

Sammamish Community Center Feasibility Study

Meeting Summary – Joint Meeting with City Council and Parks Commission, March 8, 2011

Note: These notes capture the project discussion only. For notes regarding other items on the agenda and full public comment, please refer to the Council Meeting minutes.

Present for Discussion:

City Council: Don Gerend, Tom Odell, John Curley, John James, Nancy Whitten, Mark Cross, Michele Petitti

Parks Commission: Larry Crandall, Mary Doerrer, Rena Brady, John T. James, Pauline Cantor, Hank Klein, Steve Wright

Staff: Pete Butkus, Jessi Richardson, Linda Frkuska, Anjali Myer

Introduction:

Jessi Richardson, Director of Parks & Recreation introduced the Feasibility Study Project and BRS Architecture, the prime consultant from Denver, Colorado.

BRS Architecture introduced their team, consisting of the following attendees:

- Craig Bouck and Keith Hayes, BRS Architecture, Prime Consultant
- Ken Ballard, Ballard King Associates, Community Recreation Marketing Specialists
- Doug Whiteaker, Water Technology Inc., Aquatic Specialists

Presentation of the components of a Feasibility Study : Refer to slide presentation posted online

Hopes, Dreams, Fears Discussion:

1. Larry Crandall
Hope: Guidelines from the study will encompass needs and wants of community
Vision: Manageable program, facility that is accessible, adaptable, expandable; one that caters to all ages, cultures, and lifestyles
Fear: The facility will not be built
2. Mary Doerrer
Hope: The facility is something that works for our community
Fear: How will we pay for the facility and how will we maintain it?
3. Mark Cross
Hope: Good sense of flow of people moving through spaces
Fear: A facility that relates to local (climate) needs
4. Rena Brady
Hope: That the community center is built and that it includes an aquatic component
Fear: How the process will be able to solicit input from everyone
5. Nancy Whitten
Hope: To build a Recreational aquatic facility, a place for kids to learn swimming; less interested in a gym

Fear: Operational costs of pools particularly competitive pools are high

6. Steve Wright

Hope: To see the project through fruition

Dream: Bring community together

Fear: The facility will work great for a few years but may not be flexible enough to meet changes uses and needs after that

7. John Curley

Hope: That the process is open and that the citizens make the decision on whether to build or not or what to build

Fear: Council will have to make the decision

8. John T. James

Hope: Community Center will be a vital part of the community and that it will include an aquatic component

Fear: Large drain on budget

9. Pauline Cantor

Hope: Kids will finally have a place for their activities on the plateau

Fear: Facility may end up being too big or not big enough

10. Tom Odell

Hope: Feasibility Study is a transparent and open process and that the concept plan caters to all ages and demographics

Fear: May not succeed in catering to a wide enough group, or have a broad base of acceptance

11. Don Gerend

Hope: It will be a family friendly place for social gatherings and activities.

The center will cater to other ethnicities and that it will be able to expand over time.

A public vote will be taken to decide on building the facility.

Fear: We won't think out of the box enough to make this happen

12. Hank Klein

Hope: Community gathering space

Fear: Some desirable amenities might not end up being included because of high maintenance costs

13. Michele Petitti

Hope: It serves as a gathering place for a diverse community with different cultural interests

Fear: It will need substantial remodeling after 15 years. Concern that only 25% of feasibility studies end up getting built.

14. John James

Fear: Concern that amenities will overlap with the new Boys & Girls Club Recreation Center or other facilities on the plateau.

Hope: The City will work with a private partner.

15. Pete Butkus

Hope: Process works well

Dream: Facility will get built

Fear: None

Presentation on components of a Community Center: Refer to slide presentation posted online

Discussion on 'What defines Sammamish?'

1. Kids
2. Diversity
3. Single Family Homes
4. Success
5. Trees and the Environment
6. Excellent schools
7. Residential Community (not commercial)
8. New City – 10 years
9. North and South zip codes of the City are distinct
10. No Post Office
11. Proximity to Work and Nature
12. Safe
13. 12th best place to live
14. One-third of the population is less than 18; 3 high schools with 3800 kids
15. Churches – and different ethnicities

Input on 'What else should be considered?'

1. Ease of access or lack thereof – travel time to potential facility
2. Talk to school districts – 2 public/1 private
3. Avoid duplication with the Boys & Girls Club Recreation Center
4. Speak to Rotary, Kiwanis about existing youth programs
5. Talk to PTSAs
6. Look at potential Partnerships with Redmond, Issaquah

Public Comment

There were two public comments related to the Feasibility Study from Clint Scott and Skip Safford. Please refer to the Council Meeting Minutes for details.