) and LGIT (lifeguard instructor trainer) certifications. As mentioned in previous reports these certifications take years to complete and Traci has fulfilled all necessary requirements to obtain them. She is one of very few on the western slope of Colorado that holds both certifications. She has hosted 2 WSI classes this winter to ensure that our current swim instructor staff has the necessary certifications and training to follow the Red Cross policies for their swim lesson program. We have had a great start to these lessons and have had some good feedback from parents on the structure of the lessons and information available to them.

Our management team is in the preliminary process of planning a mock emergency drill for our staff to participate in this summer. We got this idea at our AFO (aquatics facility operator) class last fall. There are numerous facilities in Colorado that stage this type of drill, and speak very highly of the use and benefits of it. We plan to take a few different ideas from each facility to make our practical drill work best for our facility and community. We will be organizing this drill in the next few months and will team up with EMS and the Fire Department to make it a cohesive event. We will use this drill to help better train our staff and to address any issues that arise from training, organizational, communication, managerial and/or employee aspects.

After the January Lifeguard Training Class, we hired 3 new employees. All three employees have shifts in the schedule and have been a good fit for our aquatics team. Our team has really enjoyed working with the few (4) high school students we have, and want to extend our efforts to get more of this age group working as lifeguards and swim instructors. We can see some good longevity in these aged employees and they are particularly driven. They also serve the important purpose of being here over holiday breaks and during the summer when we typically have college students leaving.

In extending out to this new market of employees, we have begun conversations with Andy Hanks, the High School Principal, about offering a high school credited class to certify students as both lifeguards and water safety instructors. We originally thought about offering this high school class for

the next school year 2015/2016, but after our first meeting with Andy, we are thinking about offering an extended studies class for this summer. This puts some pressure on our staff to create the curriculum and promote this great opportunity, but the end results could be very beneficial for our busy summer staffing. Not only would we gain some very proficiently trained high school students to work for us, but these students would have the ability hold great certifications for future work experience both at our facility and at many other locations. We are looking forward to this partnership with the high school and the advantage it can offer our department as well as our community students.

Our programming for this last fall and winter has produced over \$13,000 in revenue. New programs that we have introduced into our mix include: Crossfit water workouts for adults and High School Nights. The Crossfit classes have been well attended and we are enjoying seeing new faces in our facility as this class has brought in a new group of participants. We have struggled to tap into the High School community in offering our High School Nights. We had about 25 students at our last event. We will continue to work with GCSAPP and the high school faculty to see how we can market these ages and offer events that they are more likely to attend. We hope to see some attendance of this age at a combined High School & Middle School Night that we will host at the WSCU Field House with GCSAPP. We will host this new event over spring break hoping to offer something to do for those that do not/will not travel during this break. The WSCU staff has been great to work with on this event and offered us their facility free of charge. We are busy planning for this new affair and looking forward to teaming up with WSCU to use their great amenities.

Our fall and winter swim lessons numbers were very similar to those in 2013/2014. We saw about 237 group, private and semi-private & Kingston swim participants last year and 247 participants this year. In looking at 2013/2012 numbers we are very consistent in our swim lesson participants for these groups. We are however, offering more lessons to students through the RE1J School System and Tenderfoot Childcare facility. We will serve over 380 community youth through our Lake Preschool, Tenderfoot Preschool, Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd Grade Swim Programs this year. We have been offering the Lake Preschool and Kindergarten as well as Tenderfoot Preschool swim programs throughout the year and just confirmed that the RE1J 1st and 2nd grades would like to do a swim unit with us. The 1st and 2nd graders will visit us 6 times each during the month of April. These classes have decided to save their "Bus Budget" money and rather than taking various field trips throughout the year they will use those funds to transport the kids to our facility for their swim lessons. April will prove to be a very busy month with all of our school groups visiting throughout the month. We plan to see about \$3,000 in revenue for all these groups for the remaining 2015 school year.

We just submitted a grant with the Ride the Rockies/Denver Post Community Foundation to help fund our Preschool and Kindergarten Swim lesson programs as well as our Free Swim Lesson Session. Gunnison Energy has funded 2 years of our Free Swim Lesson Session and last year we had a very generous facility member, Kathy Wolfe, who donated the \$1000.00 for the program. Gunnison Energy has not been responsive to any commitment for the free swim lesson session this year, so we have begun our outreach for donors. We hope the \$5000 Ride the Rockies grant is awarded to us, and we will be able to use those funds for the free swim lesson session and to help significantly subsidize our school swim programs. If we are not awarded those funds we will start an aggressive search for a donor of the free session as we feel that program is very important to our community youth.

Per usual, facility maintenance and repairs have kept us busy all last fall, winter and into this spring. We have continually dealt with our HVAC unit not keeping our pool space up to the designated 89 degrees on our colder mornings (-10 to 0 degrees). With the help of Terry Zerger we would tweak settings to see what specific set points would allow us to keep our pool space heated regardless of the outside temperature. Mesa Mechanical recently replaced the sheaves and belts for both motors as it was thought that these parts were contributing to the efficiency of heating the pool space. We will have to wait until next fall/winter to see if our set points and new parts will be the fixes for the heat exchanger being able to heat our pool area when it is extremely cold outside. We recently passed our annual water slide inspection. The structural engineer that does this inspection mentioned that our slides are "relatively new" and are in good shape for how old they are, but he also had great feedback on how to help us prevent and slow the inevitable corrosion process for the slide and stair hardware. We will be working on some of his recommendations for replacing some rusted nuts, bolts and washers around the slide, treating some unsightly rust on the stair slats (purely cosmetic) and taking care of some cracks in the concrete around the slide pillars. We have also been working on resurfacing the frog slide tongue, replacing parts on our ADA automatic pool chair lift, replacing deck drain covers around the pool, keeping up on monthly shower handle & head replacements, and performing other routine maintenance tasks and checks.

Our aquatics team will continue to tackle challenges that arise in our facility, and we feel very strongly that we have been successful in tackling most of the challenges we have been presented with in the last 6 months to year. Our community outreach in getting our youngsters swimming remains a top priority. Keeping up with staff trainings and skill progression, creative programming and diligent work with our facility maintenance and pool operations keep us very busy even during our "slow" seasons.