



TO: Committee of the Whole - Parks and Human Services

FROM: Mayor Angela Birney

DATE: April 6, 2021

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TITLE:

Redmond Senior and Community Center Update

COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

The community outreach on this project has been very robust and will continue through the design development. We will incorporate feedback throughout the design process. This past and future outreach will inform our schematic (and final) design as we move forward.

The Opsis architecture team includes the local firm Envirolssues (EI) and Alison Peters. Envirolssues and Alison Peters has been leading the past outreach efforts from 2016 and is familiar to our stakeholders and community. A robust community engagement plan has been created in collaboration with City staff that includes briefings to the community and commissions, virtual open houses, online questionnaires, social media, a project inbox and website.

Community involvement in February and March involved over 1,500 individuals through virtual public meetings, an online questionnaire, continued briefings, and the project website and inbox. The following themes emerged through February's community involvement:

- 85% of respondents supported a larger (approximately 40,000 sq ft) facility;
- Fitness classes (81%), outdoor events (70%), and senior programs (66%) were the highest rated programs by respondents;
- Over 90% of respondents rated sustainability as moderately to very highly important to the project;

These themes and priorities do not have statistically significant differences based on the age of respondents.

A second set of virtual public meetings were held at the end of March where program adjacencies and the project timeline was shared with the public. Feedback from these public meetings included:

- Attendees shared appreciation that expressed needs and wishes (e.g. a senior entry, flexible program areas, senior areas on the first floor) had been integrated into the building adjacencies shown.

- Flexible program areas such as the Community Room can serve more people and wider range of programs and are becoming more widely understood by all populations.
- There is excitement building at seeing the forthcoming floor plans.
- The 2019 Senior Center program data (enrollment figures, program offerings) is important in the context of what the public believes should inform the building concept. Public perceptions are mixed (i.e. differing on room size and adjacencies) and the public generally does not understand past building operations.
- The seniors-only meeting focused heavily on senior designated program areas.
- The all-ages meeting focused more on the urgent need for meeting space, active recreation programs, programming schedule, partner offerings, and outdoor spaces.

Additionally, a second online questionnaire launched on March 24 and will remain open through April 7. This questionnaire looks to receive feedback on the proposed program areas, adjacencies of these spaces, and to ensure the community sees the priorities for seniors and the community are reflected in the proposed Redmond Senior and Community Center. Analysis of this data will be brought to City Council on April 20, 2021 during the Redmond Senior and Community Center Briefing in the Regular Business Meeting.

Community involvement efforts have included the following to date:

- Virtual public meetings (senior-only and all ages) – over 300 attendees
- Outreach to recreation participants, contractors, community partners, BIPOC community groups, nonprofits, businesses, and residents
- Senior specific outreach including phone calls, Encore newsletter updates, senior-focused facts sheets and comment cards, Senior Advisory Committee meeting with architects, and postcard mailing
- Posters and contact cards distributed to over 40 local businesses
- 4 Stakeholder Group Meetings
- 8 community briefings

The next Stakeholder Meeting is April 26, 2021. City Council will receive a preliminary design concept and cost estimate in the Business Meeting on April 20, 2021.

UPCOMING COUNCIL TOUCHPOINTS (Next 30 days):

- April 20, 2021 – City Council Business Meeting – Preliminary Design Concept & Cost Estimate