

September 12, 2023

Committee for the Methow
Aquatic Center: Friends of the Pool
PO Box 438
Twisp, WA 98856

Washington Public Disclosure Commission
Evergreen Plaza, 711 Capitol Way S #206
Olympia, WA 98504

Attn: Kurt Young

Dear Kurt,

This letter is in response to the complaint filed on August 24, 2023 by Glen Morgan against the Committee for the Methow Aquatic Center (sponsored by Friends of the Pool). The complaint alleges that the Committee violated RCW 42.17A.235 and .240 by failing to timely file C-3 and C-4 reports disclosing contribution and expenditure activities undertaken by the Committee this year.

I, Jessica Kuzma, am serving as the Committee treasurer and am responsible for timely and accurate filing of C-3 and C-4 reports. The late filings and failure to accurately disclose debt were oversights on my part. As a volunteer and first-time treasurer on a PAC, I can attest that the violations were a result of my inexperience using the expense filing system and prioritization of other Committee tasks thereby letting the reporting deadlines slip my attention. Sincerely, the oversights were neither nefarious nor malicious in nature and were not intended to deceive the public about debts accrued by the Committee.

The Committee is a volunteer group who are all serving on a PAC for the first time. Our committee formed in May 2023 to organize and carry out tasks required to place a measure on the November 2023 ballot. Our goal is to ask voters whether they will support the formation of a Metropolitan Park District (MPD), a taxing district to fund operations for an Aquatics Center in the Methow Valley. The majority of our Committee's time and energy during the summer of 2023 went into creating the ballot measure language and gathering the required number of petition signatures from registered voters in the district to allow the measure to appear on the ballot. During that time, we sought council from Pacifica Law Group, a firm specializing in drafting interlocal agreements, reviewing requirements for MPD board formation, and advising

on levy limits and banked capacity. The firm had been providing consultation through May 2023, with their first invoice to Friends of the Pool dated June 6, 2023.

Our PAC opened a bank account on May 12, 2023, with funds from our sponsor Friends of the Pool. Throughout June and July 2023, our Committee prioritized petition-gathering activities, knowing that if we didn't reach the signature limit of registered voters, the ballot measure would not be eligible to appear on the ballot. On July 25, 2023, we received official word from Okanogan County elections that our petition received sufficient signatures and would be placed on the November 2023 ballot. On August 15, 2023, I filed (the then overdue) C-4 reports for June and July.

On our June 2023 C-4, I reported the expenditure for the Pacifica Law group (invoice date June 6, 2023) instead of reporting it as debt in May 2023, when the services were provided. This was an oversight due to my unfamiliarity with the reporting system, and I now understand that such services must be reported at the time they are provided.

In closing, I take responsibility for these violations and assure you that they were mistakes made without malicious intent. Thank you for considering the circumstances of our newly formed Committee, uncertainty at our formation about whether our measure would appear on the ballot, and the inexperience of a first-time PAC treasurer with navigating the filing system. Moving forward, contribution and expenditure activities will be filed on time, and I will ensure any debts are reported in alignment with dates of services rendered.

Thank you for your understanding and please let me know if you need additional information or documentation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JK' with a stylized flourish.

Jessica Kuzma, Treasurer

Committee for the Methow Aquatic Center, sponsored by Friends of the Pool