

General Membership Meeting  
August 22, 2010  
Sun Valley Pool

Welcome Comments

The Board President, Michael Davis, discussed the purpose of meeting as being a “state of the union”, with each board member talking about their work and what’s been going on, and plans for the future. The meeting is also a chance to get to know board members, and a call for volunteers for the various projects and functions around the pool.

High-level overview: It is a tough economy, and Sun Valley started out the year down 20 members. With hard work, new efforts, and programs, we ended up adding more new families, and are in a good position to start the next year. Although the pool lost money this year, it’s getting better overall. There will be capital improvements needed in the coming year, so we’ve been working on a plan for a good operating budget and the ability to take on some upcoming capital expenditures.

Individual Board Member Reports

Swim Team: Raja Singh

Attendees received an official report on Sun Valley Swim Team this year. This year, the focus was on organization, practices, and development for the coaches. The swim team has been bringing on coaches from within the Sun Valley family, but with extra training and mentoring. Swim team had a lot of returning members on the swim team board. It was a good year from a swimming perspective: 9 and 1 in dual meets, and third place in big meets. The swim team passed out a survey at the end of the season, and got responses from 60 families. The swim team board is using the survey to gauge satisfaction and pinpoint areas of improvement and focus. Priorities for next year: Keeping the number of events even with last year, continuing coaching improvement and mentoring, adding someone to the swim team board member with swimming experience. An area of opportunity identified in the survey was clinics and instruction. Respondents were also interested in feedback from the swim meets. Another area of opportunity was to find a way to increase the attractiveness of swim team for older teenagers. The swim team would also like to do some small renovations to the team area, including helping the coaches’ area stay clean and organized. The board transitioned the swim team over to TeamUnify online for bringing registration, jobs, etc. into one place. It’s possible that the swim team can help try and leverage Team Unify for the pool. Overall, it’s a move to be more organized and web-based.

Lifeguards: Pat Hennessy

Sun Valley has six full-time lifeguards, five of which came back from last year. This year, the pool used a master calendar. Next year, we will plan to have some non-Sun Valley swimmers for lifeguard coverage during meet days. There were no injury incidents for 2010. Head lifeguard has been at Sun Valley for two years. Another part of the role with lifeguards is to address questions and complaints during the pool’s season. For next year, the pool would like to have an extra lifeguard on staff for parties, or busy

days/events, for double-coverage. Star swimmer program continued in 2010. The basic lifeguard schedule in the peak season is that there should be lifeguards here from 10 to 7 every day. Next year, we are looking at increasing life guard staffing. Another possible change for next year is to move the lifeguard location to the other side of the pool (closer to the baby pool).

Membership: Trish Van Ormer

Members in good standing for 2010: 164 member families. The pool has the potential for 195 members, per the bylaws. Last year, we had 175 families. This year we had 34 families leave, but we ended up even. The pool's referral program was successful, as well as the swim team promotion, and late-joiner promotion that prorates the dues. In general, it's been a challenging year: Majority of people who left the pool in 2010 did so because of financial reasons.

Finance: John Goddard

The pool's long-term financial plan involves managing the physical asset of the property, including building up a rolling list of capital improvement and the means to achieve them. It's a challenging environment in 2010. The pool has a need for a new heating system, pool covers, repairing the pool deck, and a wish list of other items. Members: What is your wish list? What will make us a better pool?

Basic financial picture: The pool has a \$20,000 reserve, which is not large enough to meet our needs. How can we improve the reserve and how can we get there? In the past, we operated in a deficit, and there's been a huge turnaround in the past 10 years. The pool's reserve or endowment should be two-thirds the size of our operating budget (for a nonprofit). If we can achieve a properly funded endowment, it would allow us to do some upgrades, etc. The pool's operating budget is between \$100,000 and \$110,000; with approximately \$2,000 / month for mortgage. As of the general membership meeting, we are projecting a \$10,000 - \$20,000 loss, but the number is not final yet.

Member question: Should we do an assessment to cover losses? No one present remembered that the pool has ever done an assessment in the past. The pool hadn't been solvent for a long time, but we're on track now. Five years ago, we were looking at bankruptcy.

Board President said his number-one concern is getting membership numbers back up.

Member question: Has the board thought about combining a pool membership with a Lafayette Tennis Club membership to make a combination package? If we could offer more value to prospective members, they may have more incentive to join.

Water Quality: Dave Ridge

Sun Valley has a three-person water quality team this year. Different members are on-site a couple times a day for health reasons, and one of the team members needs to be certified. A swim club has safety and health requirements, and the water quality team has been working over the last five years to bring us up to code and help us become self-

sufficient. The pool is now running off computers and has more sophisticated monitoring. New pool covers will be rolled out tonight to help retain heat. Without covers, the pool loses as much as 10 degrees a night, and the covers help the pool avoid running the heater all night long. If the pools don't get covered over the weekend, it costs the pool thousands in chemicals (due to evaporation), PG&E costs to run the heater, etc. The pool needs to buy a new heater soon, which costs around \$20,000. Water quality is good right now, but a little salty because of the chlorine. A well-balanced chlorinated pool should have no smell. Sun Valley has been using potassium to super-chlorinate the pool and natural enzymes rather than chemicals. The water quality team does a daily log to take measurements, and document the work they do. The water quality team replaced filter on the baby pool, and that's why the pool was closed earlier this season. In 2010, Sun Valley had several accidents, including fecal and a barf incident. The pool dealt with it very quickly and didn't need to close longer than minimum requirement.

Maintenance: Jason McNally

A lot of the pool's maintenance work was done at the beginning of the season. The work included power-washing the fencing, decks, and painting the structure over a weekend. The rest of the maintenance work will take place toward the end of the season and closing the pool down for the winter. The maintenance team has a number of projects pending on getting the proper funding. A member noted that it seems like there are fewer umbrellas at the pool than last year, and maintenance confirmed that two umbrellas were retired at the end of last year, but they were not replaced.

Rules and Gate Duty: Pat Ketcham

The pool board voted to abolish gate duty on a provisional basis, pending improvements to the gate. It felt like gate duty was a burden to members, both existing and prospective new members. Gate duty creates a lot of work for everyone, including board members. The board felt that members' time and efforts were not being used most wisely. The goal is to reallocate the gate duty hours and put them on higher-priority items like pool covers. The board's job for the end of the year to figure out how to make the change work. The pool will need to change door and key system to support the change.

Member suggestions: When we get rid of gate duty, suggest that the pool retain or reallocate hours for taking off and putting on pool covers to save the pool money. Could members buy back hours and the board then put that money to the gate alterations? The board encourages all members with suggestions to send them to the board for discussion.

Corresponding Secretary: Sharon Mueller

Main duties include updating the website and sending our communications and newsletters. Future goal is to switch the pool over to the TeamUnify system and website. The goal for 2011 is to migrate registration online, including paperwork, and updating emergency information. For 2010 and beyond, we want to make the website more dynamic, including adding a calendar that shows the lifeguard shifts. In 2010, the swim team also used the website calendar to help make the site more useful to members. We hope to get up and running on TeamUnify by next year.

Recording Secretary: Lisa Ross

Duties include creating agendas for board meetings, and taking notes. Other projects are helping board efforts on an ad hoc basis when needed.

President: Michael Davis

We want to share that there is a proposal for fundraising: Idea for shower wall mosaics so families can buy tiles to help fund a shower renovation. The board will be researching more about the idea.

Social events: The pool association wanted to start some social events at the pool this year, such as the Friday night BBQs to help create a sense of community and retain members. Although there is no Social Chair on the current pool board, the plan is to do more of these social events in the future. Members: Please send the board any ideas you have.

Member question: What is going on with the fall clinic? Swim team answer: Delayed because we decided to do it with Fred Brown (clinic director) because Cal was slow to get back with us.

Member suggestion for swim team: Put County meet on the calendar because first year parents don't know the schedule.

Swim team: We will start a fall fitness swim for adults that will be led by Coach Warren.

Call for volunteers: Please let the board know if you are interested in a pool board position so general membership can vote on the nominations. Please help us find folks who are interested in taking a more involved role at the pool.

Good of the order:

- Pool board has become more professional.
- Kudos to swim team.
- Kudos to all the members and volunteers.

We're looking forward to next year!