clerks@guamlegislature.org

From: Speaker's Office <speaker@guamlegislature.org>
Sent: Monday, January 4, 2021 8:15 AM
To: Clerks Office
Cc: Rennae Meno
Subject: M&C Fwd: Close Out Letter on the progress of the Department of Parks and Recreation
Attachments: DPR Close Out Letter_SenKMT_210103.pdf; Committee Oversight Findings Pools re Hagatna Dededo_02_07_20.pdf

12/31/20	5:17 PM	01/03/21	Close Out Letter on the progress of the Department of Parks and Recreation.*	Office of Senator Kelly Marsh (Taitano), PhD.	35GL-20-2579

Sinseru yan Minagåhet,

Office of the Speaker • Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Committee on Public Accountability, Human Resources & the Guam Buildup

35th Guam Legislature
I Mina'trentai Singko na Liheslaturan Guåhan

Guam Congress Building | 163 Chalan Santo Papa | Hagatna, GU 96910
T: (671) 477-2520/1
speaker@guamlegislature.org

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Gumai pribilehu yan konfedensia este siha na mensåhi. Solo espesiåtmente para hågu ma entensioña pat ma aturisa para unrisibi. Sen prubidu kumu ti un ma aturisa para manribisa, na'setbe, pat mandespåtcha. Yanggen lachi rinisibu-mu nu este na mensåhi , put fabot ago' guatu gi I numa'huyong gi as speaker@guamlegislature.org yan despues destrosa todu siha I kopian mensåhi. Si Yu'os ma'åse'.

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Office of Senator Kelly Marsh (Taitano), PhD.** <office.senatorkelly@guamlegislature.org>
Date: Sun, Jan 3, 2021 at 5:17 PM
Subject: Close Out Letter on the progress of the Department of Parks and Recreation
To: Speaker's Office <speaker@guamlegislature.org>
Cc: Roque Alcantara <roque.alcantara@dpr.guam.gov>, Office of Senator Kelly Marsh (Taitano), PhD. <office.senatorkelly@guamlegislature.org>

Manana si Yu'os Speaker,

Pls see attached files.

si Sinadora Kelly Marsh (Taitano)

Office of Senator Kelly Marsh (Taitano), PhD
Committee on Heritage and the Arts, Parks, Guam Products, Hagåtna Revitalization, Self-Determination, and Regional Affairs
I Mina'trentai Singko na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 35th Guam Legislature
Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtna, Guam 96910
Telephone: (671) 989-5681/2

January 03, 2021

To: Speaker Tina Muña Barnes
163 Chalan Santo Papa Street
Hagåtña, 96910, Guam

Subject: Close Out Letter regarding the progress of the Department of Parks and Recreation

Håfa Adai Speaker Muña Barnes,

Un dångkolo' na si Yu'os ma'åse for serving as Vice-Chair of the Committee on Heritage and the Arts, Parks, Guam Products, Hagåtña Revitalization, Self-Determination, and Regional Affairs including your support of the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) throughout this 35th Legislative term.

While there is still a lot of work before DPR to build itself up so that it can more fully meet its mandates and needs of the community, as Committee Chair, I am pleased to note that there has been substantive progress by DPR in general and specifically to address the findings of the oversight hearings held earlier this year (see attached).

Owing to the commitment and support by *I Maga'håga Guåhan*, for the first time in many years, DPR has an empaneled board to guide the Department. *I Maga'håga* very thoughtfully empaneled the Board with those that have lengthy relationships to the park and recreational facilities. This first-hand experience and intimate knowledge of the needs of those that DPR serves, I believe, will serve DPR and our community well. They have expressed some ways to increase the much-needed revenue that DPR can generate as well.

The Committee has had numerous meetings with the DPR Director and various types of hearings on DPR over this term. The Committee has heard the vision and commitment of DPR Director Alcantara, Deputy Director Villagomez, Board members, and staff for tackling the issues at hand and improving the Department going forward. The mandate of DPR is immense and the challenges are many, at the same time, the staff are few and some of the previous options, such as maintenance labor provided by the Department of Corrections are stalled during this pandemic. Further, the community is in need of the repair of the Dededo pool complex and a new, Olympic-sized pool. While this Committee has given DPR some additional tools to work with such as the ability to develop maintenance and patrol officer volunteer programs, I hope for the continued support and commitment of *I Maga'håga Guåhan* and the 36th Legislature to find ways to augment the financial and other much-needed support to DPR so that it may rebuild itself to a stable condition with which it can better meet its mandates and thus serve the community well.

Senseramente,

Senator Kelly Marsh (Taitano)
Assistant Majority Leader

cc: DPR Director Alcantara
Board of Commission Members

February 11, 2020

Subject: Committee Findings for Oversight Hearing held on February 07, 2020 on the Department of Parks and Recreation regarding the Dededo and Hagåtña pools

GENERAL FINDINGS

- No legislative committee had oversight of the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) during the 2017-2018 term even though the pool had recurring closures during that time.
- The 2014 assessment of Hagåtña pool issues totaling $1.8 million appears to have largely not been implemented. The DPR Director became aware of this assessment Feb. 2019 and had been purportedly updating it but did not notify the Committee of its existence.
- A third party has been recently subcontracted to provide updated machinery and chemical treatments to both the Hagåtña and Dededo pools. The third-party contractor was reported to have an extensive and successful experience in providing these services and supplies.
- A new, nationally certified pool operator, who has some previous experience with our public pools, was said to be hired last Friday by the pool maintenance service contractor.
- The current contract for pool maintenance services, the performance of which has been widely criticized, ends in April. As Committee Chair, Sen. Marsh (Taitano) requested the DPR Director to begin the RFP process for the new pool service contract and has called for a written assessment of the company's performance since January 2019.

THE DEDEDO POOL

- The Dededo pool was closed since September 2017 and reopened on February 22, 2019.
- A new pump was said to have been installed. An additional, back up pump exists.
- The sand filtration system was reported to be operational.
- The backwash controller was stated to have not been used for numerous months as it had been assessed to be non-operational. Manual backwashing was reported to have been occurring at least once a week. The backwash controller was said to have been tested several times the week of the oversight hearing and was assessed to be operational other than a malfunctioning gauge.
- A gauge was identified the week of the oversight hearing as malfunctioning; replacement was reported to take 2 or more weeks; and identification and procurement of the gauge was said to be on-going.
- As advised by Public Health officials, the pool was reported to have been drained last weekend at 50% before the water was re-treated.

- Updated machinery (pulsar feeder) and chemical treatments were reported to have been installed and assessed to have previously been effective. The pulsar feeder was said to automatically adjust the chemical balance of the pool. The pool water was reported to no longer be green or murky.
- Testing of the pool water was said by the DPR Director to now occur three (3) times a day during sunlit hours.
- Pool lights were reported as needing to be replaced.
- DPR was requested by Committee Chair Sen. Marsh (Taitano) to do an assessment of Dededo pool assets to help assure that the pool is in good working order.

THE HAGÅTÑA POOL

- The pool was closed on November 24, 2018 and remained closed at the beginning of the administrative term with an outstanding $900k water bill and system leaks.
- The outstanding water bill was reported as fully paid on March 25, 2019. The pool and system leaks were made operational with the pool re-opening on September 7, 2019.
- The sand filtration system was said to currently operate at only twenty percent (20%). Replacement of the sand filtration system has been initiated and is ongoing. Replacement and installation is estimated to take 4 or more months. A request was made to explore carrying out emergency procurement to speed up the process.
- Alternate swimming pools have been sought for swim team practices. Committee Chair Senator Marsh (Taitano) has conveyed this request to Joint Region Marianas and, along with Director Ybanez, to the private sector. Requests are still under review.
- The installment of updated machinery (pulsar feeder) and chemical treatments was stated by the DPR Director to be ongoing and scheduled to be completed the week of the oversight hearing. The pulsar feeder is said to automatically adjust the chemical balance of the pool.
- Testing of the pool water was said by the DPR Director to now occur three (3) times a day during sunlit hours.
- A new pump was reported as having been installed for the pool water aeration system. It is expected to be operational the weekend of the oversight hearing or shortly thereafter.
- An assessment was reported to have been made that once the pulsar feeder and new chemical treatments are in place, the pool may be able to be operational with close monitoring until the new sand filtration system is installed.

COMMITTEE AND OVERSIGHT HEARING PANEL REQUESTS

- Committee Chair Senator Marsh (Taitano) requested that the DPR Director provide daily updates on the pools.
- Committee Chair Senator Marsh (Taitano) and Committee Member Senator Lee requested that the DPR Director improve its communication with its oversight committee so that DPR issues can be addressed more immediately.

- DPR needs to review, improve, and apply higher standards for pool operation and maintenance, including the management of the contract for pool maintenance services.
- DPR needs to have a regular assessment of the contract for pool maintenance services work in place to better ensure that issues are identified and addressed immediately.
- DPR needs to be actively working on updating the 2014 pool Hagåtña assessment.
- Committee Chair Senator Marsh (Taitano) requested that the DPR Director work on resolving current issues associated with the purchase of pool passes.
- On behalf of the Committee, Senator Marsh (Taitano) has written a letter to the Director of DPR requesting several corrective actions to occur immediately.
- Committee Chair Senator Marsh (Taitano) asked the swimming groups to identify representatives who can stay in close communication with her office regarding pool issues.

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