

**Dominion Hills Area Recreation Association**  
**Regular Board Meeting Minutes**  
June 8, 2017  
DHARA Community House

**Board Members:**

Present: Michael Berez, Scott Christensen, Rich Engel, Genna Gent, Maryjane Klingelhofer, Dennis LeNard, Melissa Martin, Michael McMahon, Stephen Nix, Jennifer Smith, Julie Smith, Scott Tate, Wayne Vincent

Absent: Brice Henderson, Matt Long

Quorum: Yes

Others present: John Aldonas (Manager), Angela DiBenigno (Dive Team Representative)

**Notice of Meeting:**

Sent on: June 8, 2017

**Call to Order and Remarks:**

Scott Tate called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:**

The prior minutes will be presented at a future meeting.

**Confirm Executive Committee Actions:**

Since the May meeting, the Executive Committee approved (A) the Manager purchasing four new umbrellas for the lifeguard stands and (B) the Manager retaining Northern Woods for tree trimming work both around the pool property and the Incscocoe property. The Board confirmed these actions by unanimous consent.

**Financial Report:**

The Board received the written financial report. For the month ended May 31, 2017, net operating income was \$281,406. The cash balance in our operating account was \$338,673.47; the balance in the summer swim account was \$ [REDACTED]; and the pool manager and membership recorder's accounts had \$ [REDACTED] and \$ [REDACTED], respectively. As of May 31, 2017 our investment portfolio with Vanguard had a balance of \$546,382, an increase of \$237 for the month of May. We have approximately \$ [REDACTED] in the Goodlett Scholarship Fund.

**Membership Recorder's Report:**

DHARA has a total of 507 memberships, with 500 standard shares and 7 Emeritus shares. There are 391 families on the wait list, which is approximately a four- to five-year wait. The Board approved the sale of membership number 356 from [REDACTED] to [REDACTED].

**Manager's Report:**

John Aldonas reported the pool is running well. He would like to send a blast email reminding parents to use rubber swim pants on children in diapers. Since the last meeting, John painted the railings and retained plumbers to address overflowing toilets.

John reported that the new pool table should arrive June 22. John is obtaining telephone polls to use as parking bumpers; he has received one already. Since last month's meeting, we have had four rentals and two new monthly rentals.

John recommended the purchase of an ADA-compliant chair lift to permit access to the pool. He estimated that chairs range from \$2,900 to \$5,000 to \$8,000, and some require permanent attachment to the side of the pool while others are battery-operated and mobile. After some discussion, the Board asked John to obtain estimates for a mobile chair lift and make a recommendation next month.

After some discussion of whether DHARA owns a DVD player, Jennifer Smith moved for John to purchase a DVD player, Dennis LeNard seconded, and the Board approved.

In conjunction with John's report, the Board had a presentation and brief discussion of the Eagle Scout project and its proposed budget. Dennis LeNard recommended getting fill dirt from contractor rather than purchasing dirt. Mike Berecz moved to approve the proposed budget and proceed with the project, Julie Smith seconded, and the Board approved.

**Alcohol Policy:**

Wayne Vincent reported that he had been doing research and recommended that the Board consider its policies and practices with respect to alcohol at the pool. He noted that in the 1990s and 2000s, there was no alcohol at DHARA as a matter of practice. Alcohol was like the "bathing suit rule": DHARA does not have a policy about wearing bathing suits, because everyone shared a common understanding.

Wayne noted that a week ago there had been an official swim team happy hour to recruit adult volunteers and believed it was odd to see a happy hour in a youth sports schedule. The happy hour began by the baby pool and was moved to inside the Community House. The attendees were parents of children at swim practice, and many would be driving away from DHARA. Wayne considered this to be creating an environment of unsafe behavior.

Wayne expressed concern about alcohol consumption in the presence of children at swim or dive banquets and social events. There is specific language in the contract for our coaches requiring that they create an environment free of drugs, tobacco, alcohol, and abusive language.

Wayne told the story of Tony Santander, a 15-year-old freshman at Washington-Lee High School and DHARA swimmer who died in 2002 in an automobile crash caused by an underage driver who had been drinking. The swim team created swim award in Tony Santander's name to honor a deserving swimmer. Wayne believed it is grotesque to have alcohol at award banquet associated with Santander's name.

Wayne believed that our insurance policy does not cover widespread alcohol use, but only an occasional adult event or winetasting. No alcohol is permitted in Arlington County schools and parks, and the PTA does not use alcohol to recruit (at least not in the presence of children). Wayne noted that DHARA is a Section 501(c)(4) social welfare organization – the only Northern Virginia pool structured this way – and should not operate like a social club. In short, Wayne questioned whether our policies sufficient to protect the association.

In discussing the issues, various members of the Board distinguished among (1) alcohol at swim and dive practices and meets, (2) alcohol at DHARA events, and (3) individuals consuming alcohol on their own. Scott Tate noted that a blanket prohibition on alcohol at the pool would be impractical and unenforceable. Some Board members suggested that the Board should study the issue. There was, however, general agreement that alcohol should not play a role in youth sporting activities.

Dennis LeNard moved that no alcohol be allowed at swim and dive meets and practices (not including social functions). Michael McMahon seconded the motion, and the Board approved.

**Subdivision Issue on 8th Road Frontage:**

Rich Engel reported that turning 8th Road in to a bike path might disqualify DHARA’s ability to sub-divide the front lawn into three lots if the association ever needed to do so. Karen White of Walter Phillips recommended that DHARA spend \$3,500 to determine preliminarily whether it could sub-divide the property. Steve Nix moved to follow the recommendation to retain Walter Phillips to file a preliminary subdivision plat with the County for an amount not to exceed \$3,500. Mike Berecz seconded, and the Board approved with Jennifer Smith abstaining.

**Updates:**

• **Water Sports Committee:**

Angela DiBenigno reported that there are 53 divers on the dive team, which is in Division IV. While waiting for the portable dive stand, Angela requested approval to purchase a diving mat for the cost of \$664 (which includes \$225 for shipping). Wayne Vincent moved to purchase the dive mat, Julie Smith seconded, and the Board approved.

Jennifer Smith reported there are 224 athletes (187 swimmers, 53 divers) overall on the swim and dive teams. Time trials for the swim team are scheduled for next Saturday. Wayne Vincent noted that former Board member George Wysor created a computer script that allows DHARA to check if swim and dive registrants are members.

• **Facilities and Construction Committee:**

Mike McMahon reported that he had asked Ritter Norton for the cost of getting to construction documents. The price of \$38,000 seemed too steep, so he asked for a phased proposal.

Proposed phase 1 would be a conceptual design consisting of rough sketches, rough order of magnitude design pricing, and then presenting it to us. This would cost \$15,000. The proposed timeline would be June to August 10 would be the conceptual design phase, August 10 to October would be the time for DHARA to discuss the project with the membership, October to November would be the time to prepare construction documents, with the goals of having the work approved in mid-January would be approval, started in February, and completed in April.

Genna Gent moved to engage Ritter Norton for \$15,000 to do the phase 1 conceptual design. Jennifer Smith seconded, and the Board approved.

The Board discussed the need to meet on July 27 on this issue rather than attempting to arrange a meeting in August.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m. on a motion by Steve Nix, seconded by Mike McMahon, and approved by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott H. Christensen  
Secretary