

Debra Thompson

From: Cena Worhatch <cena76@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 02, 2019 8:48 PM
To: Assembly
Subject: Re: Aquatic Facility age restrictions

Good evening,

This is a follow-up e-mail after sitting through the two hour meeting with other concerned community members, the Parks and Rec director and employee, and borough manager. Steve said repeatedly that this decision is going to fall on assembly members and that the borough lawyer will probably send in her recommendation (not based on any facts) to the assembly as well. He also repeatedly accused our group of "getting way ahead of ourselves," but this is supposed to be implemented at the start of the school year (24 days from today) so I hardly think we are addressing things prematurely.

I completely understand the necessity of setting a minimum age requirement, however, why the arbitrary age of 11? Why not fall more in line with other public facilities in Southeast Alaska? Wrangell is 7, Ketchikan is 7-8 for their pool but any age is allowed in the facility, and Juneau is 8. How much will the facility lose in revenue if they make the age limit 11? I suppose no one really knows, but if this policy is implemented as is, unfortunately I will not be purchasing my yearly \$480 family pass, and I'm positive other families will not be either.

My personal opinion is that the minimum age should be at least 7 based on other public facilities in Southeast Alaska. If safety is the main issue here, but kids can be in the locker room without a guardian, then what is the purpose of this entire policy? I believe that staffing and proper training is the real issue here, and I am optimistic that after hearing our opinions and thoughts, Chandra and Stephanie will be addressing that. I would also like to see the "old" front desk opened with either Stephanie or the new hire stationed there. A stronger presence of staff throughout the facility is needed overall. Thank you for your time.

~Cena Worhatch

> On Jul 29, 2019, at 2:10 PM, Cena Worhatch <cena76@gmail.com> wrote:

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> Good afternoon,

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> I am writing as a concerned citizen of Petersburg with elementary school-aged children. I have heard only through Facebook posts from friends that Petersburg Parks and Recreation is considering implementing an age limit on when children can attend the facility unattended. This email is to voice my disagreement not only for my own children, but for many others in the community who benefit from its use. I have paid hundreds of dollars in swim lesson fees to that facility, to prepare my children for a life around water. To be told that nope, they can't use the facility that my family continues to pay fees and taxes towards, is very concerning to me. I hope there will be a time for public comment, I can't imagine

the loss of revenue this would cause has not been discussed? Hours have already been cut drastically and now there is potential for kids 11 and under to not be able to attend at all? Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to hearing this be publicly addressed soon.

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> Cena Worhatch

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