

**Advisory Panel – Aquatics/Community Centre
Minutes
Wednesday May 8, 2019
5:30 – 7:00 pm
Century House, ABC Room**

Present:

Tom Gibson
Margaret Tyacke
Daniel Deprez
Jocelyn Groot
Brianna Strachan
Dianne London

Regrets:

Malcolm Rautenbach
Tina Jhingan
Kevin Thorneloe
Niki Jacques
Tiziana Gaviola

Staff & Consultants:

Steve Kellock – Staff
Sonia Parmar – Staff
Dustin Ray-Wilks – Staff
Paul Fast – HCMA Architecture + Design

1. Introductions

2. Process

- Presented Project Site and location of minutes

3. Community engagement and plan development

- Halfway point on the design.
- Survey out for the public to fill out.

4. Outdoor spaces – Three outdoor programming spaces. Children’s Area, Youth Zone and Lawn Sports Area.

a. Children’s Area – a play space outside of the fenced outdoor daycare playground to be. Want to ensure play spaces for those who do not go to the daycare.

- What has been the public’s feedback on the Childs’s play area?
 - Playground. The playground behind the daycare is always busy.
 - Water play area.

- Will it be for children of all ages?
 - Suggestion was made to not have the child play area and youth zone separate so that families don't have to separate themselves if they have children of different ages.
 - A case was also made to keep the zones separate.
 - Ages 7-8 is what you see on the playgrounds and a lot of playgrounds don't accommodate very small kids (the fenced one is good). But also having the youth close to the playground is not helpful. Having the mix of big kids and small kids can be problematic.
 - If separating the sections by age, would that work?
 - Yes it would be helpful as little kids are restricted by mobility and older kids are not therefore will use all the spaces around them including the spaces designated for younger children.
 - Having a smaller space that is fenced off or separated is valuable.

b. Youth Zone

- Basketball court suggested.
 - The sport is popular and there is a deficit of basketball courts in the community. Example, Queen's park has only one court available.
 - Queen's park does have a skateboard park, tennis courts and trails.
 - It was noted that the youth zone size is half that of a basketball court.
- Parkour: an urban form of gymnastics done through various wood and concrete structures. Looks like a rectangular jungle gym. Popular amongst all age ranges.
 - Would it be problematic for someone in a wheelchair?
 - There are usually varying sizes to these structures so it can be accessed by someone in a wheelchair.
 - Does New West have a parkour park set up? Has there been feedback on it?
 - It is a trend we are seeing and there is no other parkour park in New West.
 - Would be a good use of space since accommodating any ball sports in their can be problematic because the ball can go anywhere unless it is fenced off.

c. Lawn sports area – next to the RCCC large opening. Can be programmed to be more structured.

- Basketball court suggested.
 - Suggested that the youth area would be better suited due to location and noise associated with basketball play. The lawn sports area faces the homes on 6th avenue therefore it would be disruptive to the residences located there.
- Lawn sports.
 - Frisbee.
 - Croquet.
- Picnic space.

- If a court or a layout not provided then people will use it how they want. So families who are waiting in between activities and have to eat their dinner, having benches and a space for that could be beneficial.
- Could an eating area be incorporated in the tree area so that the lawn can be still used for other things? Especially with all the rain this would help to avoid wet picnic benches.
 - It was confirmed that a commune area is considered where people can sit and eat. A long bench with a café.
- Community Garden.
 - It was mentioned that through the indigenous community engagement there was a suggestion made to possibly have an intentionally structured garden with plants that have traditional uses.

5. Design update.

- How big?
 - This building is longer than the Harbour Centre (Vancouver) is tall.
- What material will be used on the pillars in the pool?
 - Right now the concrete is planned for the pillars but there might be clad or tiling used on top. Tiles are easy to clean which is why pools use them so much. Also, need to consider the acoustics, so maybe acoustic paneling will be utilized.
- Will there be wood on the exterior? Concern about woodpeckers.
 - Wood will only be used as an accent on the outside.
- Concern mentioned about birds being an issue.
 - Birds in general can be a problem but the newer glazing is thicker which has some glare to it whereas the older glazing systems were very clear. Lessens risk to birds.
- The pictures have natural daylight but no lighting shown in the renderings.
 - HCMA has met with their lighting consultants. And the strategy that will be implemented is indirect lighting. This is where the lighting structure is taken and faced up, reflecting off the ceiling allowing for a nice soft lighting, downlight effect.
- A lot of shadowing in the lobby with the lines.
 - It was noted that the design has changed and continues to change. So the lines will not be there anymore.
 - Further comments were made that we need to be intentional and look at it from an access and inclusion lens, impacts to wayfinding.
 - Brightness is great but shadow lines not inviting.
- How fast does the movable floor move?
 - All automatic, a matter of minutes. Right now it is 10 minutes on a track with the bulkheads in CGP. The new one will take slightly longer because there is a bigger body of water and the bulkheads are bigger and heavier. The bulkheads have a mesh system for the water to go through.
- What kind of fitness would be put on the ground floor?

- It was noted that from the overall feedback, the Olympic Weight lifting would be intended for the ground floor because of noise.
- The outdoor fitness area is a paid area, so would go through the gate whereas the plaza area is just a common area for anyone to use. How do we make sure no one jumps the fence?
 - This is something CNW staff would need to look into.
- Entrance into the pool for people with disabilities or in a wheelchair. What will the access be in the different parts of the pools?
 - The leisure will have a gradual entrance.
 - The 50m cannot have a gradual entrance because it is hard with the bulkheads. There would be a lift for someone in a wheelchair.
 - Hillcrest has a stair lift for people to use. There are also stairs that you can pull out and in with the bulkheads.
- How will traffic be dealt with? Example of Cumberland, traffic can back up with people trying to make left turns.
 - It was noted that this project has allowed for a transportation study to be done which includes taking a look at the traffic circulation in this neighborhood.
- Question about the details on the fitness classes.
 - It was noted that we are currently in the process of deciding what fitness classes would be put in what rooms. Primary focus for the fitness classes is to be in the multipurpose rooms and not in the gymnasium.
- Question to panel: Do you enjoy being in a larger class or prefer to have smaller classes?
 - People do like the larger classes because it's about the instructor and energy levels. But having yoga in the gymnasium would be horrible.
 - The gymnasium would be a welcome space for a fitness class (except yoga) depends on the type of class.
 - With pickleball for example, an older demographic would not use the gymnasium at 9am whereas the fitness class attendees would.
- Would there be a limit on how many people can be in a class? Example, right now spin classes you have to reserve a space.
 - With all the extra rooms, there would be more classes for people to go to. But there are certain groups that would like to stick together so would have to accommodate that.
 - Suggestion made to ask the regular Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:20am attendees.
 - Panel suggested a survey; would people want to go to their regular class if other ones are offered at the same time? And if there are more classes during the same time, then if there is overflow then people can go to the other classes at that time which would be more convenient.

- Online booking would be great.
- How big is the Spin class room?
 - The NWACC plans for a space larger than the current space.
- Any classes where temperature is important?
 - Spin, right now not enough circulation.
 - The gym can be very cold in the winter and then too warm in the summer and if you open the doors then you get wind but sun shines too harshly.
- If you have a fitness class in the gym, then would it be preferred to have it on one side over the other?
 - Prefer to be closer to the doors that you can open to the outside (so the back part of the gymnasium). Need to consider noise from the gym classes but could be muffled into the courtyard since not facing the residential area.
 - Need to know because sometimes there is a foldable mirrors, sound system.
- Will hiring more instructors be a problem as it is a problem now?
 - Looking into strategies so that we can centralize how instructors are booked. Looking into more strategies such as teaching our own staff to mentor/teach the classes so they can teach the new trainees.
- How much feedback are we getting from the instructors at CCC?
 - The managers and coordinators have been participating in the conversation and getting feedback from staff.
- How is the design landing for you? This design architecture.
 - Modern, a lot of light.
 - Should have the natural modern look. The modern look shouldn't draw too far from the New West aesthetic. But with the building nestling into the trees with nature that would work well.
 - Don't want to see dark cladding, too much dark cladding, with other buildings having so much grey, black which makes it hard to stand out and be warm when it's a grey day.
 - It was mentioned that the design will possibly be blacker but still working towards making it warm with the wood and glass.
- Any divisions in the walkways? Balls vs. pedestrians on walkways.
 - Having seating edges and orienting the space like hoops away from the walkway.

6. Privacy swim opportunities

Panel was informed that there was a discussion held with an outside group to receive some information and assess the principles regarding privacy swims. The group partly consisted of two groups – Muslim women's group and members of the LGBTQ community.

- How can we be inclusive as possible and futureproof this facility? Before thought the 50m pool would be best but through discussions, the preferred space would be the leisure pool. Screening the leisure pool might be more costly.
- If screening is expensive and requires a council decision, then can hooks be installed till the decision is made?
 - It was noted that an option such as that can be a safety issue and a privacy issue say for example a kid moves the curtain. So a sliding electric screen on the inside would be better. The design team is also looking into electric windows that could go dark with a switch.
- Do people rent out pools?
 - Pools are generally not rented out and if they are it is usually outside of pool hours. Maybe a church group wanting to do a movie night or schools might rent out a pool but they are given specific times that they can rent the pool.
- How far can you go in making decisions to make it futureproof?
 - Statistics are available about how the community is changing and will continue to change. So that is a working guideline to gauge the framework for this.

7. Change rooms

- Didn't have time to discuss it but the change room blocks are being worked on and more design details are to come so it will be a discussion that will come up again soon.
- More information about showers was requested.
 - Within the universal change rooms there will be wet and dry cubicles. Grooming stations at the back of the cubicles and there are universal washrooms.
- Concern was mentioned about how the universal change rooms open up directly to the pool. There can be a lot of congestion especially when lessons are happening and that can be a congestion problem and visibility/security problem with seeing children.
 - Congestion is a capacity issue not a design issue. Also a programming issue, if the meeting points are adjacent to the change rooms then it causes problems.
 - Open access from the change rooms to the pool deck is a better option for security and surveillance of the locker areas.