

### Wellness Centre Open House Feedback

There were approximately 250 people in attendance at the Open House hosted on Mar 19, 2016. Surveys were distributed throughout the event and collected by the Rec Centre staff at the sign in desk. Additional surveys were available for pick up and drop off at the Gimli Rec Centre and RM of Gimli Offices. Overall survey information was filled in poorly with many blank spaces and written answers rather than check offs.

135 Surveys were returned initially (1 week from meeting) with additional surveys still being dropped off and filled out at both locations.

Most surveys were completed by RM of Gimli residents with 124 indicating they lived within the RM. Additional locations for 11 people were Fraserwood, Sandyhook, RM of St. Andrews, Winnipeg Beach and the City of Winnipeg. Mostly full time residents with 118 responding they live in the RM full time.

Most respondents use the current facilities with 84 indicating yes when asked. This question was again poorly answered with people checking 'no', then answering that they use facility components.

#### Walking Track

Cushion	2 Lanes	4 Lanes	Walking/Running	Natural Light	Windows	Banked Corners	Other
97	35	67	93	90	76	29	1

Weather is the most common reason people foresee themselves using the walking track. This includes Winter as well as poor weather in the summer. Health related reasons was the second most common answer and respondents are concerned about having natural light and windows as part of the eventual track design. Users want to see this a walking track, that is accessible to a variety of users. We need to ensure there is room to walk in a group and still have space for faster walkers/joggers. There are some concerns about the facility having longer more accessible hours.

#### Fitness Centre

Cardio	Strength	Stretching	Trainers	Therapy Pool
100	82	82	48	67

The Fitness Centre had more evenly spread comments around a variety of areas. The most common comments revolved around getting new equipment, air quality and better/natural light. Presently there is lots of concern about the fitness centre's outdated equipment and the lack of fresh air. Any new facility should alleviate the air concerns but attention should be paid to what equipment should be included in a new space. It may also be beneficial to be more strategic in arrangement and placement of equipment in any new space.

Other concerns around the proposed fitness centre are the costs for using the new facility. The expectation is that a new facility would come with increased membership fees. No information on what an acceptable level of membership fee was collected however. Personal trainers are another common request for the new facility. The public is looking for support from knowledgeable professionals that will be able to help users get the most of their membership and the fitness centre.

The last big categories relate to the space itself. Respondents are concerned with the cleanliness of the facility and that a new facility would benefit from having on site attendants. The space itself must be open and welcoming. There are concerns that there will not be enough room for a variety of activities such as mat space, stretching or other warm up activities. We will need to ensure there are designated and appropriate areas for a variety of activities within the fitness centre.

An interesting comment from several surveys made note of the current facility not being 'female friendly'. The current fitness centre has different amenities for the men's and women's change rooms. The reason for this is because the curling clubs originally built the change rooms and the men's wanted a sauna and the women decided on having club storage space. In any new facility these amenities will need to be located outside of the change rooms and be available to everyone. The last area of concern focused on hours of operation. The general public does not understand why we cannot be open more hours (due to the refrigeration plant), the legalities we operate in will need to be presented to the public in a more laymen friendly way to help build support.

#### **Gymnasium/MPR**

Pickleball	Basketball	Volleyball	Badminton	Gymnastics	Yoga	Fitness Class	Kick Boxing	After School	Dance
29	17	27	41	22	58	77	16	24	44

Social	Cultural	Funerals	Family	Conferences	Art Class	Other
60	64	20	55	46	41	1

The multi-purpose space has lots of people interested in programs. These ranged from traditional fitness classes and drop in sports to community events and arts performances. Health reasons was also a big area of interest that will motivate residents to use the gymnasium space.

Some interesting comments fell into the other section. Several people were interested in having space for racquet sports (squash, racquet ball) and also interested in indoor soccer. There is definite concern from the community however that there are already enough gymnasiums in the community and this space should be a dedicated hall. The quick analysis the Rec Centre did with the current space is that we currently offer between 15 – 20 hours of programs in each school gym, this is on top of the schools own programming. Our rec programs are very much secondary to the school programs and recreation is often bumped for other events and activities. The multi-use nature of this space must be better presented to the community to build support for this aspect of the project.

## Change Rooms

The public has some confusion around change rooms, probably related to several changing rooms involved with the project. Careful explanations of what changing room component is being discussed will help build more support from the public.

Three areas stand out as important regarding the change rooms. Respondents are looking for modern change room amenities. Things such as bottle filling water fountains, saunas, modern lockers, accessibility in all areas and other areas. Cleanliness is the second area people are concerned about. The third area is space. This comment probably directly relates to the hockey side of the building as those rooms are not large enough to accommodate an entire hockey team.

Another area related to change rooms that did not come out from the survey's but has been pointed out by other rec centres and pools is the need for family change rooms and washrooms. This is a very important area to consider and it's been suggested for the pool areas that change room space primarily be in family areas.

## Outdoor Pool

4 lanes	6 lanes	Beach Area	Water Slides	Deck Area	Splash Park	Climbing Wall	Other
33	48	49	59	56	42	24	22

A large chunk of respondents wrote comments relating to indoor pools in this section. The indoor pool will continue to be a want from the community. The numbers presented from multi-plex study suggest about a \$400K annual operating subsidy. A standard response and consistent numbers should be prepared so the public receives consistent information from the RM. Many people want to know how Selkirk is able to operate their indoor pool through the school division, it would be worthwhile to have those numbers available.

The biggest reason people think they will use the pool is for recreation and family. Among this response, 'grandkids' was the most commonly cited reason people foresee using the pool. The large senior population in the community sees spending time with their grandkids at the outdoor pool as a likely leisure activity. It will be important to highlight this aspect while building support for the project.

Other features are also a large category. The community is looking for amenities such as salt water, waves, hot tubs or heated entry areas as additional features that will increase their likelihood to use the pool. Environmental considerations such as solar heating were also mentioned.

A variety of pool programming ranging from swimming lessons to aquasize is also important for the community. Other pool facilities have mentioned that organized swimming has been a great way for

their pools to fill unused hours. The other areas mentioned in the comments related to the cost to use, cleanliness, water slides and being a generally nice/welcoming space.

There were also several flat out 'no' responses from people who do not want any pool facility. The standard response and consistent numbers should help alleviate the concerns from the No group regarding operating costs and usage.

### **Complimentary Services**

Physio	Chiropractor	Community Health	Day Care	Family Resource	Adult Ed	Program Space
59	26	44	28	32	38	12

Several ideas for complimentary services were included in the comments. The most popular are around wellness services such as personal trainers, massage therapy, Doctors, etc. Careful consideration as to what services make sense in the future facility and which ones fit our goals is required.

Other ideas that were suggested include daycare space, pro-shop or commercial rental spaces, meeting rooms and classrooms.

### **Do you support the project?**

105 or 77.7% of respondents support the Wellness Centre Project (Surveys returned at the Open House)

Two distinct areas came to light in the comments for this question. A large group made comments regarding an indoor pool. Again this is still an area of concern for the project. The second large group of comments centered on 'build it' and the third biggest group of comments related to cautious support of the project. Clear answers on indoor pool costs and operating expenses, other communities experience with outdoor pools and the need for the Multi-Purpose/Gymnasium space will help build community support.