

JOINT POOL COMMITTEE

October 16, 2025

Rec Center Conference Room | 110 E 13th St.

Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm.

Attendees included:

Stephanie Houk Sheetz, Director of Community Development
Mike Soppe, Recreation & Community Programs Manager
Mickey Devine, Recreation Programs Supervisor
Justin Urbanek, Activities Director
Denelle Gonnerman, Chief Financial Officer
Chris Thome, Building and Grounds Director

Agenda Revisions

None.

Minutes

The minutes of the September 8, 2025 meeting were briefly reviewed. Soppe motioned to approve. Gonnerman seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Construction Updates

Pool length verification has been completed and dimensions were confirmed to be compliant. Thome will share a copy with Devine, so the City also has record of this if questions are posed to either entity.

Update on supplies and remaining improvements installations occurred: Lockers were installed last Friday. Remaining furniture to be delivered 10/22 and installed: seating at concessions, tables for team room & a trophy case. Miller fence has yet to work in the storage area, but that will occur next week. Bleachers for the deck are to be loaded 10/15-10/17, possibly arriving the following week. Installation should take 1-2 days. Wheelchair stops were discussed and Invision is working on a solution. Safety supplies are ok. There may be items to mount on the wall, after signs are installed.

Donor & recognition signage designs are underway. Urbanek reported the design will match that used in the stadium area to recognize donations for certain areas of the facility. Wall graphic sign design is still underway.

District staff reported that they are working to identify a solution on the concern of marking/flags for backstroke practice, so it can occur concurrently with diving practice. More to come.

Schedule for Pool Use

The Committee discussed concerns and challenges with the use schedule. It was agreed that more discussion is needed to better meet the intent expressed to the community about joint use of the facility (at the same time). **Urbanek will set a meeting with Cliff, Melissa, & Mickey to work further on the District & BLAST practice times.** Distractions of the younger kids or even between male & female users are some of the concerns. The group discussed how

BLAST might be able to use the smaller pool to get started with practice earlier and perhaps some rules to reduce distractions need to be put in place. Diving practice is hard if the small pool is in use, as the divers will see that behind them in their field of vision. Is a divider needed? Is that possible? There was discussion about lap swim occurring during swim team practice, in the mornings (to allow early bird lap swim to return to M-W-F). It would need to be understood that music & microphone use would be occurring. There is concern about outside judgement of practice. It was agreed to try a new schedule in about 3 weeks, after women's swim season is completed.

Communications of schedule & rental scheduling were discussed. Rentals will follow the same process as they have been, scheduling through Rec. There will be a need to increase communications internally (meaning this group) for events occurring. For external communications, if it's a City program then the City releases information, if it's a District program then the District releases information. If we feel an item overlaps, then coordination internally before external communication, is best. We may need to consult our communications staff too.

Start up & Operations Budget Estimates

No information.

Transition Discussion

Thome noted the District is working on remote access to the mechanical room and to have a screen showing the status of the mechanicals/chemicals for easier monitoring. He asked what keys the City may need and talked about tailoring fob access for the City. There are 5 doors with fobs. **Mickey & Chris will talk more on access needed.**

CAT Grant Close Out

The group reviewed the project elements described in Exhibit B of the CAT grant. It was confirmed all items are in place as required. In an after meeting follow up, the seating was confirmed at: 550.

Invision Architects: There are enough permanent bleachers for 322 on the east side above the locker rooms. Given we removed the additional permanent risers (seating for 100), there is enough room to place 4 sections of portable bleachers behind the permanent bleachers. This would increase the capacity by approximately 130. The same approach can be used in the flex area at the south end of the pool with enough room for 3 sections of the portable bleachers, adding approximately 100 more. In total, there is enough room for potential seating for 550 people.

Pool Name

Sheetz briefly reviewed concerns she has heard over references to the facility. She explained some background on several grants obtained for the project that, were it not for a heavy focus on city and community use, a grant would have been unlikely. Both City and District have reviewed their websites to ensure any reference to the facility is "Community Natatorium." Using "natatorium" for short also works. In press releases we will state Community Natatorium at Cedar Falls High School or list the address rather than school name.

Snow Removal

There was discussion about the extent of plowing that may or may not be needed on typical weekends versus an event weekend. Thome is working to define for a contract on snow removal. He asked about ability to cost share if a special plow is needed, on a non-school day.

Next Meeting

It was agreed November 13, 2025 at 10:00 am at the high school worked for the next meeting.

Topics: None initially identified.

Adjournment

Gonnerman motioned to adjourn, Soppe seconded it. Adjournment unanimously approved at 2:30 pm.