

City of Los Alamitos

Agenda Report Discussion Items

August 3, 2009
Item No: 8B

To: Mayor Troy Edgar & Members of the City Council

Via: Jeffrey L. Stewart, City Manager

From: Angie Avery, Director of Recreation and Community Services

Subject: Consideration of a Fee Waiver Policy for Disabled Veterans Use of the Pool

Summary: This report seeks City Council consideration for the adoption of a Fee Waiver Policy for disabled veterans use of the pool.

Recommendation: City Council adopt the Fee Waiver Policy for disabled veterans use of the pool.

Background

At the July 6, 2009 City Council meeting, Councilmember Dean Zarkos asked staff to investigate a request from a disabled veterans group to utilize the pool for scuba lessons. Staff met with Mr. Melvin Pasley, Project Coordinator of the Disabled Veterans Scuba Project, on July 14, 2009 to gather information about the organization and learn about his request to utilize the pool to teach disabled veterans to scuba dive.

Lt. Col. USAR (ret) Melvin Pasley is the volunteer organizer of the group whose mission is: "To serve disabled veteran's by helping them experience the camaraderie of scuba diving and the wonders of the underwater world." Mr. Pasley has been searching for pool space to hold his classes in the greater Long Beach/Lakewood area since January 2009. Each class is comprised of four disabled veteran students, who are accompanied by two instructors each.

The Disabled Veterans Scuba Project is comprised solely of volunteers including dive masters, dive instructors and dive buddies. The organization has applied to the Internal Revenue Service for their non-profit 501(c)(3) designation, but it has not been awarded as of the date of this report.

Due to the volunteer, non-profit nature of the Disabled Veterans Scuba Project, Mr. Pasley is requesting a waiver of all fees to utilize the pool for the purpose of scuba diving instruction to disabled veterans.

Discussion

The City of Los Alamitos does not currently have a fee waiver policy for use of the pool. The City of Los Alamitos recognizes the value of partnering with other organizations to provide services that benefit the community. In an effort to provide support for organizations providing valuable community services that the City would otherwise provide, or is unable to provide, guidelines needed to be established to determine when permit fees may be waived.

The proposed policy (Attachment 1) gives disabled veterans organizations a process to follow to determine if they qualify for a fee waiver for use of the pool. Interested groups must meet the following criteria:

1. They must be a recognized 501(c)(3) organization as defined by the federal Internal Revenue Code.
2. They must have its Articles of Incorporation endorsed and filed with the California Secretary of State.
3. The organization must be comprised of United States Armed Forces veterans.
4. The organization must abide by Recreation and Community Services Department policies and procedures for rental of the USA Water Polo National Training Center (Pool), and parking regulations as enforced by the Joint Forces Training Base.

The Disabled Veteran's Scuba Project request to use the pool for their initial session of scuba lessons is for one day per week for two hours for 14 weeks.

Fiscal Impact

Fees for use of the pool by rental groups are \$74.56 per hour (which includes two lifeguards). Red Cross standards dictate that for durations of longer than 45 minutes, a second lifeguard is recommended.

The Disabled Veteran's Scuba Project has requested a fee waiver of 28 hours of pool time for a total of \$2087.68 for their initial 14 week session of scuba lessons.

Submitted By:

Approved By:

Angie Avery
Director of Recreation and
Community Services

Jeffrey L. Stewart
City Manager

Attachments: 1) Proposed Fee Waiver Guidelines for Non-Profit Veterans Use of the Pool