



Centre Region Council of Governments
CENTRE REGION PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
CENTRE REGIONAL RECREATION AUTHORITY

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Serving the Borough of State College and the Townships of College, Ferguson, Harris and Patton

William L. Welch Community Swimming Pool Renewal
COMMUNITY MEETING #3 SUMMARY
Thursday, 15 Jan 09, 7:00 PM at COG Building

I. Welcome & Introductions

Mr. Ronald Woodhead, CRPR Director, provided an introduction and welcome. He then turned the meeting over to Mr. Todd Roth, CRPR Aquatics Supervisor.

II. The Pool Renewal Process

Mr. Roth introduced the consultants: Scot Hunsaker from Councilman-Hunsaker Associates in St. Louis, MO and Mr. Alan Popovich from HP Architects LLP in Boalsburg, PA., and Todd Smith from ELA,. Mr. Roth then gave some background and history information - where we started, where the funding comes from, where we are, and where we are going in relation to the Welch Pool Renewal.

He stated that the first two community meetings were held in 2007 and the selection of Concept Option #3 was approved by the five municipalities in November 2007 with a not-to-exceed cost of \$5.4 million. Funding for the pool is through state grant assistance for Master Site Plan and construction, municipal contribution, and private donations. There has also been public meetings and discussion with the SCASD for shared parking, ADA spaces, drop-off area, and shared use of the bathhouse.

The remaining tasks for the Renewal are: Complete the Master Site Plan and seek municipal and state approvals, Prepare detailed plans and bid documents, Seek bids and award contracts, Start construction Aug. 3; new pool opens May 30, 2010

III. Presentation of Proposed Master Site Plan for Wm. L. Welch Community Pool:

Mr. Hunsaker shared previous information that was considered including the five concepts presented. He then shared the proposed Master Site Plan and updated demographic and budget numbers. He reviewed the features that are in the design showing three separate programming areas. Mr. Popovich stated there are three things that help to determine what could be placed on the site:

1) parking would be shared with the SCASD off the pool site. This allowed the entire pool site to be used for features.

2) storm water, circulation of vehicle traffic, changing to a corner spot that the features of the pool area are visible from the street.

3) topography of the area

He talked about moving the bike path so that the site could be used more effectively. He also indicated that the entry would be off Westerly Parkway with the school district entry to the school.

He then pointed out the area that is still under discussion with the State College Area School District. He emphasized the ADA parking, drop off and reviewed each feature on the design.

Ms. Bevilacqua was asked if there were bleachers. Mr. Popovich stated that because of the topography there could be natural sitting on the sloping area beside the pool.

Mrs. Albert asked what the seating capacity would be. Mr. Popovich indicated that as the pool is developed they will know how much seating will be available. Mr. Hunsaker indicated that it is situated facing Northeast so that the sun would not be in the face of the spectators in late day.

Mr. Hunsaker then reviewed the different areas of the pool site. He indicated that the site is very balanced with three areas to meet the needs of recreation aquatics, competitive, and even a place for seniors. Mr. Mascolo asked where the zero entry starts. Mr. Hunsaker indicated where that would be in the pool area and noted that it would be concrete..

Ms. Hirsch asked Mr. Hunsaker if he could explain what the structures are in the recreation pool. He reviewed several possibilities include an interactive spray feature, slide, spray pad. He also indicated that the grand staircase would be a great place for teaching. Ms. Hirsch asked if you had a young child who wanted to jump into the parents arms, where would that be able to take place. He suggested the zero entry level area but it would be up to the rules of

the pool.

Mr. Woodhead asked how deep the current channel would be. Mr. Hunsaker related that he thinks it would be about 3'6".

Ms. Bevilacqua asked Mr. Hunsaker to explain what the snack area would look like. Mr. Hunsaker indicated that it is about 350 square feet. There is no provision for an exhaust hood, etc.; it is more of a distribution point than a kitchen. Mr. Popovich noted that it is a covered area with the distribution towards the back, it could be expanded in the future if needed.. Mr. Roth related that 350 sq ft is about three times bigger than the SPRA concession area.

Mr. Mascolo asked the difference in the two slides; Mr. Hunsaker indicated that it was speed and explained how the loops worked in the slide. Ms. Hirsch asked what the circular area was. Mr. Hunsaker said it was landscaping, a area for people to "hang out".

Mr. Hunsaker reviewed the updated demographic numbers and the operation numbers including projected visitation, salaries, fee schedules, etc. He also indicated that a capital replacement fund should be set aside to be ready for any replacement needs in the future.

Mr. Mascolo asked about the rates. Mr. Hunsaker indicated there is a break for people when they buy a season pass. Ms. Hirsch liked the design calling it thoughtful; she likes the green space. Her concern is how firm is the fact that the pool is staying where it is. Is it a done deal? Mr. Woodhead indicated that no it is not yet a done deal. It will not be a done deal until we have the signed parking agreement (between the school district and the Authority) and approval from the COG/Authority. Mr. Hunsaker asked if another site was being studied? Mr. Woodhead indicated that another site has been mentioned but none have been studied.

Ms. Bevilacqua asked if the costs projected for the pool include the costs for moving the bike path. The answer was yes, it does include those costs; however, it does not include the traffic mitigation that is on Westerly Parkway. What needs to happen for this to be a done deal? Is there a timeline? Mr. Woodhead related that the school district has indicated they want to resolve so they can approve the agreement at their January 26, 2009 meeting. He also said that we need to move quickly so that the bid documents can be sent out and approved so everything is ready to start construction on August 4, 2009 so the pool will be ready to open on Memorial Day 2010. Ms. Bevilacqua asked if the school board signs the agreement is it then done. Mr. Woodhead said that the agreement must be reached between the school board and the municipalities.

Ms. Hirsch asked if the status of the State budget would impact this project. Mr. Woodhead indicated it would not because we have a grant contract for \$375,000 and we have three years to complete this project. We also have a loan for this project. She asked what the school board meeting date was. Mr. Woodhead indicated January 26, 2009.

Ms. Albert asked if the older adults come into the pool do they have to go through the sprinklers, etc. to get to the pool they want to use. Mr. Albert asked if the shallow is 3' - Mr. Roth said 3'6". She asked if they needed more depth for children to dive off the side? Mr Hunsaker indicated this was a grey area -he said that many states have different depth requirements. There is no industry standard but the trend is deeper. They suggest 6' for people to dive.

Mr. Woodhead asked if we would be able to have lap lanes all day and still have recreation swimming? Mr. Hunsaker indicated that you could close off one diving board and have two lap lanes on one side.

Ms. Bevilacqua asked if there was an overlay that showed what is different than what is currently. Mr. Roth and Mr. Hunsaker went over the differences. Mr. Mascolo asked what is the increase in water surface area? Mr. Hunsaker said that the combined area of two pools was 13,500 sq ft; the renewed Park Forest Pool surface area is 6,575, and the Welch will be 11,900. The combined increase be about 8,500.

Ms. Albert asked about the exit from diving board area? Those details have not be yet been prepared.

Ms. Hirsch asked if the pavilion is totally closed or more open. Mr. Popovich indicated it would be more open, the same as the Park Forest Pool Pavilion. Ms. Hirsch was not familiar with Park Forest and asked if there were tables under the pavilion. The answer was yes.

Everyone was thanked for coming.

V. Adjournment

Centre Regional Recreation Authority (CRRA)

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