



## City Council Study Session/Joint Meeting with Parks Commission and Sammamish Youth Board

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# AGENDA

April 19, 2010

6:30 pm – 9:30 pm

### **Call to Order**

### **Public Comment**

*This is an opportunity for the public to address the Council. Three-minutes limit per person or 5 minutes if representing the official position of a recognized community organization.*

### **Topics**

- **Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan (60 minutes)**
- **Discussion: Partnership with Boys & Girls Club (30 minutes)**
- **Discussion: Skate Park Lighting (15 minutes)**
- **Informational Discussion: Wireless Communication Facility (60 minutes)**

### **Council Reports**

### **City Manager Report**

### **Adjournment**





## Memorandum

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DATE: April 19, 2010

TO: City Council

FROM: Hank Klein, Chair, Parks and Recreation Commission

RE: Parks, Recreation & Open Space (PRO) Plan Update

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On behalf of the Park and Recreation Commission, I am pleased to present an update on our work related to the Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PRO) Plan.

In Mid-February we kicked off our initial public outreach campaign, “Have a Say in How We Play.” Our goal was simply to connect with the community and establish a foundation for the PRO Plan as we move forward. We held a total of 10 meetings throughout the community on a variety of days and times in hopes of connecting with as many people as possible. Turnout varied and was perhaps a little lighter than we would have liked, with attendance ranging from 5 to 25 at each meeting. We had a total of 127 community members attend the meetings.

Several key themes emerged during our public meetings (detail provided below), including a high interest in Community Center and Aquatic facilities, recreation programs, trails/connectivity, athletic fields, and land acquisition. As the PRO Plan process moves forward, we recommend these specific items be included in the public survey. Based on outcomes of the survey, we also recommend the “big-ticket” items undergo a thorough feasibility study before we recommend inclusion in the PRO Plan.

### **Things to Continue Doing:**

At the beginning of each public meeting participants were asked to share what they appreciated about Sammamish Parks and Recreation and specifically, what they would like us to continue doing. A resounding theme throughout the meetings was an appreciation for our current parks and the current level of maintenance. A number of our popular amenities were also mentioned and well-liked, including the Off-Leash Dog Park, the swimming beach at Pine Lake Park, and the synthetic turf fields.

Another frequent comment was in relation to the special events offered by the City including the summer concerts, the 4<sup>th</sup> on the Plateau and the Farmers Market. Participants expressed appreciation for these programs and would like to see them continued and perhaps expanded.

### **Areas for Improvement of Existing Operations:**

The second question we asked during the public meetings was, “What can we do better?” This question was a bit tricky for many folks because their answers often led to what we needed more of, not what we needed to improve, but we did get a few valuable comments. Concerns were

shared regarding off-leash dogs almost as frequently as were the praises for the Off-Leash Dog Park. Several people mentioned a desire for improved parking and additional connectivity options at existing parks. The importance of our parks and the environmental role they play was mentioned on numerous occasions, as well. Maintaining and improving wildlife corridors, protecting trees and contributing to the betterment of water quality were some of the specific items discussed.

### **Planning for the Future:**

Our final topic of conversation, and the main purpose of the meetings, was to talk about the future of Sammamish Parks and Recreation. We specifically asked the meeting participants to dream big and share their vision for the next six-years. We received a wide range of comments, from multi-million dollar facilities to community recreation programs. We have compiled the feedback into four categories (capital facilities, park/facility amenities, programs, and general comments) and we have identified the level of interest for each (high, moderate or low). Our summary is attached and while we recognize this was not a statistically valid approach, we hope it provides a foundation for further discussion and the long-term planning effort that is now underway.

#### High Priorities:

Without question, the number one item mentioned during the public meetings was an aquatic center. Interests ranged from water polo to water slides, but the highest emphasis was on teaching children to swim, fitness, and having a safe local place to swim. Some items for future discussion include whether we'd consider a local or regional approach and possible partnerships with the School Districts. It should also be mentioned that while many were enthusiastic about the possibility of an aquatic center, an equal number expressed concerns about expenses and feasibility. The list of recreation program ideas is too long to list, but it should be noted that folks are very interested in multi-generational programming opportunities.

Multi-use facilities were also near the top of the list. We heard requests ranging from senior centers, to teen centers and everything in between. For the purposes of our summary, we lumped all of these facilities together under the label, "multi-purpose community center." We recommend this item for further study and also suggest that the various amenities and programs that could be offered in such a facility be included as part of the survey.

The other highest priority item was trails and connectivity. The Sammamish community has a very high desire for non-motorized opportunities throughout the City. The comments were vast, but overall safety for pedestrians, bicyclists and horseback riders was at the top of the list.

#### Moderate Priorities:

We've included synthetic turf athletic fields, land acquisition and a performing arts center in the "moderate" category. These items came up frequently enough that they may warrant further consideration. Other items to be aware of include the desire for a community garden, preservation of open space, and expanded special event offerings. In terms of events, we received a significant number of comments related to movies and entertainment: outdoor movies, movie nights at City Hall, and even a movie theater!

Low Priorities and Honorable Mention:

A number of items were mentioned with enough frequency that they made the summary list. I won't take time now to detail each comment, but please note that the parks and recreation interests are vast and varied in Sammamish, which makes prioritizing the list a bit challenging at times.

**Just for Fun:**

We have a list of over 300 comments and as you can imagine some were unique and very entertaining. I thought it would be fun to share with you some of the more creative ideas including a petting zoo with “irregular animals,” a Six Flags Amusement Park, and a mall with better clothing stores. While these ideas may not directly align with the mission of the Parks and Recreation Department, folks are certainly interested in bringing a variety of amenities to Sammamish!

**Conclusion:**

As mentioned at the beginning, we have several key themes that emerged during this process. We recommend each of these items (Community Center and Aquatic facilities, recreation programs, trails/connectivity, athletic fields, and land acquisition) be further studied in the public survey and considered for future discussion as our planning process moves forward.

**Attached:**

- PRO Plan Initial Public Outreach Campaign – Summary Matrix



**Pro Plan Update 2011 - Initial Public Outreach Campaign**    Public Comment Interest Matrix

<b>Interest Level</b>	<b>Capital Facilities (Infrastructure)</b>	<b>Park and/or Facility Amenities</b>	<b>Programs</b>	<b>General Comments</b>
<b>High</b>	Aquatic Center		Recreation Programs - All Ages	Connectivity/Safe Pedestrian, Bicycle & Horseback Access
	Multi-Use Community Center			
	Trails/Connectivity			

<b>Moderate</b>	Land Acquisition for Parks and Open Space	Pea Patch/Community Garden	Special Events	Preserve Open Space
	Synthetic Turf Fields		Entertainment/Events Including Indoor & Outdoor Movies	Preserve Wildlife Corridors
	Performing Arts/Cultural Center			Leave Beaver Lake Park As Is

<b>Minimal</b>	Horse Arena/Riding Facility	Lighted Outdoor Courts	Cultural Arts Programs	Consider a Regional Approach for Athletic Fields
		Swimming Access at Sammamish Landing	Adventure Sports Programs (i.e. Mountain Biking)	Improve Public Transportation
		Shoreline Destination for Boaters on Lake Sammamish		No Road Through Soaring Eagle
		Recreation Facilities Next to Sports Fields (i.e. Playgrounds)		Leave Soaring Eagle As Is
		Off-Leash Dog Areas		





DATE: April 19, 2010

TO: Ben Yazici, City Manager

FROM: Jessi Richardson, Director of Parks and Recreation

RE: Recreation Center Update

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I am pleased to report that work on the Recreation Center remodel and our partnership with the Boys & Girls Club of King County (Club) is progressing nicely. There are a few items I wanted to bring to your attention for further discussion at the Joint City Council/Parks Commission/Youth Board meeting on April 19.

**Project Status and Funding:**

We recently had an opportunity to discuss progress on fundraising with the Club CEO, Daniel Johnson. He expressed his Board's caution about our ability to raise capital dollars in this recession. Given the challenging economic climate it is not surprising that fundraising efforts are progressing slower than we would have liked. The Club has raised (in pledges and actual cash) approximately \$1.5 million. The total project cost is estimated at \$4 million with additional money needed to build operating reserves.

Both parties agree that all funds must be raised before construction begins. That being said, we are at an important crossroads and need to discuss timing of this project. Since fundraising is lagging, one option we have is to proceed with the interior remodel of the building only (Phase I) and postpone construction of the gymnasium until additional funds are raised. Current funds raised will provide enough funding to complete Phase I and provide a small operating reserve for the Club. A second option is to delay the entire project until all of the funds are raised. Preliminary conversations indicate that the first option is the preference of the Club.

Although the gymnasium is an important feature of this building, it is not critical to opening the facility. In fact, the Phase I option will be more than sufficient to kick-off teen programs during non-school hours and provide a suitable space for other recreation programs during school hours.

One of the benefits to the phased approach is keeping the project on schedule, with opening anticipated in late spring 2011. We also recommend proceeding with design and construction of the new access driveway off of Inglewood Hill Road during Phase I. This portion of the project is City funded and planning and coordination is currently underway.

The drawback of the phased approach is that construction of the gymnasium may never occur. Simply stated, it would be very challenging, if not impossible to provide language in the lease agreement requiring construction of the second phase.

If, however, the funds are raised for the second phase, the other challenge will be coordinating a second construction project on-site. There will be service disruptions, potential building closures and

other impacts to accommodate the second phase (construction staging etc.) If a later construction project is likely to happen, we may wish to borrow some expertise from the K-12 education world – as they have considerable experience with additions/remodeling of occupied buildings.

**Additional Information:**

Staff and Club representatives are continuing to work on a lease agreement for the facility. Once we have direction from both parties regarding the “to phase or not to phase” decision, we will commence our work and anticipate having a draft for review by Council in late May/early June.

**Public Process:**

The Parks Commission, the Youth Board and representatives from the Boys & Girls Club coordinated a public outreach process during the month of March. Members of these groups met with Middle School and Junior High students in addition to participating in two public meetings. Feedback from this process and recommendations from both advisory groups are provided in separate memos.

**Interim Maintenance and Operations:**

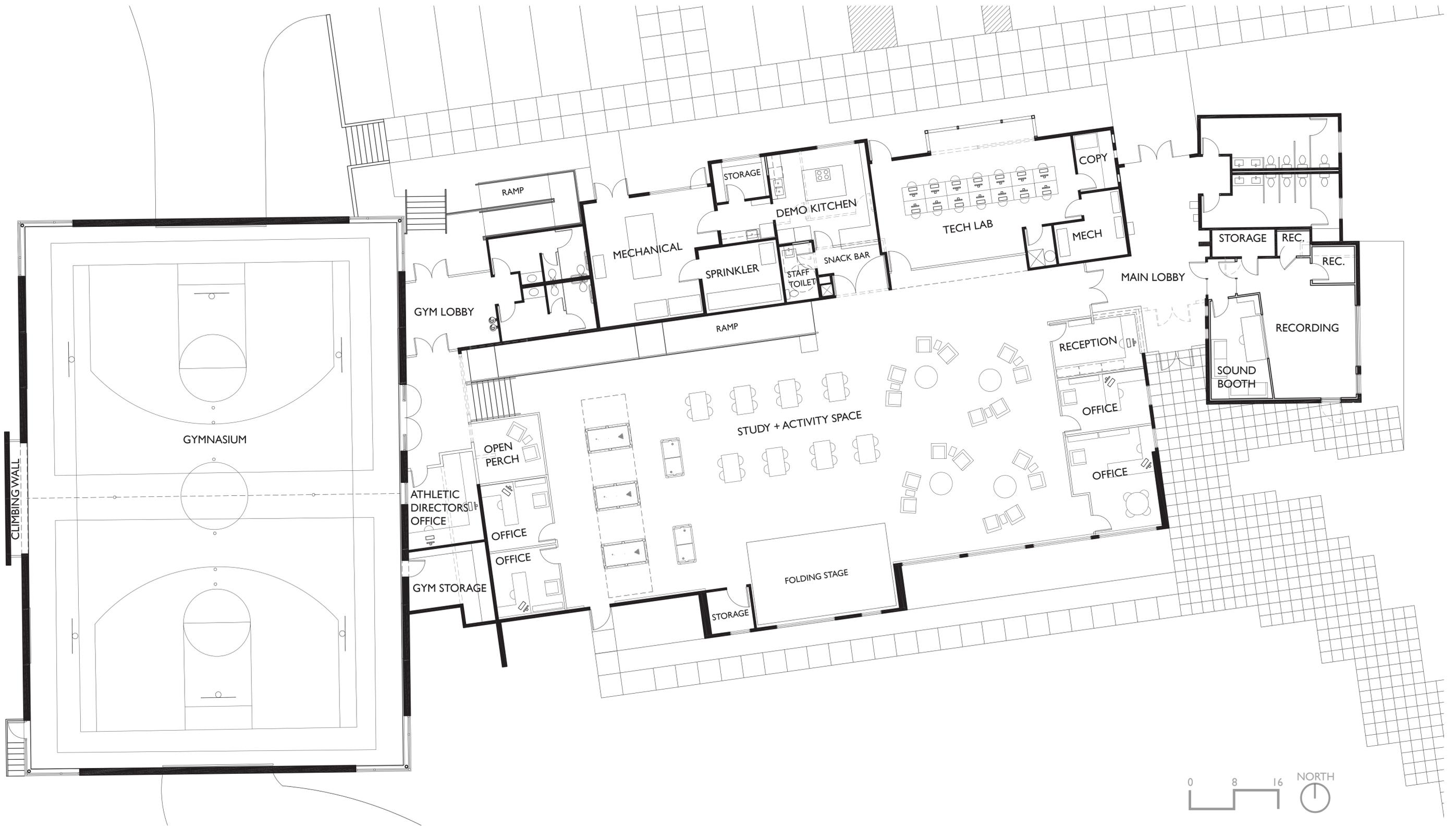
Parks and Recreation staff are overseeing interim maintenance at the facility including grounds maintenance. We have also posted this site as “No Trespassing” to address documented loitering and “tagging” issues and added this site to the patrol list for the Sammamish police. The Club hosted a volunteer effort to clean-up the interior of the facility in early April.

**Next Steps:**

- Council recommendation on project – phased approach or delay.
- Staff to continue work on lease agreement, anticipated review in late May/early June.

**Attachments:**

- Concept Drawing
- Memo from Parks and Recreation Commission
- Memo from Sammamish Youth Board



Sammamish Boys & Girls Club EX3 Teen Center  
 Schematic Design  
 March 11th, 2010

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DATE: April 19, 2010

TO: City Council

FROM: Hank Klein, Chair, Parks and Recreation Commission

RE: Recreation Center

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On behalf of the Parks and Recreation Commission (Parks Commission), I am pleased to share with you our recommendation on the Future Sammamish Recreation Center.

Over the past two months we have participated alongside the Boys & Girls Club in several public meetings, including visits to the local schools to discuss the Recreation Center. During our school visits alone, we estimate that we reached nearly 1,000 local youth. The teens were thrilled to share their ideas with us and truly appreciated our efforts to reach out to them! We also held two public meetings, and although attendance was lighter than we would have liked, we did gather great input regarding the multi-use potential for this facility. Finally, several of our members attended a Tri-Awareness meeting to discuss the project with school representatives and other community members.

We've compiled the feedback we received and provided a brief summary below.

**Teen Center Operations:**

The teens are looking for a place to “hang out” that has regular hours where everyone is welcome. As adults we often have a hard time understanding what “hanging out” means, but we've come to appreciate that it is really about having a space to call their own during non-school hours. Along these lines, many comments were received regarding a desire for a lounge area, a place for friends, relaxing, and chatting. This may include comfortable seating and could be paired with some other amenities including a reading area, a television, and video games.

Although the teens expressed a strong desire for unstructured time and spaces, they also mentioned several programs that interested them. Some of the ideas included traditional sports activities such as basketball, volleyball, and intramural leagues. They also liked the idea of a climbing wall and a gymnasium that would cater to a variety of fitness and athletic pursuits. Outside of athletics, many teens were interested in a game room with a pool table, a foosball table, ping pong etc.

Not surprising, it seems that food came up in nearly every conversation. Teens love the idea of the occasional pizza night, a snack bar, a coffee stand, and perhaps even a juice bar. Several were intrigued with the idea of a teaching kitchen and indicated that it would be fun to cook and learn to cook. They even suggested inter-generational cooking programs!

Despite the number of requests for “fun” amenities, the teens were equally interested in spaces to support their studies, including quiet rooms for homework and school projects. Computers were high on the list as well with the latest and greatest technology to support their academic pursuits. A strong arts component was a common theme in many conversations including, music, performances, art displays, dances, and a recording studio.

Many teens expressed a desire to have a governance structure in place that allowed them to be involved and have a voice in Recreation Center operations and decision-making. It may be possible to utilize our existing Youth Board in partnership with the Boys & Girls Club to meet this need.

**Multi-Use Operations:**

The great thing about this facility is that it can be designed to accommodate many uses so that it’s not sitting idle while the teens are in school. During our public meetings we heard that senior activities were at the top of the wish list including classes, exercise programs, educational lectures, arts and crafts, and other social opportunities. Several people expressed a desire to have meal services available to attendees along with a reliable transportation option for those that are no longer able to drive. A number of other populations may be able to take advantage of this facility including families with young children (stay-at-home) and home school families.

**Summary:**

Overall, we are very excited about the possibilities for the new facility in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club. We can also confirm that the community is very excited, especially the teens! It seems the possibilities are endless and yet, we recognize we have limited resources and will urge the City in partnership with the Boys & Girls Club to develop a balanced program that serves as many populations and recreational needs as possible.



## Memorandum

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DATE: April 6, 2010

TO: City Council

FROM: Christopher Williamson, Chair, Sammamish Youth Board

RE: Recreation Center Recommendation

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On behalf of the Sammamish Youth Board, I am pleased to present our recommendations on the Recreation Center.

Over the course of several public meetings, the Sammamish Youth Board has been presented with a range of ideas and proposals for programming the Rec Center. We have examined the initial site plans presented to us by the Boys and Girls Club, and have received extensive input from our peers, classmates and neighbors. In addition, select members have visited local teen center locations to see the facilities and interview the staff. We hope this summary of recommendations will help the City Council and the Boys and Girls Club to design a facility that services underserved Sammamish populations, such as seniors and toddlers, but also recognizes the needs and interests of the large teen population in Sammamish.

As members of the Sammamish Youth Board, we unanimously endorse the Rec Center model. We have provided additional comments and recommended changes on the various elements of the plan below.

### **Overall Operations and Management:**

Accessibility: The majority of Youth Board members would like this facility to be designated as a teen center solely. The reasoning: The teenage population lacks transportation and the funds to get around. On the other hand, there are existing resources in Sammamish that cater to the recreational/social needs of children and seniors and both these age groups have more options for accessibility. However the group realized financially this may not be the most effective management approach and plain and simple may be selfish. If the city deemed it necessary to program the facility during the day the group has suggestions on how to make it youth-friendly, and not give the impression that the facility is a senior center or kids club.

- Different entrances for different ages/hours of operation
- Teen-Focused art featured on site
- Facility name reflect local teen profile

### Participant Fees

The Board, along with many of the people it consulted, feel strongly that access to the club and most of the programs should be free to all Sammamish residents of qualifying age. We understand, however, that specialized programs such as computer skill courses or music studio lab time should not be solely subsidized by the city. A fee to help offset the cost of these sorts of programs is reasonable and expected.

### Hours of Operation

We feel strongly that the center should be open for teens only during non-school hours. Teens interviewed want a space or dedicated rooms that are exclusively for the use of certain age groups (12-19, 13-20). In addition, they feel strongly that weekends and summer time hours should be dedicated solely to the teenage population.

Advisory Board: The Sammamish Youth Board believes strongly, that in order to meet the needs of the city, the Boys and Girls Club and the residents of Sammamish, a peer-elected, youth-run board should be formed to serve as youth advocates. This group would provide recommendations to the city and make suggestions to the Boys and Girls Club on how best to meet the needs of their members.

### **Specific Programming Features:**

#### Overall Site Plan: Open and Inclusive

In viewing existing Teen Center site plans and in visiting other Eastside Teen Centers (Issaquah Community Center, Redmond Firehouse, Kirkland's KTUB), it was unanimous that Sammamish youth are not as interested in new, vast amenities but would rather have a simple, open and comfortable space to "hang out" in. We feel strongly that this is what's missing in Sammamish. Therefore, a site plan that is open, with very few walls or closures, would be most conducive to creating this all-inclusive atmosphere. Cubicle walls or "dividers" could be available on-site to be used when necessary.

In line with this, the group felt a stage could be included in the gymnasium to allow for more standing room when a live performance is featured, and to free up the stage space for more "open, hang out" space.

The Board felt a photography lab would be much too specialized. Photo hobbyists are already using facilities that their schools provide.

A study zone was also quickly eliminated as students feel they already have an abundant amount of quiet work space to complete their homework. Between their school's commons, multiple local coffee houses and the new library they would rather this site not include on a one-on-one studying element that does not fall in line with the more interactive, social environment they are seeking in the new Rec Center.

The Board strongly believes in supporting local youth artists. Since most of them are already creating works of art in their schools, we think display space is more important than work space. The Board encourages the facility to serve as a "home" to youth art exhibitions and wall murals.

In addition, they would like to see non-traditional forms of art encouraged such as dance, spoken word, poetry, etc.

A music studio will support existing local teen bands and also encourage youth to start a band. To better serve youth with musical talent, music education classes and a room of used/rentable instruments are recommended.

#### Specifically Desired Features

- Commercial-Grade Kitchen: For cooking classes, for private rentals, and for preparing edibles sold on-site
- Snack Bar/Café on-site: fresh foods and coffee drinks (possible on-site job training as a barista; money raised goes directly back into the facility)
- Popcorn Machine
- Movie Screen
- Games Room: open area with couches, tables (Video games, board games, puzzles, etc)
- Dance/Work Out Studio: room with mirror, incorporate aerobic workouts here (i.e. handheld weights, pull up bar, etc.) Ideally equipment that can get individuals who are not on an organized sports team in shape but that do not necessarily require parental supervision.
- Party Room: available for exclusive use, private parties
- If there is a central focus area or center point to the facility, a fresh-water fish tank would be suggested. This feature would be maintained by a youth-group and its inhabitants would be treated as “extended family members.”

#### **Monetary Concerns:**

Knowing the economy is currently unstable and unpredictable and the city of Sammamish relies heavily on volunteer resources, we encourage the city and Boys and Girls Club to solicit donations from local well-known companies such as Boeing, Costco, Microsoft, etc. to help furnish the facility with desired amenities.

In addition the Sammamish Youth Board, in conjunction with the city’s Volunteer Coordinator, would like to take the lead in hosting multiple volunteer work days. This would allow youth to take on the less-risky yet tedious tasks (i.e. re-painting walls, designing informational boards, setting up furniture and work spaces, etc.)

The Boys and Girls Club has committed to raising the necessary funds to remodel and add a full-size gymnasium. The Boys and Girls Club is looking to their annual campaign to help raise these funds. The Sammamish Youth Board would like to express its hope that all funds solicited through this fundraising campaign will go directly to, and only to, the design of the Sammamish Rec Center.

#### **Conclusion:**

That concludes our feedback regarding this much-needed and highly-anticipated public facility. Again, we very much appreciate the opportunity to provide you with our recommendations on the Recreation Center.





## Memorandum

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DATE: April 19, 2010

TO: City Council

FROM: Hank Klein, Chair, Parks and Recreation Commission  
Randy Jackson, Skate Park Committee, Parks and Recreation Commission

RE: Skate Park Hours

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The Parks and Recreation Commission was recently asked to consider a possible change to the skate park operating hours. The specific consideration was whether or not the park should close between the hours of 1:00 am and 5:00 am daily. We had an opportunity to discuss this item at the Commission meeting on April 7, 2010, and our unanimous recommendation to the City Council is to maintain the current 24-hour operating schedule at the skate park.

**Discussion:**

In 2007 the Parks Commission formed a committee to focus on the skate park specifically. At the time, we were coming out of the summer season, and the Parks Director had been experiencing some challenges with garbage and vandalism at the park. The committee was formed to serve as a liaison to the Youth Board and to the skating community and ultimately to improve communications between all groups. We also sought to learn more about the teen and young adult populations and continue to research and network with other service providers in the area.

Since 2007, vandalism at the park has been nearly non-existent, communication much improved, and operations smooth. Parks and Recreation staff, the Youth Board and the Commission are all engaged with the skating community and committed to addressing issues as they arise. This brings us to our first concern, we are not aware of any issues at the park and the potential change in skate park hours has us asking, "Why?" We would hate to take away a privilege from the users when they have been nothing short of good stewards of this facility. Our current relationship dictates that we work collectively to resolve problems, and we are concerned about the message we'd be sending by implementing this change without good reason.

We understand that one of the issues raised was in relation to driving hours for teenagers. While we are aware of restrictions for new drivers and we support enforcement of those restrictions, we also know that other unrestricted populations use our skate park as well. Changing the operating hours would unfairly limit these older skate park users. It should also be noted that many users access the skate park via non-motorized means, so driving restrictions may be a very limited issue.

Anecdotally, we understand that the late night users of the park may not be teens at all. There are a number of young adults (“twenty-somethings”) that use this park. Many of these individuals work jobs at odd hours and visit the park late at night (or early in the morning depending on your perspective.) While we don’t understand the appeal of skating at 3:00 am, it is something they enjoy doing, and we’ve supported their past-time provided they treat the park with respect and follow the rules. Without a doubt these night-owl skaters are doing just that, and we’d like to continue to support their use of this facility.

We’ve recently spent countless hours discussing the new Recreation Center and meeting with teens to exchange ideas. These discussions confirmed what we already knew – there isn’t a lot for teens and young adults to do in Sammamish. And that is one of the great things about the skate park. It is a place for them to be and it’s O.K. for them to be there. Given its proximity to City Hall and the Police Department, we feel it’s also a safe place for them to be.

Finally, it was brought to our attention during our last Commission meeting that the lights at the skate park remain on at night even when the park is not being used. Lack of use tends to coincide with bad weather, which happens frequently enough that we are concerned about the efficiency of this system. One suggestion we have is to explore the use of a timer system, so that the lights are only on when the park is in use. Depending on a number of scenarios, including the type of lights in use, this could greatly improve energy efficiency at this park.

**Conclusion:**

The City of Sammamish took a very bold risk several years ago in deciding to build and operate a 24-Hour Skate Park. While many of us had reservations at the time, we have been pleasantly surprised and genuinely proud of this facility and the skate park users. We appreciate their willingness to work cooperatively with us and the staff to ensure proper care and safe operations of this wonderful park. Again, it is our recommendation that we continue to operate the skate park as a 24-hour facility.



DATE: April 19, 2010

TO: City Council

FROM: Christopher Williamson, Chair, Sammamish Youth Board

RE: Skate Park Operation Recommendation

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On behalf of the Sammamish Youth Board, I am pleased to present our recommendations on the skate park hours of operation.

The Board surveyed their peers, along with reaching out to young adults who use the skate park regularly during non-traditional hours (their comments are attached). Immediately, Board members were questioned as to what the current problem was that initiated this discussion. Through our initial investigation with city staff we have learned there is no particular incident/issue that is occurring. Therefore the question is raised, “why fix a system if it isn’t broken?”

In addition, the Board, consisting of local high school students, is aware of the current driving rule: Within their first year of obtaining a license, teen drivers may not be behind the wheel of a vehicle between 1:00 am and 5:00 am. This rule is made explicitly clear to teens as they go through the licensing process. However they did not feel the skate park being open or closed during these hours would have any major weight in making their decision to follow or not follow that rule. Rather, closing the skate park may lead some skating regulars to seek out other forms of entertainment, which may include breaking the law.

Finally it was requested that if the skate park had to be closed during those hours, it was encouraged to have that policy be restricted to those teens under a certain age. However, enforcing this rule may pose a challenge to city staff and police.

In conclusion, the Sammamish Youth Board believes the benefits of keeping the skate park open 24 hours outweighs the risks of limited hours. The Sammamish Youth Board strongly encourages City Council to operate the skate park as is.

Attached:

Scott Yamamura is a local skate park professional and enthusiast. Below are responses he solicited from young adults who use the skate park.

----- Original Message -----

From: Austin Fischer (Early 20's)

Hey scott! Yeah, I use it at that hour sometimes, and know that a lot of others do. Especially in the summer months!

----- Original Message -----

From: michael hertel (17 years old)

lots of people use it after 1 forsure.

----- Original Message -----

From: Laura Cox (early 20's)

Hey I have, and was planning on probably this summer once its warmer....! haha Blessings.

----- Original Message -----

From: James Starlin (22 years old)

Hey Scott, I've been there after 1am and in the summer it's nice. I wouldn't recommend high school students to be there after 1, but college students and skaters who work late hours would like to have it open late to skate. Also I've heard of people who go there late. Bikers too! So perhaps they could allow 18 and above to skate after 1am.

----- Original Message -----

From: Jared Lettau [jared\\_integrity@yahoo.com](mailto:jared_integrity@yahoo.com) (mid 20's, you may contact Jared if you wish to talk to him)

Thanks for sending this to me Scott! I'm glad you did because I regularly use the skate park after 1am. Nothing quite like the early morning when the birds start up at about 4:15 and the sun rises soon after! Pretty cool!

A simple drive by doesn't really do it justice, since most people come and go in small groups (if you spend time there, which I do, you would know that). Sammamish is the only 24/7, lighted skate park in the region. Which means it is used quite often by people in the greater eastside

during the wee hours of the morning. In fact it's unusual for me not to bump into people from Redmond, Bellevue, Issaquah, Renton, as well as the Sammamish regulars.

Please, let's not forget that the Sammamish park also has a basketball court, and a rock wall for bouldering, and these aspects of the park are used as well.

From what I can tell, the issue is the whole curfew thing, which I don't know much about. I'm in my twenties, so that doesn't affect me. However I do know that after 1 am, most people who are using the park are not minors. Are there minors? Some. But not the vast majority. I agree that it would be good for most kids to be home at least by 1 am. But kids aren't the only ones who use the park. If indeed the curfew is the point, that's kind of alarming to me. That's a pretty basic logic flaw. Also, having done many years of work mentoring kids within the framework of structured organizations; I can tell you that most kids (minors) who are out late, would rather go home. The skate park provides a much needed escape for kids who have a pretty rough home life.

Here's the question I would pose. Skate parks are a great asset to a city, because they provide a place for people to go when they have nothing better to do. Not all skaters are rabble, but honestly, if the skate park was closed those people would find something to do. And that alternative form of "entertainment" is likely to cause more mischief. I say keep the park open. Not everyone who uses it is a little kid. And if it's closed then there will be many late skate regulars with even more free time and nothing to do... like I said before, not all skaters are sketchy, but some of them defiantly are! It's much easier keep an eye on potentially problematic people if they are all in the same place. Hope that helps Scott.