

**Oak Island Recreation Center
Minutes of Public Meeting # Two
June 7, 2007**

Issue Date: June 29, 2007
Szostak Design Inc.
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

The following is a summary of remarks offered at the June 7 public meeting at the Oak Island Recreation Center. The term "designer" refers to the contracted architectural consulting firm: Szostak Design, Inc.

1.0 Community Needs

There was a general consensus that the development of this project will be critically important to the community.

2.0 Suggestions for Facility Planning and Design

General Planning Considerations

It was recommended that parking, particularly spots designated for seniors or those with disabilities, be located close to the entrance of the building. It was further recommended that the site not be "completely paved over."

The designers were asked to consider options that included two stories in order to preserve a greater proportion of the existing site.

Advocacy for "green" building practices was expressed. In accompanying discussion, a variety of options for sustainable design were discussed including efficient energy utilization, green construction practices, and environmental conservation measures. Solar power generation was briefly discussed, though it was noted that current technology is probably inadequate and uneconomical to provide all the requirements of the aquatic portion of the facility.

An emphasis on acoustical isolation was recommended, i.e. isolating music from aerobics classes from quieter activities.

It was noted that the climbing wall location indicated on the "test-fit" plans was hypothetical and a variety of potential locations will be explored in the planning process.

One meeting participant advocated for racquetball facilities.

The provision of a modest stage area in the gymnasium was endorsed. It was noted that there are several theater groups in the area who could potentially make use of the facility for their productions, though it was also noted that their typical audience is far smaller than the gyms projected 800 floor seats.

Fitness Area Considerations

There was a recommendation to provide separate (or at least separately zoned) facilities for free weight training and general (cardio) exercise machine use.

General Aquatic Component Considerations

It was recommended that for the aquatic component, in lieu of a four-lane lap pool, a six-lane lap pool be provided and that the lanes be 25 meters in lieu of 25 yards.

Preferred water depth was discussed. While competitive swimmers prefer deeper water (6' to 7' for fast starts), general swimmers and those in swim and exercise classes need 3.5-4.5' depths. It was also noted that the deep end of many pool facilities can serve as areas for scuba and snorkeling instruction as well as training for kayakers.

Therapy Pool Considerations

Accessibility into therapy pool will be provided. It was noted that aqua-therapy outpatient programs are growing and there are good opportunities for collaboration with area healthcare providers. It was recommended that therapy pools be wired for monitoring (i.e. cardio) and transmitting information to remotely located physicians.

It was also suggested that the designers consider making the therapy pool a salt-water based facility.

3.0 Facility Operations

In terms of revenue, it was recommended that off-island users of the facility pay a premium for the use of its programming, representing a useful revenue resource. It was noted that such a provision is already in place in the recreation center's fee schedule and that users are asked to verify their residency by showing identification.

4.0 Operating Expenses

Meeting participants questioned the number of staff members that would be required for the enlarged facility and the additional insurance costs that would be associated with the operation of the aquatic component. The designers indicated that this information would be included in their next public presentation.

5.0 Study Methodology

It was requested that the public have input into the ongoing development of the facility's plans. The designers indicated that there will continue to be public presentations of the project as it is developed and anticipate that developments which occur after the end of the initial study will also be subject to public presentation and comment.

It was requested that the designers provide further examples of comparable facilities in other municipalities. (Note: there will be building committee tours of two comparable facilities during the months of July and August)

It was requested that information on the population and use of current and future building be presented. Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department has compiled information on current use and the designers will provide further documentation of use projections in the next public meeting.