

**MINUTES**  
**AQUATICS BOARD**  
**Tuesday, April 23, 2020**  
**City & Borough of Juneau – Zoom Conference**

Statement of Philosophy:  
***Create Community through People, Pools and Effective Swim Programs***

- A. Meeting Convened at 5:04pm** by Chair Muldoon.
- B. Members Present:** Kristin Bartlett, Don Beard, Corry Isabel, Molly McCormick, Lena Merrell, Tracy Morrison, , Tom Rutecki, Pat Watt  
**Ex Officio:** George Schaaf, Parks & Rec Director  
**Liaison Present:** Carole Triem – CBJ Assembly  
**CBJ Staff Present:** Rorie Watt, City Manager; Kollin Monahan, Aquatics Manager,  
**Others Present:** Scott Griffiths GSC head coach, Emily DelGado GSC member
- C. Agenda Changes** – None.
- D. Approval of Minutes** – Minutes of the February meetings were reviewed and approved.
- E. Public Participation on Non-Agenda Items** – None
- F. Old Business** – Deferred
- G. New Business - ABP Renovation Status**
- Mr. Watt explained that, between the Covid-19 Hunker Down situation and the anticipated complete loss of tourism this season, the CBJ budget has been severely impacted as a result of huge revenue losses. As the time comes to adopt the budget, he has recommended to the Assembly that the renovation of the Augustus Brown Pool (ABP) be delayed. (See attached memorandum). The budget situation is extremely fluid, and changing daily. The Governor has proposed passing through a substantial amount of the state’s CARES Act funding to localities, including a potentially large amount to Juneau. However, there are unknowns about how those monies can be used, and also the role of the Legislature in dispensing these funds.
  - The Public Works Committee will review Mr. Watt’s capital recommendations at its meeting on Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. The Legislative Audit and Budget Committee of the Legislature will meet on Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, to consider the Governor’s proposed use of CARES Act funds. Both the Legislature and the Assembly Committee of the Whole are scheduled to meet on Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, and the Assembly Finance Committee has started meeting weekly until the budget is approved. At its meeting on Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> it will likely consider Mr. Watt’s ABP recommendations.
  - Mr. Watt explained that the reduction in CBJ’s revenue is estimated at \$34 million over 30 months -with no certainty in any projections. Thus, the problem is how to solve the budget gap over the next 27 months: the remainder of FY 20, plus FY 21 and FY 22. The City has some money available in General Fund Balance and in the “Rainy Day” Reserve Fund. The issue for the Assembly will be how much of tax increases, use of reserves, and service cuts will be the right mix for our community.

- Mr. Watt and Mr. Schaaf then demonstrated the CBJ Macro Budget Tool to show how various “What If” scenarios affect the budget (see example in attachment). For those who are interested in trying out the tool, it can be downloaded at <https://beta.juneau.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Macro-Budget-Tool-Final-4.13.2020.xlsx>.
- Mr. Watt amplified his recommendation to note that the goal is to delink what has to be done this year from long term plans for the ABP. So, he is recommending that the roof be repaired to maintain the building envelope, the building be kept in good working order, and that the rest of the renovation be postponed until the financial picture is clearer -- and we can know if the economy will continue to support the level of general fund spending we’ve been relying on in the past. Renovating the pool is a 30-year decision, and shouldn’t be made when the community is in such a state of flux. Hence his recommendation to delay any decision for 6 months.

- **Board Discussion:**

Points raised by Board members included:

- Endorse replacing the roof, should be done in the summer
- The renovation is “shovel-ready” and is an ideal way to pump funds into our depressed economy when most needed;
- Bids received under current conditions would be very low;
- The ideal time for the renovation is when it is closed as part of Hunker Down;
- Wondering whether there were other parts of the renovation that could be separated out to do as well as the roof.
- Can we continue proceeding up to point of award before delaying, thus keeping options wide open.

Given the Assembly’s budget adoption timeframe, the Board decided to send a letter to the Assembly stating its views.

- Mr. Muldoon will draft a letter to the Assembly which Mr. Muldoon will send to Board members no later than Wednesday, April 29th;
- Mr. Schaaf and Mr. Monahan will work with Engineering staff to re-prioritize and summarize renovation projects so as to separate out parts that could be done now or saved to later. This goes to Board members no later than Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Board members to submit comments on the draft letter to Mr. Monahan by Friday, May 1. Mr. Muldoon forwards all comments immediately to Mr. Muldoon
- Mr. Muldoon prepares a second draft letter by Monday, May 4
- Board holds Zoom meeting on Monday, May 4 at 5pm
- Mr. Muldoon sends letter as approved by the Board to the Assembly on Tuesday, May 5.

**H. Staff Report:**

Mr. Monahan reported that 78 part-time staff have been furloughed. Of the full-time employees, 6 are maintaining the two facilities in bare-bones condition and doing various maintenance tasks to keep the pools in good order. Staff are maintaining a safe distance at all times. The remaining full-time staff have been reassigned to other Parks & Rec units, to Capital Transit, and to the Covid-19 Communications unit. The Red Cross has extended the expiration of certifications. Mr. Monahan is networking with other aquatics/pool programs to learn from others’ experiences during this time of Covid-19. He is also developing a re-opening plan under various scenarios. That will be shared with the Board when the time comes. Ms. Isabel emphasized the need to involve GSC in the planning.

I. **Adjournment:** the meeting was adjourned at 6:17pm.

-----

Meeting Follow-ups:

Messrs. Muldoon and Monahan: Draft Letter to Assembly gets to Board members by 4/29.

Mr. Schaaf: Summarized renovation options to Board members by 4/29

Board Members: Comments to Mr. Monahan by May 1

Mr. Monahan: Board Comments to Mr. Muldoon as received

Mr. Muldoon: Revised letter to Board before meeting on May 4

Upcoming Meetings:

5/4/2020      Regular Board Meeting, 5pm. Zoom