



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

THRU: Chris Shorter, Assistant City Manager

FROM: Kimberly A. McNeeley, CPRP, Director
Austin Parks and Recreation Department

DATE: October 17, 2019

SUBJECT: Swim ATX Program Expansion

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide information on the expansion of the Swim ATX program, and how it will continue to benefit the Austin Parks and Recreation Department's Aquatic Division.

The Aquatics Division is pleased to announce Big Stacy pool will now serve Akins High School beginning January 21, 2020 through May 29, 2020. The Aquatics Division continues to negotiate an opportunity to have Travis High School students participate in the Swim ATX program during the same time period, but will need additional time to formalize the agreement. With the implementation of the Swim ATX expansion at Big Stacy Pool, the current hours of pool operation will be modified with minimal disruption to the public.

SWIM ATX Program

Background: Swim ATX is a partnership program that includes the Aquatic Division, the YMCA, and the Austin Independent School District. Swim ATX is a semester-long program that runs thru both the fall and spring school semesters. Currently, Swim ATX is offering the fall 2019 program to Northeast High School students (formerly Reagan). The students receive P.E. credit upon completion of the program after attending swim classes twice a week at Bartholomew Pool and the Eastside Communities YMCA.

The YMCA and the Aquatic Division each provide two (2) instructors to teach the course. All students are invited to participate, and are not required to have any prior swimming experience. The instructors are responsible for teaching basic water safety and swimming skills. As the semester progresses students build and strengthen their swimming skills, the class workouts become more rigorous to help prepare students for the Lifeguard Certification class at the end of the semester. After students pass the lifeguard certification exam and complete the hiring process, they are offered an opportunity to work as a lifeguard for the City of Austin or the YMCA. Since the program's inaugural season in the spring 2015, the program has taught 350 Austin Independent School District students of which 80 have become employed as Aquatic Division lifeguards.

Big Stacy Pool Logistics: The Aquatic Division currently operates five (5) year-round facilities in the City of Austin, and three (3) of these pools are also heated (Bartholomew, Big Stacy, and Springwoods). Big Stacy Pool is the only year-round, heated pool in South Austin. By adding Big Stacy Pool to the

Swim ATX program curriculum, Akins High School, and possibly Travis High School, will now be able to participate in this important work force development program and thereby serving more of the Austin community.

Big Stacy Pool will modify its current hours of operation by closing on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00am – 12:00pm during the spring school semester in order to accommodate the Swim ATX program. Aquatic staff report that using these particular days and hours for the program will cause the least amount of impact and disruption for the patrons of Big Stacy Pool.

The Department will create signs to help advertise the new pool hours of operation and this information will be posted well in advance. Standard website notification will also be completed. Should any unforeseen issues occur at Big Stacy Pool, students will also have access to the Hays County YMCA as an alternative site which is located about 15 minutes from Akins High School.

The modified hours of Stacy Pool could possibly be extended to the fall 2020 semester contingent on the success of the Swim ATX Program expansion during the spring 2020 semester. The Aquatic Division will evaluate the program and provide recommendations at the conclusion of the spring 2020 semester.

Should you have any questions, please contact Jodi Jay, Aquatic Division Manager at (512) 974-9459, or email at jodi.jay@austintexas.gov.

Cc: Spencer Cronk, City Manager
Nuria Rivera-Vandermyde, Deputy City Manager