

MINUTES



SRSA Board, Special Meeting

Monday, May 5th, 2025

<u>Piper Paulish</u>	<u>Vacant</u>	<u>Valisa Higman</u>	<u>Elizabeth Diamant</u>	<u>Jenifer Cameron</u>
Seat A	Seat B	Seat C	Seat D	Seat E
		Secretary/Treasurer	Chair	

- A. Call to Order: 5:10
- B. Roll Call: Piper, Valisa, Elizabeth, Jenifer, Lisa (Staff), Community members in person: Paul Czeko, Ronene Gain, Laurel Hilts, Randi Sweet, Tania Spurkland, Sherri Burt, Mariah Turner, Kathleen Gruber, Elena Chartier, Heidi Geagel, Mike Druce, Trinket Gallien, Jen Swick, Henry Kroll, Mary Anne Wilson, Jen Gordon

Via zoom: Crystal Collier, Vicky Selinger, unknown iphone user, Willy Dunne (Borough Assembly member)
- C. Approval of Agenda:

Lisa asks if the board wants to cancel the meeting scheduled for tomorrow and change the next meeting to our scheduled June meeting. Board agrees that all other items can wait until the June 3rd meeting.

 - ☐. **MOTION:** Approve agenda as amended: Jenifer moves, Valisa seconds
 - ☐. **VOTE:** No objections agenda approved
- D. Approval of Minutes from March 4th, 2025

Postponed until June 3rd meeting
- E. Public Presentations and Requests:

none
- F. Reports

Postponed until June 3rd meeting

G. Old Business

☐ Possible Susan B English Pool closure

G.1.a. Community thoughts on SRSA supporting a .25 mil rate increase to the service area. This would be an increase for FY26 to help sustain current staffing and infrastructure while long-term funding can be found.

G.1.a.1. Liz: met with Lyons from the school district and it seems that a long-term solution will have to be found with the district cutting funding for pools. This might be a cooperative effort between the Borough, City, SRSA and other entities. In the short term the district might work with us if we can come up with funding to help out with the pool but the pool could remain under school district management while we work out a long term solution.

G.1.a.2. Lisa: The school district says as it the pool costs \$96,000 to run. This is an estimate of the cost of the pool manager and utilities. Lifeguards and chemicals are paid for by revenue from the pool. We currently have a .75 mil rate to run the SOCC but can raise that by .25 without taking it to a vote. We currently use our entire budget to run programming at the SOCC including the pottery classes at the school shop and the ice rink. This meeting is to assess community support for the SRSA helping in the short term while a long term solution is found. Right now we have 2 certified pool managers, a lifeguard staff, local use is up with SVT helping with swim lessons, and we want to keep the momentum going and don't want to lose everything we have gained over the last year.

G.1.a.3. Tania Spurkland asks if these changes could mean we could keep the pool open in the summer? Lisa says in the short term the main issues with staying open in the summer are staffing issues as the custodian and pool manager both have other summer jobs. This isn't to say that in the long term we couldn't have a different schedule for the pool if it is no longer a school pool but a community pool.

G.1.a.4. Trinket Gallien: What are the actual costs of the pool seeing it was closed for a period of time this year. Did the

money budgeted for this last year just disappear, or can that roll over into our budget for this coming year.

G.1.a.5. Jen Swick says she has tried contacting several people at the district to get an answer to that question, and she hasn't gotten an answer.

G.1.a.6. Trinket also expresses frustration about the yo-yo effect of the district constantly saying they are going to close the pool, then they aren't going to, and then they are again but aren't really giving the community time to come up with a concrete plan.

G.1.a.7. Laural Hilts says the district has made it clear they don't want to fund pools at all. She felt the attitude seemed very dismissive of Seldovia's arguments in favor of the pool.

G.1.a.8. Trinket: The school is a huge part of our community, and the pool is an important asset. She would be willing to participate if there was a group working to secure funding.

G.1.a.9. Paul Cziko points out that keeping the pool open longer in the summer could increase revenue from the pool.

G.1.a.10. Kathleen Gruber adds that a community run pool could network with other entities to increase pool revenue. For example partnering with the SVT clinic to offer rehab services in the pool, or having visiting schools pay to utilize the pool while they are here. Kathleen also wants to stress that we shouldn't give up before defeat.

G.1.a.11. Sherri Burt stresses the importance of the pool for seniors in the community. She says she has a property tax exemption as a senior, but would donate and fundraise to support the pool. She saw how important the pool was when it closed during COVID and she could see how quickly some of the older users declined during that time.

G.1.a.12. Elena Chartier: As a parent, if the SRSA can help us keep the pool open while we find extra money, it is massively important to keep the pool open. It is both a recreational resource and also it is so important for the kids to learn to swim and be safe around the water.

G.1.a.13. Crystal Collier wonders if there is any extra money in the SRSA budget and says she doesn't understand the SOCC budget. She feels the pool usage is higher than the SOCC usage so it should be prioritized.

G.1.a.14. Paul feels the mill increase would need to have tangible results otherwise it might sew ill will if there is an increase and the pool still closes.

G.1.a.15. Willy Dunne says the mill rate can go back down if the pool doesn't open.

G.1.a.16. Laurel: What do other districts do to fund their pools?

G.1.a.17. Heidi Geagel knows that Anchorage Parks and Rec run most of their pools. Heidi says the school district feels they told Seldovia that we needed to find alternative funding but we haven't found a solution. They think we should have been working on a solution since the last time they talked about closing the pool. Now they are saying they don't want to run pools at all.

G.1.a.18. Laural feels it is unfair to the community that the school district seems to be saying that we didn't do anything to solve the pool funding issue when Seldovia showed their full support in 2018 when this came up last time. She feels the borough mayor isn't trying to find a solution either.

G.1.a.19. Trinket is concerned that we will raise the money and keep the pool open but the district will still be calling all the shots and telling us what we can do with the pool.

G.1.a.20. Willy says that Seldovia has some advantages that places like Ninilchik does not have. We have the SRSA and a city government as well as a long history of community support and use of the pool. The Borough is in a tough place with state budget shortfalls. Hopefully a short-term interim boost to funding with a .25 mil rate increase will show that the community is supportive and committed to finding a solution. Willy wants to see if the community is supportive of this mill rate increase as bridge funding to keep the pool open until long term funding is secured. The school district is looking at drastic

cuts including possible school closures. It is a big heart wrenching problem.

G.1.a.21. Randi Sweet, even if we get the money from the mill rate increase, we estimate that to bring in about \$25,000. Where will the other \$75,000 come from? Is the district willing to supply the rest of the money?

G.1.a.22. Willy says the Borough Assembly can't make these decisions for the school district. The community and the SRSA would have to work with the school district directly to figure that out.

G.1.a.23. Laurel wonders if we can use the money left in the budget for this year due to the pool opening later in the year due to staffing issues. In 2018 when the community voted to keep the pool open with SRSA funding the SOCC had less programming and assets. The situation has changed a lot since then.

G.1.a.24. Tania: The SOCC is a great community asset and we don't want to lose that.

G.1.a.25. Willy wants to see if the SRSA, with community support, would recommend a .25mil rate increase to provide funding for the pool.

☒ **MOTION:** Valisa Higman moves that the SRSA request the Assembly consider a .25 mill rate increase as a way to support continued operations of the pool until a long-term funding solution can be found. . Jenifer seconds

☒ **VOTE:** No objections motion passes

☐ The board asks Lisa if she can write a letter to the Assembly expressing the SRSA's Motion and community support.

H. New Business: none

I. Public Comments: none

J. Board Comments: none

K. Announcement of Next Meeting: June 3rd, 2025 at 5:15pm

L. Adjournment

2. **MOTION:** Valisa moves to adjourn, Jenifer seconds

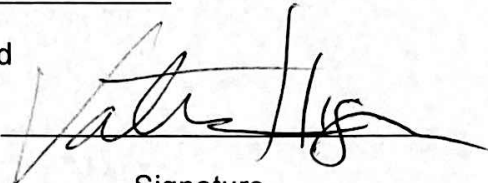
2. **VOTE:** No objections

Meeting adjourns at 6:30

Minutes approved on 6/3/25

By Seldovia Recreational Service Area Board

Affirmed by SRSA Secretary, Valisa Higman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Valisa Higman', is written over a horizontal line.

Signature