



CITY OF MARTINEZ

PARKS, RECREATION, MARINA & CULTURAL
COMMISSION

DATE: September 14, 2011
TO: Parks, Recreation, Marina & Cultural Commission
FROM: Mitch Austin, Recreation Manager
SUBJECT: Rankin Aquatics Complex Use and Feedback

RECOMMENDATION

Discuss and receive report

BACKGROUND

The new Rankin Aquatics Complex opened Saturday, July 23, 2011. Pool programming for the summer season included recreation swim, swim lessons, lap swim, water aerobics, and toddler time. Due to the late start of the season, swim programs were extended to September 18th and later extend to September 30 for weekday lap swim and water aerobics.

Review of the attendance numbers lap swim, water aerobics and recreational swim are as follows:

Opens swim	July 23 – August 31 (includes Toddler Time)	7,843 people
Water Aerobics	July 25 – August 31	796 people (26.64 per day)
Morning Lap Swim	July 25 – August 31	288 people (9 per day)
Evening Lap Swim	July 25 – August 31	337 people (14.05 per day)
Swim Lessons	July 25 – September 2	173 people

There has been interest shown by the community in extending the swim season by going later into the fall and/or opening sooner. While maintenance and operations costs are a major consideration there are also other key factors to consider which include:

1. The City regular staff support for the operation of the Rankin Aquatics Complex is currently set for support of a seasonal pool. Extension of the pool season would require a higher service level in professional support for the pool.
2. Most year round pools are constructed to attract users by virtue of their design and specialty programming for year round use. For instance Walnut Creek's year round facility has an Olympic size pool and diving platform these amenities attract the kind of swimmer that practices year around.
3. Each year recruiting and hiring enough certified staff presents great difficulty. Staff has noticed that young people, the work force pool for lifeguarding, has shown a declining interest in this kind of work. This is due in part to the extensive nature of certification and additional training required. Extending hours into the non-season when college students go back to school compounds the difficulty in maintaining staff.

Staff is awaiting utility cost information and will compile a cost analysis of operational and maintenance costs associated with the pool and projected cost associated with extending the pool season. This information will be brought to the PRMCC for further review and discussion. As the Commission is aware, the City has been dealing with a structural deficit and any increase in service level means reduction of core services in other areas unless alternative funding sources can be found. Aquatic facilities are extremely expensive to operate and fee increases alone cannot sufficiently close the increase in cost.