

# VETERANS MEMORIAL SENIOR CENTER-YMCA WORKSHOP #1 MEETING NOTES

## Redwood City YMCA/VMSC Meeting 1/17/2018 - Public Comments

The following details the public comments made at the Redwood City VMSC-YMCA open house held on January 17, 2018. The primary source of public feedback were comments written on “leaves” attached to the “idea tree.” All received “leaves” are divided below into broad topics, and each topic subdivided into “question” and “comment” sections, with the most popular noted and highlighted. Comments that were repeated multiple times are noted with a number in parentheses. A snapshot of the most frequent issues includes:

- There was broad excitement for the project and early concepts.
- There was appreciation that – based on the stations and project principles – that community feedback from early in the process was taken seriously and incorporated.
- Community members widely agreed the existing status of the facilities was not suitable.
- There was substantial feedback from seniors, most notably the desire to continue the adaptive P.E. program. The “senior” section discusses a variety of additional issues as well.
- The traffic impacts on the neighborhood were cited as a question, specifically traffic and parking on Madison. Neighbors expressed the desire to attend a community meeting solely addressing traffic and parking issues.
- The desire to eschew a modern building in favor of a classic design was frequently cited, with many references to the Dostart building.
- Questions about how the swimming pools would be incorporated were asked.
- Several requests were made to maintain trees and a community garden.

### **General Encouragement**

Comments:

- Words of thanks and excitement over the project. (6)

### **Seniors/Accessibility Services/Amenities/Programs**

Comments:

- Seniors have concerns about teen interaction, but this seems to be addressed by having two separate buildings. (2)
- Hearing impaired people need a looping system installed in the new buildings. This allows people with telecoils in their hearing aids to hear with no background noise.
- There should be an increase in the number of young seniors and make sure there is enough space to have focused activities. All group activity and meeting rooms should be looped for hearing impaired. (2)
- Keep the adaptive P.T./P.E. Keep Scott and Song and provide large rooms with more space so we can have privacy. Keep these in VMSC building because seniors have trouble walking to the YMCA and back. (9)
- There needs to be more handicapped bathrooms and the heating vents need to be cleaned more often.
- Make sure there is a good ratio of equipment for senior fitness room (seniors only).
- Please provide nice walking paths for seniors.

#### Questions:

- Can we have a quilting class?
- How will seniors' programs be ongoing while construction is in progress if the buildings will be roughly the same location? Where will the seniors go during construction? (2)
- Can we maintain seniors only classes?
- Can we have more than one handicapped toilet?
- Will there be a dedicated social space for seniors?
- Will there be separate youth and senior fitness centers? (2)

#### Traffic/Parking, Circulation/Transportation

#### Comments:

- Keep the traffic down on Madison – don't place a building entrance on Madison to help with this. (8)
- Provide sufficient parking (cars and bikes). (7)
- Make St. Francis one way from Jefferson St, and Nevada St one way in opposite direction. Place stop signs on Madison at both St. Francis and Nevada.
- Place stop sign at Myrtle and Madison. (2)
- Add bike lanes on Madison.
- Do not provide a parking structure – place more emphasis on public transportation.
- Keep adequate parking for seniors and handicapped persons. (2)
- Make sure parking & drop off zones are in close proximity to building for seniors. (2)
- Create a neighborhood group/gather neighbors to discuss traffic impact ASAP. (5)

- Keep residential parking on Madison. (2)
- Do not allow bicycling in the park – pedestrians only. (2)
- The plan needs to include a partnership with SamTrans to have public transportation to Red Morton so that not as much parking is required.

Questions:

- Can you provide more parking than what is shown on the current maps?
- What will the public transportation access look like? (2)
- Can we provide a bus service for seniors five times a week?

### General Population Services/Amenities/Programs

Comments:

- We would like a nice cafeteria and coffee bar provided for all.
- The lobby design is tacky for a social living room/lounge. It should have a fridge for water/juice.
- Interested in adding a rooftop track.
- The new facility should offer suitable rental venue for public schools and non-profits to hold events (i.e. auctions). (2)
- Rentable facilities should be open to general public for events (i.e. wedding receptions).

Questions:

- Do you need to spend so much money on all the bikes for the indoor gym?
- Will we have ability to work out around people of similar ages?
- Will sports teams have access to all facilities? e.g. Soccer teams use the gym? Swim teams use gym for dry land training?
- Can we provide medicinal marijuana at the new facility?
- How do those who just wish to use the park & rec facilities fit in (those not involved with VMSC/YMCA)? How are their wishes being considered?
- Will there be a bar with cocktails and social hours?

### Design

Comments:

- Please do not have building entrances on the street.
- Do not have bright or neon signage.
- Check out the Dostart building – this is the kind of design we want (NOT contemporary). Its design has character and reflects Redwood City history. (4)

- Please look at more than current users' needs – consider future needs.
- Wide hallways are important for the building.
- Please install a t-coil loop in the new theater.
- Desire a large lobby of the building.
- Do not build over 30ft to protect current and natural light into neighboring homes.
- Use different colored wood inlays instead of tape in the gym.
- Design suggestion of using multilevel buildings with slope access up and down.

Questions:

- What will the height of the YMCA be?
- Can you decorate with public art? Art is necessary for the building. (2)

## Swimming

Comments:

- If you are going to maintain a competitive swim program you need to invest in a quality facility that includes locker rooms for team and a dryland training space.
- Be very careful about all user groups in aquatics – current YMCA swimmers are not your only demographic. There are a lot of families and competitive adult swimmers.
- Concerns about using correct temperatures for various activities – swim lessons/therapy vs laps/fitness and competitions.
- Consider a pool format like Burgess in Menlo Park. It is very family friendly and easily accessible.
- Make sure the pool area has enough shade options – shade from trees is preferable.
- Excited to have an indoor pool. (2)
- Make sure pool area has adequate space for families to sit and stay awhile, such as large grass areas and picnic areas.
- Please provide both an indoor and outdoor pool – separate schedules for kids and seniors. (2)
- Make sure the pool has enough free swim space for families and kids who do not want to work out. Example to avoid: PCC pool.

Questions:

- Will there be public pool access?
- Will there be a fee for swimming?
- Will Herkner pool continue to exist as an outdoor facility, but with improvements?

## Trees/Greenspace

### Comments:

- Preserve the existing trees, garden, and offset from the street. (16)
- Build a community garden (rooftop) with an emphasis on native plants and food production. (6)
- Restore the creek.

### Questions:

- Will the trees be affected by construction and will the fruit trees be available?

## Red Morton Park

### Comments:

- Park business should be kept within the park and not spill out into larger community.

### Questions:

- I requested lighting for the western part of Red Morton Park 10 years ago, and the answer was there being no money. Will there be lighting now?
- Will there be a dog park/will it be an off-leash dog park)? (4)

## Timeline/Process

### Comments:

- The partnering with the YMCA is fantastic, but please provide more operational details. (2)

### Questions:

- When will the school open?
- What is the projected length of time of construction? When will they start building?
- What happens on the timeline between March 12 and March 21? When/Where are the neighborhood meetings and other outreach being held?

## General YMCA

Comments:

- Outdoor space at the childcare/preschool is crucial.
- Please ensure we do not reduce services to the community when moving the YMCA into the park.

Questions:

- How much will the childcare/preschool cost?
- Will the early education be fully licensed with certified teachers? Where will they live?

### **General VMSC**

Comments:

- The facility should have a bocce ball court.
- Would like to have new VMSC at its current location.
- Provide spaces for different generations to cross paths. (2)

Questions:

- Can you alleviate the fears of the community that the YMCA will take over the VMSC?

### **Cost/Finance/Public Resources**

Comments:

- Keep low/free rates for seniors. (2)
- One concern is that costs will go up with YMC involvement, when we need to keep programs affordable.

Questions:

- Will the Hudson facility remain usable as a city building?

### **Non-Traffic/Parking Neighborhood Input**

Comments:

- Concern about noise of air conditioning.

Questions:

- What will the impact of construction be on the neighborhood?

## Veterans

Comments:

- Maintain artifacts from veteran's collections.

## NFL

Comments:

- In favor of an office for NFL.

Questions:

- The NFL museum is not of interest to our family. Does so much space and resources need to be dedicated to this?
- Can there be a plaque dedication to the NFL rather than a whole room?

## Sustainable/Environmental

Comments:

- Conserve water run off for trees.
- Excited for LEED compliant buildings.

Questions:

- Is LEED really cost effective and necessary?
- Can we look into renewable energy options?
- How many electric car chargers will be available?