



City and Borough of Juneau
City & Borough Manager's Office
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Juneau, Alaska 99801
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DATE: August 1, 2022

TO: Alicia Hughes-Skjandijis, Chair, Assembly Human Resources Committee

FROM: Robert Barr, Deputy City Manager

RE: Proposed Aquatics Board Changes

Due to challenges with quorums, the Aquatics Board has proposed two changes to its structure:

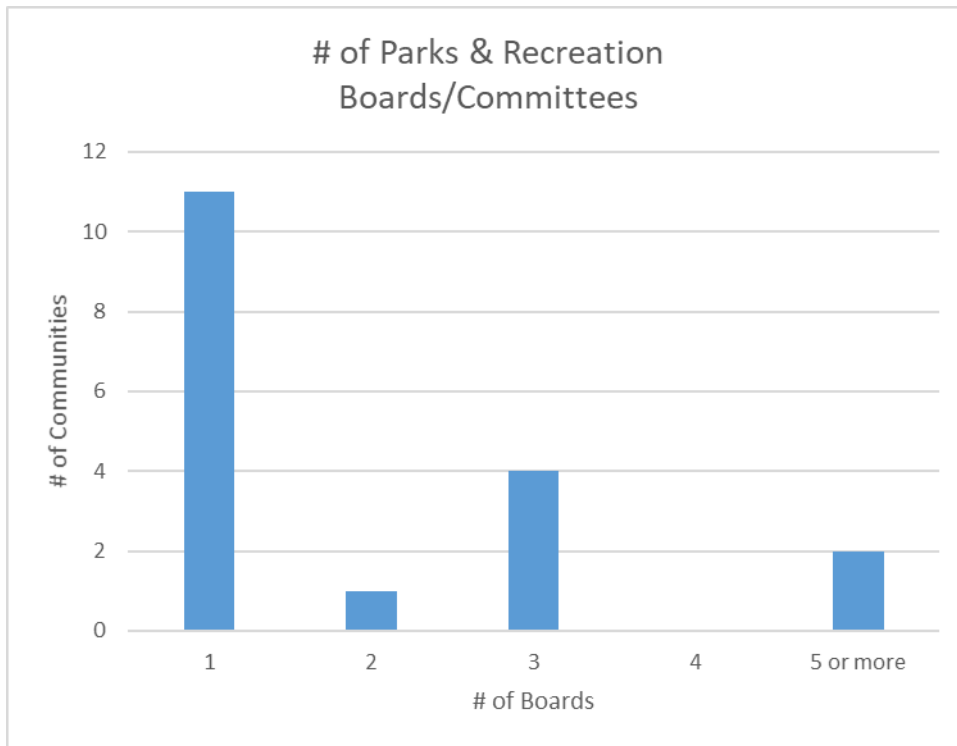
- 1) Removing two seats, making it a seven member instead of a nine member board, and
- 2) Removing the requirements that the board be comprised of individuals that represent different interests

The current authorizing ordinance requires representation as follows:

- One representative from JSD
- One representative from a local aquatics organization that rents pool facility time
- Seven representatives including persons having skills relevant to matters concerning the aquatics facilities, broadly speaking
- A restriction that no more than two representatives shall be a member or employee of any local aquatics organization or an immediate family member of such

User group representation – Glacier Swim Club, in this case – is important; however, our pools have many interest groups that are not as easily represented including youth, seniors, and low-income and underserved populations. It is natural for high utilizers (like GSC at the pools, a hockey club at Treadwell, or a tenant at the Airport) to be an easy fit for board seats, especially when it is a consistent challenge to find willing board volunteers. However, for both Treadwell and the Airport, we similarly limit representation such that user group interests cannot account for a majority of either body.

The Parks & Recreation Department has five advisory boards and committees, requiring 43 volunteers. In a community the size of Juneau, it is challenging to recruit and retain so this many individuals and provide adequate staff support. 35% of these committee seats are currently vacant or expiring soon without any new applicants. P&R staff conducted an informal survey of other National Recreation and Parks Association members – the question was, “How many boards do you have?”



The two municipalities that reported 5 or more boards were Ventura, CA, and Miami Lakes, FL.¹

Requested Action:

Accept the first, but not the second, Aquatics board recommendation.

Staff are planning to explore a new structure for the P&R boards with the goals of 1) preserving public input, 2) reducing the vacancy rate, and 3) reducing staff burden. Any HRC discussion, questions, or direction would be valuable.

¹ Complete list of responding communities: Ventura, CA; City of Miami Lakes, FL; Southborough, MA; Loudon, TN; Erie, CO; Burlington, NC; Calvert County, MD; St. Charles County, MO; Shawnee, KS; Wichita, KS; Maryland Heights, MO; South Jordan, UT; Henderson, KY; Katy, TX; Brookings, SD. Two communities responded without indicating location.