

**TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY
TOWN COUNCIL SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 10, 2020**

OPENING CEREMONIES

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jeff Drozd called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Drozd, Abel, Denison, Lombardo, Schooler

ABSENT:

Staff Members Present: Town Manager Yakimow, Deputy Town Manager Stueckle, Community Services Manager Earnest, Human Resources and Risk Manager Breidenbach-Sterling, Public Works Director Baldizzone, Town Attorney Jex, and Town Clerk Copeland

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Merl Abel, Mayor Pro Tem
SECONDER: Robert Lombardo, Council Member
AYES: Drozd, Abel, Denison, Lombardo, Schooler

INVOCATION

CONSENT AGENDA

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Robert Lombardo, Council Member
SECONDER: Jim Schooler, Council Member
AYES: Drozd, Abel, Denison, Lombardo, Schooler

1. Approve the Amendment to the 2018-20 Authorized Position List and 2019-20 Salary Schedule

Mayor Drozd opened public comments for the Consent Agenda item. With no members of the public wishing to speak, public comments were closed.

MOTION:

That the Town Council approve the proposed amendment to the 2018-20 Authorized Position List and 2019-20 Salary Schedule.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

2. Prop 68 Aquatics & Recreation Center Project Review

Community Services Manager Earnest presented the staff report for the Prop 68 Aquatics and Recreation Center Project Review, and invited LPA team to continue the presentation.

Irash Izadi, Director of Sport + Recreation and John Courtney, Senior Project Manager for LPA, and Darin Barr, Principal of Ballard*King presented an overview of the community input process, cost estimates, and preliminary operational studies summary site evaluations, and project schedule overview.

Council Member Lombardo inquired on the availability of a proposed master plan including other site locations and also inquired on available funding through Prop 68. Lombardo expressed the difficult decision with limited funding, while looking long-term for the community.

Council Member Schooler inquired on the estimation of cost recovery of operational costs with many variables associated with programming. Schooler also inquired on available parking with the variety of conceptual plans and on seasonal use and operations of the splash pad option.

Mayor Drozd opened public comments.

Art Miller, Yucca Valley inquired on the flood zone in the current Brehm Park area and the possible need for widening roadways due to increased use in that area.

With no other members of the public wishing to speak, Mayor Drozd closed public comments.

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle spoke on concerns expressed during public comments.

Town Manager Yakimow explained the need for Town Council to share high-level guidance for the project, and reviewed the Prop 68 Project Citizens Advisory Group guiding principles.

Consensus was made among the Town Council, agreeing to use the CAG's Guiding Principles.

Discussion continued, reviewing potential project locations for CEQA review.

Council Member Lombardo expressed Brehm 1A should be a lower priority because of the gas pipeline.

Mayor Pro Tem Abel explained that the CEQA process would be easiest with both Brehm Park sites and are both favorable however the use of the current Boys and Girls Club site allows a little distance from residential properties and doesn't disturb existing soccer

fields. Abel also expressed favor in modifying Little League Drive to terminate and use to safely connect all areas of Brehm Park.

Council Member Denison thanked the Prop 68 Citizens Advisory Group, and the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Commission for their review and recommendation. Likes the idea of using the existing Boys and Girls Club site and closing the roadway for safety. Leaning toward Site options E & F as they enhance current activities and allowing opportunities for future options.

Council Member Schooler explained he understands the reasoning for proposing to use the current Boys and Girls Club site as it keeps field options open at the current soccer fields, access seems easier and may provide opportunity for additional activities. Schooler also noted to address the current lack of gymnasium space, adding a second gymnasium would be preferable to only refurbishing an existing facility.

Mayor Drozd stated he also likes the Boys and Girls Club site.

Mayor Pro Tem Abel agrees, would like to see options.

Council Member Lombardo inquired if both potential sites should be analyzed at the same time?

Town Manager Yakimow requested Town Council direction on general preferences of amenity prioritization.

Mayor Pro Tem Abel reiterated that the public's priority is an indoor pool, and would like to see two more lanes in the indoor element, update the current Boys and Girls Club gymnasium and mark the second gym as future. Abel continued by explaining the importance of administrative staff areas and would prefer not to have a facility that competes with private sector options; a senior activity area and defer the outdoor pool until later. A splash pad would be okay if on the lower end of the budget.

Council Member Denison explained the primary focus is to improve upon what we already offer and would like to see a gymnasium included along with an indoor pool and a splash pad.

Council Member Lombardo offered he would like to see an indoor hybrid pool, splash pad, and a gymnasium for more court space. Make the facility available to rent to others, and likes the idea of consolidated staff areas. The competitive pool is lower on the priority list and likes the idea that the community has something special, and can be showcased with events drawing out of town guests. Lombardo clarified: indoor pool, splash pad, offices, multi-use space, then competition outdoor pool.

Council Member Schooler noted the competitive water might be best phased in and inquired if the sport of swimming in general is declining in popularity. Darin Barr of Ballard*King confirmed in general terms, yes, swimming is declining in popularity.

Schooler continued that recreational water is a difficult decision based on cost, but would like to see a gymnasium large enough to accommodate players and spectators. A consolidated staff area is important and a splash pad seems like an efficient way to cool off.

Mayor Drozd offered that if the Town had an outdoor pool we wouldn't need to use the high school pool.

Council Member Lombardo also expressed that an indoor pool for a year-round learn to swim program is important.

Mayor Pro Tem Abel inquired on options for phasing certain components and inquired on future grant opportunities and agreed that the option of a double gym would be beneficial.

Council Member Lombardo inquired if grant opportunities are available on modifying existing facilities or any emphasis on rural areas.

Council Member Abel commented that an indoor hybrid facility is a nice option for year-round activities.

Community Services Manager Earnest spoke on the phasing of gymnasiums.

Town Manager Yakimow recapped: indoor hybrid swim facility, impact of indoor or outdoor, gym component, emphasis of staff consolidation, splash pad, then possible future for competitive, with Town Council consensus to include a see master plan for the facility.

Discussion continued on cost recovery targets.

Council Member Lombardo inquired if a portion of proposed TOT increases could be applied toward pool operations.

Council Member Schooler expressed favor in Town Manager Yakimow's summation with a decent 5-year projection and would like to see a 47-50% cost recovery.

Mayor Pro Tem Abel explained he would like additional return on investment, with some cost increase for public use of the facility.

Council Member Denison noted he would like to see continued strategies for a higher return on investment.

Mayor Drozd re-opened public comments. With no members of the public wishing to speak, public comments were closed.

MA, JS

Town Manager Yakimow announced that the Town Council will have the opportunity to make a final recommendation at a special meeting on Tuesday, March 31, 2020.

MOTION:

It is recommended that the Town Council:

1. Receive and file the Prop 68 Aquatics & Recreation Center Project Review and Market Study, and provide high level guidance and direction for project priorities including among others:
 - a. Establishment of Guiding Principles
 - b. Identification of preferred site(s) for environmental review
 - c. Identification of amenity priorities
 - d. Establishment of cost recovery targets and/or subsidy limits.
2. Direct staff to incorporate the guidance in the development of the staff recommendation for the project.

RESULT: RECEIVED AND FILED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Merl Abel, Mayor Pro Tem

SECONDER: Jim Schooler, Council Member

AYES: Drozd, Abel, Denison, Lombardo, Schooler

STAFF REPORTS AND COMMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Meeting Schedule

The next regular meeting of the Yucca Valley Town Council will be held on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 at 6:00 PM in the Yucca Valley Community Center Yucca Room.

Mayor Drozd adjourned the meeting at 8:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lesley Copeland, CMC
Town Clerk