

Calverton Swim Club  
General Membership Meeting  
September 6, 2009

2nd Vice President John Niedermair called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m. The meeting was held at the Calverton Swim Club. (Weather – low 80's and sunny) Nikki Munro, President was taking part in the ballot counting for the election and was not able to attend until the swim/dive report.

Board Members Present

Kari Banks, Frank Cockrell, Alison Praisner-Klumpp, Duncan Munro, John Niedermair, Karen Pugh, and Nikki Munro (present at the beginning of the swim/dive report). Laurie Zebrowski and Sandy Berberich were absent. Twenty CSC members attended the meeting (Sharon and Dave Ruckdeschel, Adriane Donkers, Chris Rouff, Ondine Doore, Rosemarie and Ruben Melendez, Ken Ryland, Sue Madden, Connie and Guy Kirby, Lee Klumpp, Gail Munro, Ann Jolly, Kay and Robert McMillian, Tom and Del Hannigan, Patti Jenkins and Dede Corkran).

Welcome – by John Niedermair

John welcomed everyone to the meeting. He read a statement from Nikki Munro, President:

“The Board would like to extend our gratitude to Dan Feher and his staff for keeping our families and the many families at the pool safe and the water clean this summer. We'd also like to thank Andy Savvides and his staff for the excellent service provided at the Snack bar. Our thanks, too, go out to the many volunteers that gave their time and energy to help the pool before and over the summer—those that swung a hammer, fixed a leak, picked up trash, planned and participated in events, made suggestions and helped to implement them, served as website manager, dive and swim team representatives, volleyball commissioners, and Board members. We appreciate how well everybody works as a team to make the pool a better place.”

Operations/Engineering Report – by Duncan Munro

The Operations and Engineering Committee is responsible for coordinating all activities at the Club, including the operation of the Pool, and the repair and replacement of the Club's property and facilities.

Thanks to Committee Members Nikki Munro, John Niedermair and Frank Cockrell for all of their hard work and support this season. A lot of the good things that take place at the Club don't just happen, but

are the result of good planning and dedicated execution. The committee divided responsibilities to some degree, but everyone pitched in to help when and where it was needed – Nikki handled most of the things associated with the staff members; John dealt with repairs and housekeeping contractors; Frank handled a lot of the hands on self-repair projects, and kept in close touch with our neighbors at Galway Elementary School and the Baptist Church.

We need to echo Nikki's comments in the announcement of this meeting about the hard work and growth of the staff during this summer. We started with a rather inexperienced group of guards – more than two-thirds were in their first or second year as life guards, but we have seen them mature and develop through the summer, and hope that we'll see most, if not all, of them return next year.

This was an energetic year for programs at the Club, but, for the most part, with the exception of some weather interference, events went off pretty well. The Swim and Dive Teams are to be commended for hosting the "B" Relay Carnival, Divisional Swim Meet, and Divisional Dive – all within the space of five days, and earning the Club high praise from the visiting clubs for the quality of the events and the facilities here at Calverton.

The Committee is acutely aware of the age of the facility, now at about 45 years and counting. Keeping things working and working well is a constant concern. We had a year that was OK as far as facilities, breakdowns and repairs are concerned. When we plan for the year, we expect that something will break, but we usually don't know what it will be. This year, the two largest cost items that were not specifically planned were the need to replace a drain line from the two-foot area foot bath, and to replace the top panels on the swim team bulkhead that is placed in the water for swim meets. The Club put up the money to have those panels replaced, and the Swim Team will repay the Club about two-thirds of the cost over the next two seasons. The Engineering expenses overall will finish at about \$8,000 under budget, and are about \$10,000 less than we had spent at this time last year. You'll hear more about the money in the Treasurer's Report.

We did add one new facility this year, the Bocce Ball court, thanks to the generosity of the family of Don and Marilyn Praisner, who donated the court in memory of their parents.

Looking ahead, tomorrow marks the end of the season for most of the membership, but the Operations Committee will begin planning for next season in about a week, when we hold our annual Walkabout of the Club's facilities. That will be next Sunday morning, the 13<sup>th</sup>. The Committee, other members of the Board of Directors, representatives of American Pool will tour the grounds to identify things that need to be fixed, replaced, or added before next season. Right now, we have identified about 19 items that will be on the list. All of them will be included in the first draft of next year's budget, and we will have to see what happens in the budget process.

I do know that some of these items will be on the list of projects for Volunteer Day for next year, and this is the first request for you to put that day on your calendar, because we can certainly use your help. The exact date and the list of projects will be decided early next year, and we'll post them on the web site.

Finally, I was asked to review history and evolution the Club's Alcohol Consumption Policy. I'll give you the history briefly, then, I'll be glad to answer any questions you have.

Prior to 1993 – no written policy, but I recall much less consumption than we currently see.

In 1993, it was reported and confirmed that chaperones at pre-teen nights had been observed consuming alcohol during the events. While addressing this unacceptable practice, the Board felt we needed to address the total picture of alcohol consumption at the Club, since that activity seemed to be increasing each year. We seemed to be having more members that enjoyed an alcoholic beverage as part of their day at the Club.

At the same time, the Club was under contract with American Pool Service for management functions, and that contract stated we would follow the company's rules for pool operations – one of the rules was a strict prohibition of alcohol on the premises.

We also felt that the Club had many members who did not consume alcohol, and who did not agree that alcohol belonged in a facility like this.

We developed a policy that we felt balance these three competing points of view, and the original policy called for discreet consumption of alcohol in limited areas of the grounds – mostly well away from the pool and deck.

Given our contract with American Pool at the time, we decided not to publish or advertise the policy, which contradicted the contract we had signed, but chose to rely on word of mouth enforcement as issues arose.

For the next fifteen or so years, whenever a member of the Board of Directors was informed that persons were consuming alcohol in areas close to the pool, one or more of us would approach those persons, explain the policy, and ask them to alter their behavior or their location. I can recall having about one conversation per season on the subject.

Earlier this year, the issue again came up, this time involving a Wednesday evening swim meet, and several questions were raised about the current impetus behind the policy and the reasons it was not posted more prominently.

In researching those questions, we learned that American Pools' Rules of Pool Operation, which we still agreed, by contract, to follow, no longer contained the specific alcohol prohibition that had been there earlier. Rather, the company still has a policy that it does not support the use of alcohol in client facilities, but is willing to make, and has made exceptions in appropriate circumstances, such as in the case of a large facility, like ours.

With that information in mind, the Operations Committee met in mid-summer to look over the policy, and recommend changes to the full Board of Directors. We streamlined the language of the former

policy, and removed a lot of dialog that dealt with the philosophy and justification for making the policy, and tried to confine the policy to a simpler statement of the type and location of acceptable behavior. We did make two substantive changes to the old policy: We enlarged the area in which alcohol could be consumed, and we added provisions for children's activities that take place when the pool is open for general business.

The Board of Directors approved the modified policy [8-1] in mid-August. Since it was so late in the season when that approval was made, it was too late to include it in the Handbook. However, it will appear, at least by reference in next season's handbook, and will be posted along with other rules.

At this time, our enforcement of this policy will remain as it has been since 1993. The Board of Directors is responsible to enforce the policy by asking persons who are seen violating it to change their actions and/or their location. Enforcement will be reactive, not proactive. None of us plan to go around checking what is inside covered containers, or analyzing the contents of plastic cups. However, it is our strong intention to make sure that everyone who uses the Club is aware of the policy and is expected to abide by it. We have sent a copy of the policy to American Pool, who has acknowledged receipt of it, and has expressed no problem with it.

A member asked about polling the membership to survey whether there were those who did not want alcohol consumed at the Swim Club. Duncan responded that the BOD is elected to make, and is responsible for, the rules of the Club, but the Board would consider his request.

After the Operations/Engineering Report, questions were raised by some members as to the maintenance of equipment and budgeting for repairs. Repairs are made when needed. We have a reserve fund for major repairs, such as white coating the main pool (which will need to be done in 1-2 years). A member also asked where on the property that the management company has jurisdiction or oversight. Duncan responded that the Management Company has responsibilities all over the grounds, but their primary focus is on the deck and the pool area. The Board of Directors takes a more active role in rules enforcement away from the deck.

#### Membership Report – by Kari Banks

We have had approximately 75 new families join the pool, either by renting or purchasing a membership. A single membership option was offered this year with 5 new members signing up.

Currently we have 37 on the sales list with 1 sale pending. 16 of the 37 are owned by CSC. Last year at this time we had 50 on the sales list.

Current renters will be offered a special membership price of \$250.

This summer we purchased a "Mid-Season Membership Special" sign for outside the pool. This advertising brought in several new families. This is something we can use for multiple years. We also put ads in the Pennysaver, on Craigslist and Board Members spoke at several HOA meetings in the area.

#### Treasurer's Report – by Duncan Munro

Our Fiscal Year ends November 30. This year's budget plans to have a balance on hand at the end of the year of just over \$12,000.

Where we are right now. The current check book balance is \$27,300 – we expect to take in about \$3,900 for the rest of the year, and I anticipate that expenses will total about \$26,000, which will leave an actual closing balance of about \$5,000. Our first expense after December 1 is the paying of bonuses to guards for their work this season, and that will cost about \$3,400. Our cash flow situation is not good.

Our income this year [\$254,000 to date] is nearly the same as last year at this time, in spite of increases in dues and guest fees. Guest fees look like they will finish the year up a little bit, but probably about \$1,000 less than planned for in the budget. The biggest shortfall is in dues payments – we are almost \$32,000 below what we had planned for in the budget. Dues income is actually about \$13,000 less than last year at this time, despite a dues increase.

NOTE – we budget for full dues payment, but anticipate that about 30 families will not pay dues, so we try to adjust our spending accordingly. The Membership Committee will give you the details, but we planned to come up about \$10,000 short in dues, not this much.

Expenses – this is where we try to exert some control in order to compensate for lack of expected revenue.

Operations – Pretty close to budget, but up about \$11,000 from last year, due primarily to a longer season – next year we will have to look at a pay increase because of an increase in the Federal minimum wage, so the return to a 14 week season will be about even in terms of cost.

Aquatics – A jump of \$8,000 because of the bulkhead repair.

Recreation – Up over last year, because of the purchase of two new table tennis tables, but will probably finish about even with the budget. We got a very good price to buy two tables instead of just one.

Social Programs – we budgeted to subsidize the social programs about \$2,000 this year, and will finish the year at just about that level. Most of the costs will go to Family Fun Day. The Crab Feast will just about break even this year, which will be the first year it has not lost money in several years.

Membership Committee costs are up about \$1,000 mostly due to increased printing and postage costs.

Administration Costs will finish lower than the budget and last year by about \$3,000, primarily due to reduced insurance premium costs.

Engineering – This is the second largest part of the Expense Budget [behind Operations], and accounts for about 20% of the budget. So far, we have spent about \$9,000 less than last year, and look to finish the year about \$8,000 under budget.

Utilities – Expense will probably finish pretty close to last year's costs and to the budget. This is the third largest part of the budget.

Facilities – We will probably not be able to pay back anything to the Reserve Fund this year, even though we had hoped to return about \$10,000.

A member inquired as to whether the original CSC members' bond money was in a separate fund. Duncan was not aware of it being in this type of account. A member asked whether payment plans are an option at CSC. Payment Plans were used by several members this year. There was a discussion regarding use of a collection agency to collect from unpaid accounts (members). This will be discussed further by the board during the off-season.

#### *Swim and Dive Team Reports – by Kari Banks*

Swim team ended the season with 135 participants; Dive team had 33. Swim team will be in H Division next year; Dive team will be in Division 4. Team representatives from both teams will be returning (David Clifford and Ellen Carroll for swim team; Sharon Ruckdeschel for dive team). The teams are planning a joint winter social this year to show the summer slide show and meet prior to the summer.

The Board of Directors would like to pass on a note of appreciation to both swim and dive team for hosting their Divisional Championship meets. We had several notes and calls from visitors commending the CSC teams on the quality and efficiency of both the meet and the facility.

#### *Social Report – by Alison Praisner-Klumpp*

This summer we had three Pre-teen nights, one Teen night, two float nights and multiple Noodle Nights. All were well attended. The Crab Feast, Pig Roasts and Campout were very popular as well this year. Tonight the movie "Escape from Witch Mountain" will be shown at the pool. We will be giving away free popcorn and snow cones to all in attendance. Tomorrow will be our annual Family Fun Day from 1-5 with a blow-up obstacle course, cotton candy and popcorn.

#### *Volleyball Report – by Karen Pugh*

This year we noticed a lot of families playing together on teams (ages 14 and up). Clinics for pre-teens were held by Dan and Karen Maszkiewicz. These were very well attended. Last week we had the volleyball picnic where all teams were represented and t-shirts were given out to the championship teams. The Annual Labor Day Tournament will be held tomorrow, Sept. 7 starting at 1 pm (4's, with 6's to follow) with a \$3 fee. All money that is contributed will be donated to the Beltsville, Calverton and Burtonsville Fire Departments in memory of Richard Findley.

#### *Horseshoe Report – by Frank Cockrell*

There were 19 teams that participated in the league this year. Terry Thomas returned as commissioner. Several records were set this summer.

#### *Handball League*

John Niedermair discussed the new Handball League at CSC. Comments were made by members regarding the possibility of moving their playing area to another part of the pool grounds to decrease the possibility of the ball landing in picnic areas. This will be looked at over the winter.

*New Business – by Nikki Munro*

Nikki stated that the election results were now posted by the office and then thanking the members for attending the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.