

http://www.goanacortes.com/news/article_19aca440-dcea-11e6-b1d2-f74bd2d84547.html

FEATURED

Architects seek input on pool center updates

Joan Pringle 9 hrs ago



Joan Pringle / Anacortes American

Architects working with the Fidalgo Pool and Fitness Center will meet with staff, city leaders and user groups next week to determine the best ways to go about improving the facility and surrounding property.

Fidalgo Parks and Recreation District commissioners who oversee the center recently hired ARC Architects of Seattle to perform a feasibility study for design options. Meeting with the various interest groups is the next step.

On Monday, Jan. 23, members of the firm will meet with city leaders 2 to 3 p.m.; with cashiers, lifeguards, swim and fitness instructors, and personal trainers 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.; and the facility's long-range planning committee, commissioners and center managers 5 to 6 p.m.

On Tuesday, Jan. 24, they will meet with fitness equipment and program users 9:45 to 10:45 a.m.; with high school districts 11 to noon; special groups that rent and hold events at the facility 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.; swimmers and water exercise users 2:45 to 3:45 p.m.; and Thunderbird Aquatic Club and swim lesson parents 4:15 to 5:15 p.m.

The center was built in 1975, and its heating, air conditioning, ventilation, lighting and utility systems are rapidly reaching obsolescence, according to the center.

The long-range planning committee of community and staff members was commissioned in December 2015 and tasked with finding out the community's desires and needs when it came to the facility along with identifying needed compliance upgrades to accommodate future growth. Last year, it conducted surveys and held public workshops to compile a list of wants and needs.

Its ultimate goal is to create and implement a master capital improvement plan that will possibly include expansion on two adjacent properties the district owns at 2210 and 2222 J Ave. to the east and south respectively.

Major issues, however, are upgrades for the facility to be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act and to its fire alarm, sprinkler, heating and hot water systems, said Executive Director Marilyn Stadler.

Also high on the list are family/private changing rooms. Other features being considered include warm-water and physical therapy pools.

The design work, cost estimates and funding strategies are expected to take at least six months to complete, Stadler said.

People interested in but not able to attend one of the sessions can contact Stadler with questions or comments at 360-293-0673 and mstadler@fidalgopool.com.

More Information

For information on the Fidalgo Pool and Fitness Center master capital improvement plan, contact Executive Director Marilyn Stadler at 360-293-0673 and mstadler@fidalgopool.com.

http://www.goskagit.com/news/fidalgo-pool-and-fitness-center-to-hold-public-meetings/article_be17fed5-3efd-5f51-acd0-cf740fa25b06.html

FEATURED TOP STORY

Fidalgo Pool and Fitness Center to hold public meetings

By AARON WEINBERG @Aaron_SVH 7 hrs ago



Scott Terrell / Skagit Valley Herald

Swimmers take part Thursday in an open lap swim at the Fidalgo Pool and Fitness Center in Anacortes. Center officials a ideas from the community about upgrading or expanding the facility.

ANACORTES — Fidalgo Pool and Fitness Center officials will host a series of public meetings Tuesday to gather input on potential improvements.

The meetings, which will be held in the conference room, are part of a larger effort to determine the costs and feasibility of remodeling the aging facility or of constructing a new one.

Those who participate in programs such as SilverSneakers, Silver and Fit, and At Your Best should attend the 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. meeting.

Those involved in high school swimming should attend the 11 a.m. to noon meeting.

Groups that rent and conduct special events should attend the meeting set for 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Lap swimmers, masters, water group exercise users, open swim and youth swimmers should attend from 2:45 to 3:45 p.m.

The meeting for Thunderbird Aquatic Club and swim lesson parents will be held from 4:15 to 5:15 p.m.

City leaders, facility employees and other officials will attend meetings between 2 to 6 p.m. Monday.

Some issues that have been brought up include inadequate air conditioning and circulation, noncompliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and that the facility is too small to serve the community.

Fidalgo Pool and Fitness Center Executive Director Marilyn Stadler said additional meetings can be expected in the future.

“This is a continuing process,” she said. “We have a lot of issues and challenges right now.”

In 2015, pool commissioners set up a committee to look at the long-term future of the facility.

ARC Architects of Seattle was recently contracted to assess the needs of the facility and to help determine costs.

Pool officials will also have to determine funding sources for those costs, Stadler said.

Whether officials decide on renovation or new construction largely depends on what the architecture firm finds in its six-month study, she said.

“We’ll then bring those options in front of the public, then we’ll move on to see how we are funded,” she said.

The pool receives levy money every six years through property taxes in Anacortes. It also receives revenue from its programs.

— Reporter Aaron Weinberg: 360-416-2145, aweinberg@skagitpublishing.com,
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Aaron Weinberg

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SPECIAL MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

There have been questions concerning Washington State Law in regards to having a Public Comment Section during Special Meetings of the Board of Commissioners. Executive Director Marilyn Stadler contacted the Municipal Research Services Center (MRSC) about Fidalgo Pool & Fitness Center District's responsibilities with this issue.

According to MRSC, the public has the right to attend Special Meetings of the Board of Commissioners, but, under state law, the District is not required to provide for public comment. Some jurisdictions have local rules that allow for public comment, but that is usually for regular, as opposed to special meetings.

The Commissioners of Fidalgo Pool & Fitness Center and Christine Mathes, Co-Chair of the Long Range Planning Committee value public input during Special Meetings. Therefore, public comments will be offered during that section of the agenda and for a 3 minute time frame. This is to encourage public input while fulfilling the meetings' purpose and progress.

(The **Municipal Research and Services Center (MRSC)** is a [non-profit organization](#) based in [Seattle](#) with a mission of, "supporting effective local government in Washington through trusted consultation, research, training, and collaboration".^[1] Founded in 1934 and funded primarily through a state appropriation, most of MRSC's services are offered free of charge to local government employees and public officials of cities, counties, and some special purpose districts in the [State of Washington](#). MRSC's expertise covers a wide range of subjects including municipal law, municipal finance, urban planning, public works, and public management.^[2] Resource for definition of MRSC obtained on the Internet on Thursday, January 19, 2017 at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Municipal_Research_and_Services_Center)

From: Oskar Rey [mailto:orey@mrsc.org]
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2017 1:22 PM
To: Marilyn Stadler
Subject: MRSC Inquiries--Special Meetings and Overtime Policies

Hello Marilyn,

It was nice talking with you today. This is in response to your MRSC inquiries, which are set forth at the bottom of this email.

Regarding special meetings, the public has the right to attend, but, under state law, the District is not required to provide for public comment. Some jurisdictions have local rules that allow for public comment, but that is usually for regular, as opposed to special meetings.

Regarding overtime, the answer is no. I looked at the [personnel policies](#) for several jurisdictions, and all of them had policies requiring prior authorization from a supervisor or department head before an employee could work overtime. In your case, if an employee worked overtime without authorization, it would be a violation of the District's overtime policy and the District would not be required to pay overtime.

I hope this is helpful. Please call or email if you have any follow-up questions.

Oskar Rey
Legal Consultant
206.625.1300 | MRSC.org | Local Government Success