

# Six Month Report - Aquatics

April 2016

The Aquatics Center personnel, programs and facility maintenance have experienced a very productive 6 months. We have seen great development with staff coverage, grant funding and many new facility upgrades.

Our program revenue numbers continue to increase and exceed our projections. Our collaboration with Tenderfoot Preschool and RE1J School district swim programs and lessons continues to be successful in getting ages 2 – 8 and our Middle School students water smart and safe. Our group, private and semi-private swim numbers are lower than what we had last year, but we are confident we have wider reach and success with our school participation.

We were approached, to offer swim lessons targeted at Middle School Students, by a Middle School Special Needs teacher who saw a need to get a group of her students moving and active after school. With this information we decided to offer a Middle School Swim Club this winter and it was a huge success. We had 10 middle school students participate in this program and thrive. Most of the participants had limited swim skills and were not currently active in other extracurricular programs. We plan to continue this swim club program each season with an extended offering during the summer.

We are excited to be the recipients of 3 different grants thus far in 2016. Faith and Ginny applied for the USA Swimming Make a Splash Grant to offer scholarships to our local youth to participate in swim programs throughout the year. We were awarded \$4,000 to offer 80 scholarships to swim participants. We will work with RE1J, Tenderfoot and Social Services to distribute the scholarships to Gunnison families in need. We are hopeful to see higher swim numbers in our group lessons for the remainder of the year due to the distribution of these scholarships. We were also awarded funding/grant through the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservation District for our free swim session. The UGRWCD funded \$300.00 of our free swim session last year and they will fund \$600.00 this year. We will still need to ask private donors (we have a few individuals whom donate each year) to backfill the remaining \$600.00 need to cover the costs of this \$1200.00 program. Wal-Mart also granted us \$1000.00 through their Community Giving Grant to help cover costs of our annual Easter, Halloween and Christmas community events. We historically apply for this corporate Wal-Mart Grant each year and have had success with being selected annually to receive funding.

The staffing of lifeguards and swim instructors for the last 6 months has seen a steady increase, and we are grateful for more employees to help staff our facility. Our high school lifeguard numbers are solid and this age group of guards proves to have good availability to help cover shifts in our schedule. We have had some success in sharing our lifeguard employees in other parks and recreation positions, and look forward to utilizing the “cross-trained” employee wage increase to help recruit and retain responsible and dedicated employees.

Traci, Faith, Ginny and Trish attended a management training seminar in Colorado Springs in March. All found the training to be beneficial and well applied to working with our current employee’s and co-workers. While in Colorado Springs, Traci set up a tour of the Olympic Training Center swimming pool and pump room operations for our aquatics team to take part in. She also set up a tour of the VillaSport Fitness Complex. Talking with the aquatics managers of both facilities provided a wonderful opportunity to ask questions about issues with staff, equipment and job responsibilities. We also developed great insight and ideas on programs, facility organization, and staff training. Mike will attend a CPO (certified pool operator) certification class April 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> in Denver and will have this training and knowledge under his belt as our busy summer season starts.

We have finally diagnosed and completely fixed (hopefully) our previous HVAC heating problems. We struggled with having to “trick” the unit into a full fire operation each morning to fully heat our aquatic center for the cold months of November, December and January. We worked with Mesa Mechanical to get a new control unit installed at the end of January and this remedied the issue. We have had no recent problems with the system as it maintained heat for the remainder of the winter and into this spring. We had to replace a pump seal in January on our 20 HP Lap pool pump. Replacing these seals on our big pool pumps is an expensive and time consuming task that also requires the expertise of Mesa Mechanical to help.

In February we had Mike Bayles with Spashtacular out to do our annual slide inspection. We decided to have the manufacture conduct the inspection this year as the slides are ageing and management felt the need to see what extra preventative steps needed to be taken as well as a 2-5 year timeline to perform necessary maintenance and repairs on the slides. Overall the inspection was great with a few items needing attention. Mike and a Spashtacular team will plan to come out in August during our annual cleaning/closure to take care of some minor repairs and maintenance. We budgeted for these slide repairs in 2016 and hope to stay within budget for work that needs to be done.

We are extremely proud of our pool covers and lane line purchases in 2016. The lane lines have been complimented by many of our regular lap swimmers and are so easy to take out/put in. The purchase of these lane lines has made a big difference in the appearance of our pool and lifeguard efficiency in opening, closing and switching features for the public. The capital purchase of our new pool covers has also been extremely well received by the public and our staff. The covers are easier to manage, cover our pools better and look fresh and new when reeled up on the pool decks. We are confident that the better fit of the covers on the pools is more resourceful in our chemical oxidation and heat retention.

Through our progress with employee retention and a fuller staff, awarded grant funding, collaboration with schools, and wonderful facility upgrades the aquatics department has shown dedication making this facility and our programs the best they can be.