

NEWINGTON FOREST COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.
TOWN HALL MEETING OF MAY 12, 2021
(Held Remotely Via Zoom)

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Ward called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

In attendance were:

Tina Ward, President
Charlie Wood, Vice-President
Zaynabb Imran, Board Member
Dana Neese-Paxton, Community Manager
Association Staff: Wanda Walsh, Marlith Oporto-Rossy, and Jennifer Gardner

Residents:

Over the course of the Town Hall meeting, the meeting attendee counting function showed approximately 80 residents in attendance at the Zoom meeting.

Ms. Ward welcomed everyone to the Town Hall meeting and thanked everyone who signed up to participate. Ms. Ward began by noting how the meeting would proceed and how residents would be able to pose their questions. Ms. Ward asked residents to identify themselves and either wait until the Q&A portion of the meeting to ask their questions or type them in the "Chat" box.

Since only three out of the seven members of the Board were in attendance (no quorum), Ms. Ward stated that the review of the pool rules resolution as well as the decision on Swim Team's request for pool use would be delayed until the next regularly-scheduled meeting on May 18th.

2021 SWIM SEASON

Ms. Ward (with the assistance of Ms. Neese-Paxton) spoke with the aid of a slide presentation which introduced the Board members and Association staff, thanked the members of the Pool Committee, reviewed the guidelines in place for pool opening Memorial Day weekend (limited capacity), reviewed the reservation schedule, announced when pool registration will begin on the website (noting a welcome email will be delivered to everyone's inbox), outlined the steps to register for the pool and book a reservation, and showed a visual of how the pool will be divided so that residents will know which section of the pool they are reserving.

Ms. Ward then turned the meeting over to Ms. Neese-Paxton who provided a tutorial on how to complete the pool subscription (pool registration) and, once a profile was created, how to place a reservation for the various segmented portions of the pool during the allotted time periods. Ms. Neese-Paxton conducted an

online demonstration of how to create a profile, noting that each person in the home would need to be registered, and a picture would have to be downloaded for each person in the house (since the reservation system is replacing pool passes). Ms. Neese-Paxton informed residents that a Hold Harmless Agreement would need to be submitted (once per household for the entire swim season). The Agreement would need to be read and, once the terms were agreed upon, the Association would be released from the responsibility of liability by the resident and everyone in his/her household. In addition, COVID-related questions would need to be answered each time a reservation is made and that up to three reservations could be made in a 7-day period.

At the end of the demonstration by Ms. Neese-Paxton, Ms. Ward resumed the meeting by noting that group swim lessons will not be offered this year; however, the lifeguards could be consulted about private swim lessons which would have to occur before the pool opens for the day. Ms. Ward informed residents that the Community Center is currently closed to rentals and that a date for reopening is not available at this time. Ms. Ward noted that, if the positive trends continue, Governor Northam plans to lift the restrictions on June 15, 2021. While not much is known about what restrictions and social distancing protocols will look like at that time, Ms. Ward announced that the pool is expected to return to 100 percent capacity. Ms. Ward encouraged residents to either contact the Association office or refer to the Association's website for up-to-date pool information.

At the end of the slide presentation, Ms. Ward noted that several questions had already been received in the "Chat" box. Before answering them, she said that residents could either raise their hands or continue to type their questions. Ms. Ward further noted that all questions would be answered before the end of the meeting. The questions received touched on the following topics:

- Whether the reservation system will be required after the restrictions are lifted
- The availability of the slide and diving board
- Whether more than one reservation can be made in a single day if space is available
- Whether there would be 15-minute breaks each hour (as in years past)
- Whether grandchildren will be permitted after June 15th
- Whether an infant needs a pool reservation
- The social distancing rules and who would enforce them
- The reason for 10' distancing on the pool deck when the CDC says 6'
- How reservations could be made for family members with differing swimming skills
- The pool rules and how they apply to children of differing ages
- The reliability of this reservation system vs. what was used in years past
- Whether a step-by-step "cheat sheet" would be available to follow when

- registering for the pool
- What issues would prevent a resident from using the pool
- The reasoning behind no food deliveries and the grassy area being closed
- Would lifeguards be present (even with reduced pool capacity)
- Whether pool toys could be used this year
- Whether a reservation can be made immediately after creating a profile
- The penalties associated with "no-shows"

Ms. Ward noted that three questions had been posed which were still awaiting an answer. The questions pertained to the avoidance of a penalty (pool suspension) for weather-related shutdowns, when a cancellation needs to be made to avoid a penalty (pool suspension), and what time of day the next reservation slot would be available for reservations. Ms. Ward noted that the Board/Staff would look into these questions for discussion at the next regularly-scheduled meeting. Ms. Ward reminded everyone in attendance that the pool rules in 2021 will be "fluid" as the season progresses due to guidance changes and encouraged patience.

Before adjourning, the Swim Team Rep (Solana Higdon) asked if members of the team can access the pool facility (shed) to conduct an inventory prior to the start of the season. Ms. Higdon was instructed to contact Ms. Neese-Paxton to arrange for a time prior to pool opening. Ms. Higdon then asked about the use of the deck on the back of the Community Center building and was told that, since the building is closed, it would not be available for Swim Team use.

Resident, Miguel Quintero, asked about the website stating that he knows someone who is colorblind who could not use the website since there are no accessibility features. Ms. Imran asked if he was referring to 508 Compliance (part of the Rehabilitation Act which makes electronic and information technology accessible to people with disabilities), and Mr. Quintero said yes. Mr. Quintero noted that he felt 508 Compliance was now the law and suggested the use of "screen readers" that could read the website to those who cannot see or hear. Ms. Ward responded that the Association would look into the issues he raised with the website's platform supporter.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Ward thanked everyone who participated in the Town Hall meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m.