

INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM

Tukwila Pool Metropolitan Park District

TO: Tukwila Pool MPD Board

FROM: Jennafer Price Cargill, TPMPD Executive Director

DATE: February 26, 2014

SUBJECT: Pool Cover discussion

ISSUE

Do the TPMPD Commissioners wish to develop a policy relating to the pool cover?

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Unknown at this time

BACKGROUND

TPMPD applied for and received a grant from Puget Sound Energy for a pool cover in 2012. Due to mechanical and other issues, it has not been used as required by the terms of the grant. Recently, repairs were made and a demonstration was organized for the Commissioners and the public on February 15, 2014.

The demonstration showed that the cover is functional and there is nothing stopping its regular use at this time.

The operator has raised the point that additional labor costs would possibly outweigh any financial savings because application and removal cannot be done during current pool hours. Having said that, they appreciate the value of the energy savings and are willing to use the cover if requested.

DISCUSSION

In their capacity as a policy-making body, is there any action that the TPMPD would like to take in regard to the pool cover?

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The TPMPD obligated itself to utilize the pool cover when it accepted the grant from PSE. TPMPD should request that the operator begin use and encourage the operator to seek labor- and time-saving improvements to mitigate the cost. However, specific operational adjustments should be left to the operator's discretion.

ATTACHMENTS

-none

INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM
Tukwila Pool Metropolitan Park District

TO: Tukwila Pool MPD Commissioners

FROM: Sustain Tukwila Pool Committee

DATE: February 18, 2014

SUBJECT: Pool Cover Use

BACKGROUND

As part of the Capital Improvement Project it was identified that a pool cover would garner significant energy savings. The engineer's estimate was \$8,500/year in monetary savings. The operator was instructed to seek a grant from Puget Sound Energy for financial assistance; a grant was awarded on Sept. 6, 2012 in the amount of \$14,041 for the installation of a pool cover at the TPMPD Pool in exchange for daily use of the cover.

DISCUSSION

Since the pool cover was delivered around 1 year ago, there have been several challenges reported by the pool operator resulting in the cover not being used.

1. The pool cover was the incorrect size. (This was remedied by the contractor)
2. The pool cover took tremendous effort and time to install and remove daily.
3. There were safety issues associated with the utilization.

STP has maintained throughout this past year that the pool cover must be used as the benefits are strongly supported by many including the Department of Energy and US Swimming.

Members attended a demonstration of the pool cover on Feb. 15, 2014 at 8:00am. They were pleased to witness a strong performance by the two female staff members who accomplished the installation in 21min.43sec. and the removal in 19min45sec. This bodes well for future improvement in both time and technique as they become more familiar with the process. No significant safety issues were apparent. The DPMPD Commissioner President offered to provide guards already proficient in this process to expedite the training process.

A new concern raised by Amy Kindell (Assistant Manager) during the demonstration was that wheelchair access on the deck is limited by the pool cover rollers and the DOJ would have issues. The contracted operator has allowed the rollers to remain in this location for the last year, however if this is a valid concern it is important that the TPMPD take the necessary steps to hold the contractor who provided the designed installation accountable and remedy the situation immediately with a compliant product.

Members noted some possible improvements to the design of the rollers that, as funds become available, could be implemented.

1. A rubber mallet attached by shock cord to either end of the roller to release the spring loaded foot stop.
2. Purchase a second roller handle to expedite the rolling process with two guards

CONCLUSION

STP would like to once again stress that it is imperative that the pool cover is used. The using of pool covers in indoor pools is a standard operating practice, supported industry-wide. The demonstration further reinforced that this task is manageable by current staff employed as lifeguards, and current job descriptions should reflect that pool cover installation/removal be considered an ongoing duty for employees working at the pool.. Furthermore non-compliance with the PSE conservation grant conditions is unacceptable. Time is of the essence as the expiration of the 1 year extended warranty contract with McKinstry is rapidly approaching.