



RECREATION CENTER COMMITTEE WORKSHOP AGENDA

CITY OF NOVI

Monday, January 27, 2019 5:30 PM

**Council Chambers | Novi Civic Center | 45175 Ten Mile Road
248.347.0400**

1. ROLL CALL at 5:32 p.m.

Mayor Gatt (Absent-Excused)
Mayor Pro-Tem Staudt (Committee Chair) (Present)
Council Member Breen (Present)
PRCS Commissioner Dooley (Present)
Citizen Representatives Capello (Present) and Perris (Present)
City Manager Pete Auger (Present)
Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Jeff Muck (Present)
City Staff (Present: PRCS Deputy Director Tracie Ringle, Assistant Fire Chief John Martin, Community Relations Director Sheryl Walsh-Molloy)

2. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Recreation Center Survey – Pete Auger/Sheryl Walsh-Molloy
Manager Auger said 5,000 surveys have been sent out and results will be distributed to the committee once received in late February or early March. Director Walsh-Molloy said a yellow postcard was mailed out and, if not returned, a green follow-up postcard was sent out.
2. Feedback on shared information (PRCS 5 Year Plan, Recreation Inventory, Interactive map).
Director Muck listed a variety of information sent out and said direction is now needed for the next steps and whether a consultant should be hired. Commissioner Dooley said he sees a need, but questioned the location. Mayor Pro-Tem Staudt said the committee will need to decide whether an aquatic feature would be part of this, separate, etc. He would like to see redevelopment instead of a new building, if possible. Manager Auger said Sears privately owns their own building footprint at Twelve Oaks Mall and that space is not available to the City. Director Muck and Manager Auger asked for more feedback on what the desired building amenities would be and whether everything would fit into one location or be split between multiple locations. That will determine necessary space needed and timeline for project(s). Mayor Pro-Tem Staudt said the city dramatically lack gym space and it will only get worse as the school district grows and their needs for their own gyms grow. A pool is also a priority for residents. He's not as interested in a full City-run fitness center, but he's not opposed to doing them together, separately or at different

times. He said he would love to see a \$40-\$50 million recreation center, but doesn't envision that at this point.

Representative Perris said he struggles to envision the cost of redevelopment vs. new development. He agrees gym space is lacking and it is also difficult to get into the Novi High School pool.

Representative Capello said he favors one building that includes a gym and pool, possibly also a splash pad, indoor track, locker rooms and some fitness equipment in an area with a separate charge. He said he doesn't believe an appropriate building exists to be redeveloped for this.

Commissioner Dooley said we need to keep in mind what we already have at existing parks.

Council Member Breen said the overall social media feedback has been positive. She would like to see a splash pad, as there is a lack of aquatic facilities. Many large clubs are out of residents' price range. She said we need to make it as accessible as possible with location, price range, features, etc. The Sears building is not an option.

Mayor Pro-Tem Staudt said the City has done a lot to enhance outdoor recreation and parks, but nothing for indoor facilities. We don't have the capacity anymore and a lot of people can't afford the larger club programs.

Manager Auger summarized that the committee wants staff to research what existing buildings may be available for a quicker turnaround, but also continue looking into options for a new facility. It normally takes about six months if we're going to purchase a property, 12 months to design it and get approvals, then 12-18 months to construct it.

3. RFP for Consultant Services – Jeff Muck

Manager Auger said having a consultant review the direction we want to go would add a few months and questioned whether we wanted to determine that before hiring a consultant.

Mayor Pro-Tem Staudt said he wanted to clarify the \$100,000 that was approved for consulting was for various expenses, not just a single consultant.

Director Muck said, if hiring a consultant was desired, an RFP would need to be released in the next week and due back in mid-February. It'd go to Consultant Review in mid-February and Council would have to approve the recommendation to hire a consultant at their last February meeting. The consultant would hold meetings late February-early April and recommendations would need to go to the April 20 Council meeting. Ballot language for an August ballot would need to be approved by Council May 4 for a May 12 County deadline.

Mayor Pro-Tem Staudt said he didn't think Consultant Review would be necessary and it would cost about \$50,000.

Representative Perris asked if pushing to the November ballot would be better. Discussion said either August or November could work, but November may be better to allow time for planning and feedback.

Manager Auger said they've also been talking with the Novi Community School District about their future fieldhouse, which will also house 45 robotics teams.

Council Member Breen said Signature Park was bad timing, but people also didn't feel as if they had been heard. She would like to aim for August, but would be OK with November.

Representative Capello said he'd like to see more info on other recreation centers in the state.

Manager Auger said PRCS Strategic Community Recreation and Master Park Plan feedback showed a lot of people said they would visit parks more if they had splash pads, so that could be a component to potentially split off from a recreation center so it's not competing with a pool or lazy river at the same location. There are some advantages with staffing and maintenance of splash pads compared to a pool.

4. Proposed Timeline - Pete Auger/Jeff Muck

Mayor Pro-Tem Staudt said he would like to see survey results at the next meeting and have any potential consultant recommendation by then. He suggested meeting next in late February or early March for a real work session to make some decisions.

3. FUTURE MEETINGS:

February

March

April

4. Public Comment

Colleen Crossey of 22279 Brockshire said she likes the idea of redeveloping existing buildings. The more people know, the more they will feel they get their monies worth.

Carol L. Westphal of 45120 Galway said she's been a member of The Sports Club of Novi, Lifetime Fitness and the Livonia Community Recreation Center. She suggests the committee visit the Livonia facility. She agrees there's a real need for basketball courts and club/lap swimming.

Brian Smith of 22092 Siegal said he's concerned with trying to get this onto the August ballot, but he really supports the idea.

Council Member Breen said several facilities in other communities – such as Livonia, The Hawk in Farmington Hills, Westerville (Ohio), Canton, Troy, Sterling Heights, Ann Arbor and a YMCA in Grand Rapids – have been discussed by the committee as examples of what we might be aiming for.

Mayor Pro-Tem Staudt said there are a lot of ideas being discussed for the facility types – dome vs. steel – and a consultant would help with that. We need to list specific components of the facility before we go to the public for a ballot.

Commissioner Dooley said it's very important for people to respond to the survey.

5. ADJOURNMENT at 6:30 p.m.