

## **Memorandum to the Town Council and Mayor of Saratoga, Wyoming**

Date: June 14, 2024

From: Dr. Jane M. Carey, Retired Professor and Current Lifeguard and Water Aerobics Instructor for the Saratoga Swimming Pool

I am writing this memorandum because I am seriously concerned about the safety of the people of the Town of Saratoga while at the pool. We currently have a staff of six. We have 3 teenage lifeguards under the age of 18, 2 cashiers under the age of 18 and me. I will be 77 years old on August 21, 2024. We don't have a pool manager or any other person who is nominally in charge of the pool. Because of this, we lack a clear written plan for an emergency incident. The forms and necessary emergency supplies are not fully stocked. Since we are short staffed, we have gaps in the schedule and no one in charge of all the testing requirements to make sure the pool is safe for swimming.

To certify for lifeguard, the Red Cross Association requires First Aid training, CPR training, Defibrillation training, swimming capability, submerging capability, and the passing of multiple scenarios testing the lifeguards' ability to save, resuscitate, stabilize, and provide aftercare. The four lifeguards have this training. We cannot and should not be responsible for more than our lifeguard duties. While on duty we have to focus on the swimmers in the pool and must not be responsible for any other tasks. The cashiers are responsible to take money and sign in guests. They are not able to provide lifeguard relief.

We need a responsible adult to be on premises at least 40 hours per week. This person should be certified to lifeguard as well as have the training to manage the pool system and be the public face of the pool in case of any altercations, etc. It would also be beneficial but not critical for this person to have Water Safety Instruction certification so that we can offer swimming lessons. Saratoga is a river town and all townspeople should know how to swim. We haven't been able to offer swimming lessons for quite some time.

We opened the pool on Wednesday, June 12, 2024. The day was sunny and we had quite a few swimmers and 9 water aerobics attendees. At around 4 PM, an adult swimmer was injured on the forehead by a child who accidentally threw a sinker (pool toy). There was quite a bit of blood and I attended to the injury while Tyler Greenberg came out to guard the rest of the swimmers. This incident demonstrates the need for two lifeguards on the premises at all times.

After this incident I had to think through the consequences of the lack of a pool manager. Since I am the only person over 21 years of age, I feel that any tragedy that might happen at the pool would fall on my shoulders. I am not willing to accept that responsibility. I am sad to say that without a pool manager, I will be forced to resign for my own peace of mind. That makes me sad because I truly enjoy lifeguarding. I can still instruct water aerobics if you are willing to keep me on. There is no safety requirement for me in that capacity.

I understand that you (Mayor and Town Council) did not create the problem of the lack of a Pool Manager, but you are the only ones who can solve the problem. I highly recommend that you rehire Whisper Bunch in the position of Pool Manager. She is certified as a lifeguard, CPO, Water Safety Instructor and has already performed the Pool Manager position with professionalism, and diligence. I worked under her last year and have great respect for her.

I will stay on for another week as long as I can sign something that absolves me from liability beyond my duties as a lifeguard. Timing is critical. We need a Pool Manager today. We, of course, also need a Recreation Director, but that decision does not carry that same life and death implications as hiring a pool manager.

Thank you for listening to my concerns. I have a year of experience at the Saratoga Pool and I hope that you respect my opinion in this situation. I do not want to quit my lifeguard position, but the current situation is not safe and I am not willing to sacrifice my peace of mind.

If you have questions, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jane M. Carey