

Amending Chapter 1 General Provisions,
Article 1.09 Parks and Recreation
Consider Prohibiting Alcohol
Consumption at City Pools

City Council Meeting
Public Works Director Melinda Moritz
November 1, 2022



Purpose

- To consider amending the Leon Valley Code of Ordinances, Chapter 1 General Provisions, Article 1.09 Parks and Recreation, Division 2 Use Regulations, Section 1.09.032 Alcoholic Beverages to prohibit alcohol consumption at city-owned swimming pool facilities
- Options
 - Approve
 - Approve with modifications
 - Deny
- Recommendation
 - Park Commission Recommends Approval as presented

Background

- The current code section states:
 - “No person shall consume or possess any intoxicating beverage whatever on city public park property except for wine, beer, ale, and malt liquor as those products are defined by the laws of the state. No person shall use or possess a volume-drinking device on city park property.”
- The Park Commission is recommending an amendment to this section to add a sentence as follows:
 - “The consumption of alcohol of any kind is specifically prohibited at city swimming pool facilities.”

Background

- Alcohol may influence balance, coordination, and judgment
- Its effects are heightened by sun exposure, wind, sun glare, and heat
- Individuals may take risks, such as diving into shallow water
- Alcohol can also reduce swimming skills, even those of an excellent swimmer

Background

- Alcohol depresses central nervous system processing, impairs balance and coordination, and may also:
 - Alcohol lowers inhibitions and judgment and can lead to risky behaviors
 - Alcohol can dilate blood vessels increasing the risk of hyperthermia
 - Alcohol can contribute to fatigue or loss of consciousness
 - Alcohol reduces attention span and the effective supervision of children in and around water

Background

- Police Department records indicate two incidents reported at city-owned swimming pools:
 - 2005 – Disorderly conduct/Public Intoxication
 - 2022 – Other Incident

Fiscal Impact

- Unknown if this action would affect pool memberships or parties

Recommendation

- At their October 13, 2022 meeting, the Park Commission recommended revising the current Park ordinance to prohibit the consumption of alcohol at city-owned swimming pool facilities

S.E.E. Statement

- *Social Equity* – Prohibiting alcohol at swimming pool facilities reduces the threat of accidental drowning at city-owned pool facilities for all citizens
- *Economic Development* – The prohibition of alcohol at city-owned pools may encourage more families to visit the facilities, which may encourage relocation
- *Environmental Stewardship* – Prohibiting consumption of alcohol at the pool facilities may reduce the amount of trash accumulated at these facilities