

**AQUATICS WORKING GROUP
MEETING NOTES
SEPT. 23, 2025**

Location: Belle Haven Pool

Introductions and participant sharing

- Looking for more information on changing policies
- Masters swimmer
- Daily swimmer
- BHNA (Belle Haven Neighborhood Association) and long time resident
- Long time resident and Belle Haven Empowered member
- Belle Haven Action member
- Here to listen
- PASA swimmer
- Regular Burgess swimmer and coach at BH
- Swimmer at Burgess since the 1970s, interested in swimming success at BH
- Masters swimmer, 3rd workshop attended

July 15 meeting feedback

Recap:

- Approx. 20 attendees
- Promo items discussion
- Outreach and signage
- Menlopark.gov/aquatics for previous meeting notes

Questions - comments:

- 23 free swim coupons redeemed by 7/15
- Should we do a flyer for the school district since summer is over? (contact the superintendent to get the flyers sent home with the kids)
- Tim – pool staff will accept the free swim coupons past the 8/10 date on the flyer
- Are flyers still available at the pool offices? (Tricia will look into printing more)
- Word of mouth program – lots of work by this group but attendance was still lower than expected – feedback?
- Dropped off flyers and had conversations at churches and businesses
- Kids who swim year-round pause activities in the summer
- Convo with camp leaders – kids don't know how to swim – any way to encourage lessons?
- Hours may have been limiting – people asked for earlier and later hours
- What were the underlying factors in the low uptake?
- Hours are challenging in slower season (fall) when staff/guards go back to school – at Oakland pools early hours are well known/established unlike in Belle Haven
- Year over year comparisons – impact of current political situation on attendance? (data in 9/9 staff report)
- Cooler summer weather a factor?
- Were closed days factored in? (closed for repairs)
- Factor all of the above into next year's outreach
- Overall economic conditions impacting?

- Compare attendance to Burgess attendance (also lower) but hours reduced mid-day at Burgess?
- Tim – hours at Burgess were not changed in the summer – reductions started 8/19/25. Camp sales (which start in Feb) were lower this year. Weather a big motivator for casual users
- 2%-3% reduction not super significant, but there may be bigger systemic issues flyer didn't solve
- Wonderful to see kids and teams of kids at BH pool, seeing swim teams might be good way to get non-swimmers to start lessons
- Swim team is growing – started at 6 now at 23 kids – swim team will be long term
- Promotional efforts one factor among many
- Thank you outreach volunteers!

9/9 City Council update – study session

3 options/ short term – staff is looking into these and will return on 9/30

- Option A – BH cost share
- Option B – extra Burgess hours
- Option C – Waive revenue share

Long-term concept – hybrid model

- To be developed over next 12 months

Hybrid model

Tim – BH community involvement in programming at pool. MSS (Menlo Swim and Sport) covers safety, CMP creates programming with public input

Spin-off from this group to hash out details of this model

Questions - comments:

- MSS only safety, not programs? (At BH, yes, that is the proposal to be developed)
- Certified pool operator at BH to be paid by the City?
- Any loss to programs/access at BH pool for BH residents?
- BHCC ops model? City staff and contract instructors
- 63 hours, where is that from? (2022 contract) (City considering supporting the gap btwn 30 and 63 hours)
- What happens if City Council does not agree with hybrid task force recommendations? (unknown)
- Task force meets after Council decisions on 9/30
- Gap between 9/30 and 12 mo. Task force? What is happening to BH pool in this time?
- City provides financial backfill for 12 months until hybrid model is implemented
 - Programming to be the same at BH during the 12 months
- (Discussion about clarifying what will happen at BH pool until hybrid model is implemented)

Volunteers for hybrid model task force?

- Angie Bautista – Belle Haven
- Miyko Harris-Parker - Belle Haven
- Maria Ibarra - Belle Haven
- Arlene Navarro - Belle Haven
- James Rohr - Belle Haven
- Margarita Meudez – Lorelei
- Meredith Rohr - Belle Haven
- Wesley Saywell – Atherton, Swims at Burgess

Meetings tentatively set for Tuesday 10/14 and Tuesday 10/28, same times/days as working group

Size of the task force? (15-16 people max)

How can people not here tonight join task force? (email Tricia)

November 11 for next working group meeting won't work – Veteran's Day holiday? (will pick a new November date that doesn't conflict and will post/email group)