# City of Covington

## Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes

May 17, 2017 6:00 PM  
Covington Aquatic Center

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CALL TO ORDER</th>
<th>Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ROLL CALL</td>
<td>Chair Laura Morrissey, Vice Chair Steve Pand, Bryan Higgins, Lisa Knapton, Zbigniew Tomalik</td>
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<tr>
<td>EXCUSED</td>
<td>Justin Reed</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNEXCUSED</td>
<td>Ethan Newton, Rachel Bahl, Dominic Finazzo, Tatyana Kiselyov</td>
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<tr>
<td>CITY STAFF PRESENT</td>
<td>Ethan Newton, Rachel Bahl, Dominic Finazzo, Tatyana Kiselyov</td>
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<td>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</td>
<td>The Agenda was approved as submitted.</td>
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<td>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</td>
<td>The minutes for April 19, 2017 were approved.</td>
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<tr>
<td>CITIZEN COMMENTS</td>
<td>George Pearson shared with the PRC that he would be ending his volunteer service at Jenkins Creek Park he was volunteering more for the Police Department. Pearson raised concerns about the city sustaining maintenance of the park.</td>
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## NEW BUSINESS

1. **Receive Aquatics Update**

   - Aquatics Staff Rachel Bahl, Dominic Finazzo and Tatyana Kiselyov presented information on aquatics programs and the operation of the Covington Aquatic Center.
   - Attendance continues to break records.
   - CAC is meeting needs expressed in the community, including swimming lessons, special events, adult exercise, rec-league swim teams, partnerships with local groups (ex. RTB), school teams, etc.
   - Users average 1/3 Covington, 1/3 Maple Valley, and 1/3 other.
   - 85% total cost recovery (versus 79% as the previous high during 2012 – 2015). For 2016 it was cheaper to run the pool than mothball it.
     - To meet model aquatic health code and best practices they have increased lifeguard staff, so cost recovery will go down, but this is an investment in safety (along with an improved training program).
   - Revised training program emphasizes repetition and drills to establish motor memory, which leads to increased confidence and skill level.
   - Facility is 40-years old and aging. On the pool’s 40-year birthday it received a new hot water recirculation pump, which replaced the original pump. The aging facility requires increased maintenance, which means increased staff time.
   - The facility has water space limitations and staff limitations. There is more demand than can be accommodated. Classes are full and people cannot get into programs. Finding daytime staff is hard. It is a challenge to prioritize and allocate scarce resources (facility and staff). Choice is coming down to “how do we decide who doesn’t get to swim?”
- PRC discussed the aging facility and options for renovation or replacement, and consensus that the time is now to plan for this.

2. **City of Covington’s 2017-2020 Strategic Plan**
   - Ethan Newton introduced the draft strategic plan and explained that the city council has requested commissions review and provide feedback.
   - PRC discussed and agreed to bring this item back to the June meeting.

3. **Plan for Joint Meeting with City Council**
   - PRC discussed topics for the upcoming joint meeting with city council.

4. **STAFF REPORT**
   - Newton presented the monthly report.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**
- Commission reviewed the June 21, 2017 agenda.
- With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

_Ethan Newton_

Parks and Recreation Director