



Edwin M. Lee, Mayor
Philip A. Ginsburg, General Manager

DATE: January 24, 2013

TO: Operations Committee \
Recreation and Park Commission

THRU: Philip A. Ginsburg, General Manager

FROM: Abigail Maher, Assistant Director, Partnerships Division

RE: Grant Acceptance for “Swim Club” youth swim lessons

Agenda Wording

Discussion to accept and expend a grant of up to \$70,000, from Helen Hilton Raiser, to support free swim lessons at Recreation and Park Department pools.

Background

On August 16, 2012, the Commission approved a grant from Helen Hilton Raiser for the Swim Club pilot program. Upon approval of the grant, the Recreation and Park Aquatics staff offered free swim lessons to elementary students enrolled in after-school programs in the Mission. The lessons took place at Garfield Pool in the Mission district and about 200 students participated. The lessons were offered three days per week for a total of 10 weeks. Each week there were (10) 30 minute lessons, each designed for up to 20 students.

The Department partnered with the following five after-school programs: Mission Graduates and Early Education Department at Bryant Elementary School, Reading Partners at Flynn Elementary School, Community Youth Center at Moscone Elementary School, and Jamestown Community Center at Cesar Chavez Elementary School.

During the 10 week program, Abigail Maher, Helen, and Helen’s representative, Charmaine Ess Kyle attended the lessons and witnessed firsthand the success of the program – the aquatics staff were engaged and committed to the students; and the students were thrilled to be in the pool and were focused on the skills being taught. At the end of the pilot, Abigail and Charmaine evaluated the program by requesting the aquatics staff, students, and after-school teachers to complete evaluation surveys. In addition, we conducted meetings with the after-school staff and executive directors to learn more about their impression of the pilot and gage their interest in continuing to participate. Overall, the evaluations and meetings proved that the pilot program was a tremendous success!



After-school programs reported:

- 100% attendance on swim lesson days, which normally students miss a few days of after school programming.
- Swim lessons provided a great incentive for students to complete academic homework and tasks.
- Students improved their swimming skills and some even overcame their fears of water.
- Recreation and Park Aquatics staff was committed to the students throughout the pilot and were eager to make changes for the Spring semester.

Swim Club Program Information

Due to the success of the pilot program, Swim Club lessons will continue at Garfield Pool during the Spring semester from January 2013 – April 2013 and will start up again in the Fall semester from September 2013 – November 2013. Compared to the pilot program, the Spring semester program has improved and expanded.

Comparison Chart	Pilot Program	Spring Semester
Number of Days per Week	3 days (M,W,F)	4 days (M,W,TH,F)
Number of Lessons per Week	10 lessons	16 lessons
Number of Weeks	9 weeks of lessons + 1 week of celebrations	13 weeks of lessons + 1 week of celebrations
Number of After School Partners	5 After School Partners	8 After School Partners
Number of Students	200 students	270 students

Improvements:

- Sean McGrew, Aquatics & Waterfront Recreation Supervisor, Ron Chism, Aquatics Facility Supervisor, and Katlin Grieving, Aquatics Facility Assistant Supervisor had a few meetings to review the pilot and plan for the Spring semester.
- Ron and Katlin conducted on school site orientations for the students and teachers. They reviewed pool rules & regulations, provided swim program highlights, and talked about the importance of Helen’s gift.
- Ron, Katlin and Sean held an instructor orientation, which was especially helpful for the instructors new to the Swim Club program.
- Swim lesson curriculum will be modified to more accurately meet the needs of the students.
- The grant will fund a staff person to work at the front desk of the pool to greet students and help with transition time.
- In addition to the grant, Helen has generously offered to fund the cost of a tot dock – an aquatics platform to provide a shallow area for younger students.
- Lessons will be modified so that younger and older students can participate.
- Three additional afterschool partners:
 - Buena Vista Child Care Center

- Seven Tepees Youth Program
- Physical Education classes at Flynn Elementary

The grant of up to SC aims to provide water safety education in under-served communities by funding free learn-to-swim programs for children who otherwise could not afford them. The following describes various aspects of the proposed program.

Summary of Gift

- Given that there are approximately 20 students per afterschool class, and that the student to swim instructor ratio is generally 5:1, four swim instructors for each swim lesson will be necessary.
- One lifeguard must be present.
- Support the cost Ron Chism and Katlin Grieving to work a few extra hours throughout the week on Swim Club.
- One Recreation Leader I to act as the front door greeter and support Aquatics staff with transition time
- Support the cost of DPH TB screening – a SFUSD requirement for service providers with limited or prolonged contact with District students.
- Total for Spring Semester 2013 at Garfield Pool: \$20,000
- Projected costs for Fall Semester 2013 and Spring 2014 at Garfield Pool and potentially 1-2 additional pools: \$40,000-\$50,000

Future Programming

Recreation and Park staff, Helen, and Charmaine agreed it was better to improve and expand the program at Garfield Pool, before offering lessons at other pools. In addition, due to the pool closure schedule, we thought it would be better to wait to offer lessons until after the pool maintenance is complete. However, we have looked into expanding to MLK Pool in the Bayview neighborhood and to Coffman Pool in the Visitacion Valley neighborhood. For example, about 5 lessons could potentially take place at MLK Pool on Mondays and 4 lessons could potentially take place at Coffman Pool on Tuesdays and Thursdays. In addition, in the Chinatown/North Beach area there are four Elementary schools with high (70-90%) and two with between 40-50% free and reduced lunch rates – an indication of low income students. So, we may consider offering Swim Club at North Beach Pool, as well.

Supported By

The San Francisco Recreation and Park Department
 Supervisor David Campos
 Buena Vista Child Care Center
 Community Youth Center
 Early Education Department
 ExCel After School Program (a unit of SFUSD)
 Jamestown Community Center
 Mission Graduates
 Reading Partners
 Seven Tepees Youth Program

Opposed By

No known opposition

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Recreation and Park Commission approve the grant of up to \$70,000, from Helen Hilton Raiser, to support free swim lessons at Recreation and Park pools.