



**Recreation Committee Minutes
Tuesday, September 6, 2023
6 P.M.
Via Teleconference – Zoom**

Members Present: Ifeolu Claytor, Council Member Chairperson
Alexandria Nichols, Recreation Department Director
Sean Malone, City Council Member
Jeri Chaikin, CAO
Jonathan Kraft, Citizen Member
Troy Neujhar, Citizen Member

Others Present: Jan Devereaux, League of Women Voters Representative
Quiana Player, Recreation Department Business Services Manager
Thomas Lach, Recreation Department Aquatics Coordinator
Caroline Barni, Resident

CALL TO ORDER

Ifeolu Claytor, Council Member Chairperson

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm by Council Chairperson, Ifeolu Claytor

Review and Approval July 11, 2023 Minutes

Ifeolu Claytor, Council Member, Chairperson

It was moved by citizen member Troy Neujhar and seconded by citizen member Jonathan Kraft that the minutes from July 2023 be approved as written.

Review and Approval of August 2, 2023 Minutes

Ifeolu Claytor, Council Member, Chairperson

It was moved by Councilman Malone and seconded by Council Member Chairperson Claytor that the minutes from August 2023 be approved as written.

Recommendation on Pool Fees

[2024 Thornton Park Pool Fee Recommendation Presentation](#)

A presentation was made to the Recreation Committee to discuss proposed changes to the Thornton Park Pool Passes and Daily Admission Fees. Following the presentation, there was a period of comment and questions. Responses are included below.

A portion of the discussion included access for non-residents living in neighboring communities that do not have outdoor pools in their communities. Shaker does allow sales of pool passes to non-residents but no daily admission access without being accompanied by a resident. There is concern

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that this could cause crowding so the committee did not recommend making this option available but rather this discussion be included as a part of the recreation strategic planning that is projected in the near future.

Question: Majority of increase cost given by seniors, what is the percentage of individuals that will be affected by this increase?

Answer: 597, or 27%, of all season passes sold were senior passes. Of that 597 seasonal passes, 550 are Shaker Heights Residents. 12% of all pool passes sold may be affected by the proposed age increase for the senior category. Of the projected senior adult pool passes, those people younger than 65 no longer be able to purchase a pool pass at the senior rate. A breakdown of these numbers are in chart below:

Total Senior Season Passes Sold:	597	
Resident:	550	92%
Non-Resident:	47	9%

Resident Senior Pass Breakdown:		
Individual:	258	47%
Couple:	292	53%

Total Resident Season Passes Sold:	2186	
Ages 50-64:	258	12%
Ages 65+:	319	15%

Question: Are these rate increases equitable to our residents, seniors?

Answer: Yes, there are programs available at the county level to allow for our residents to get financial assistance to help reduce the cost of the seasonal pool passes. These programs are available to Shaker residents who receive social services. Also available are passes at discounted prices with early-bird and preseason rates on all our seasonal resident pass types. The committee suggested making financial assistance information more widely known for residents.

Question: Are operation expenses covered?

Answer: No, Thornton Park Pool revenues do not cover expenses and it is subsidized annually. This increase on pool pass fees is to help reduce the subsidy needed but will not cover all expenses. Shaker as a whole does not update fees on a routine or regular basis so changing fees to help recover expenses typically seems like a big change. The Recreation Department is currently working on a plan to strategically increase fees rather than doing so on an infrequent basic. This plan is not yet final.

Following the discussion, the Recreation Committee unanimously approved this item to move forward to the Finance Committee.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:46 pm.

Ifeolu Claytor, Council Member
Chairperson, Recreation Committee