



YMCA-YWCA OF NORTHEAST AVALON

**STRONG FAMILIES CAMPAIGN
MEMBER CONSULTATION MEETING
MEETING NOTES 27 MARCH 2008
7:30PM 34 NEW COVE ROAD**

Attending: Craig Rowe (Y Board and Campaign Cabinet Chair), Jerry Kirkland (Building Committee Chair), Sharon Horan (Fundraising Committee Chair), Laurie Clouston (Communications Committee Co-chair), Paul Goulart (Board Vice Chair), Greg Dickie (Building Committee member), Gerry Carew (Past Board Chair), Jason Brown (Y CEO), Michelle Northover (staff), Jim Case, Richard Symonds, 40 Y Members

1. Welcome and Update

Craig called meeting to order at 7:35pm. and thanked those in attendance for coming.

Jason opened the meeting by calling on three Y staff representing program areas to present a cheque for \$200,000 to Craig on behalf of the inner family of staff, board and committee volunteers. Staff presenting were Gillianne Beaulieu (Health, Fitness and Recreation), Susan Smith (Children's Services), Scott Andrews (Employment and Enterprise Services).

Craig outlined that the intent of the meeting was for Sheppard Case to receive feedback, questions, and comments on what members wish to see in a new Y. The committee and architects are present to listen to comments and are interested in member feedback. He then introduced committee and board members present and briefly reviewed the project timeline.

- It is anticipated the new Y will be constructed by early 2010
- Optimistic about government funding announcement very soon
- Hopeful about breaking ground in the fall of 2008

Craig then described the work of the communications committee in the development of the video which was then shown to the group. The video was well-received.

2. Sheppard Case Consultation

After the video Craig introduced Jim Case and Richard Symonds, architects for Sheppard Case who are working on the Y project, and handed the meeting over to them.

Jim Case talked about his excitement and the keen interest of his firm on the project to build the new St. John's Family Y. He informed those present that he and Richard has accompanied Jason and Sharon Horan to Ontario to visit 4 Y which were a good comparison for this project due to the ages and sizes of the buildings.

He outlined the 3 facets that the design process will take:

- First – determine, in consultation with Jason and building committee a list of spaces and characteristics of those spaces to be included in the new building. They will then begin production of preliminary concept designs with distinct options and within the allocated budget.
- Second – those concepts will be refined based on feedback from Jason and building committee at which point another member consultation may take place to present initial concept and receive input.
- Third – concepts will be redone based on feedback and refined within budget constraints for approval by building committee. This process will be ongoing until an approved concept designed is completed.

3. Jim opened the meeting up to questions, comments, and discussion from the floor.

Questions/comments raised:

- The integrity of Mr. Case was challenged by an individual who had involvement with him on the King George V soccer field and fencing of gardens in the neighbourhood. Mr. Case responded that he upheld his promise to those he worked with on the project and felt his integrity could not be questioned based on a decision that he was not accountable for to place advertising on the fences. Craig pointed out that this was not the forum to discuss this issue as it held no relevance to the Y project.
- Are courts going to be included in new building? A show of hands indicated there were approximately 12 people in attendance specifically to express their desire to see courts in the new building.
- Will the pool be saline or chlorine?
- Will there be a running track?
- Will there be an aquatics centre?
- What kind of pool will it be and will it be of regulation size for aquatic sporting activities such as synchronized swimming?
- Will the pool take into consideration the needs of programming for very young children?
- A two lane, four foot deep pool may be limiting for some swim activities. Is there consideration to make the pool 25 metres long?
- Jason explained that the intent of the pool will for all ages to be able to participate at some level at all times, with no emphasis placed on competitive sporting activities as this is not in keeping with Y values. It will be 18 – 20 metres long, with shallow water, steep incline for deep end and accommodation for a leisure

- pool. A “learn to swim” program will be a significant programming element, as will water fitness, and water play for all ages.
- Deep water fitness is recommended by physiotherapists to decrease impact felt by shallow water fitness. Will the pool have a deep end big enough to accommodate this?
 - Jim Case pointed out that the entire building will be completely accessible for all ability levels. This is a priority.
 - Will there be multi-purpose facilities?
 - Really want courts so is the use of multi-purpose space being given consideration as an option for courts?
 - One court will not be enough.
 - Climbing walls are good way to make use of multi-purpose space.
 - The size of the gym in current building is excellent. Would like to see the same size gym in new building.
 - Jason pointed out that consideration is being given to taking the current gym floor to the new building as a link from the old building to the new one and the floor is of exceptional quality. This may not be feasible depending on the wishes of whoever purchases the building but is an idea for serious consideration.
 - The use of multi-purpose rooms and peak usage times should be considered.
 - Would like to see handball remain as an accessible program in appropriate court space.
 - Will consideration be given to building a “green” building with LEED certification?
 - Jim Case pointed out to the group that they have a LEED certifying individual on staff so they will give serious consideration to the desire to achieve the best level of certification possible within budget and environmental constraints. They are well- equipped with skills in this area and will build the most energy efficient building they can.
 - Will there be geothermal heating?
 - A climbing wall may not be used a lot – have noticed this at a Y in Calgary so this should be taken into consideration.
 - The video says there will be specific items in new building, if courts are not one of these items would like to know that up front.
 - Craig pointed out that although there are some very basic things known about what is to be included in the new building, no design has been decided on yet and this means there is no decision on courts.
 - Build change rooms that will be easier to maintain and keep clean.
 - Is consideration being given to possible uses of the building in 10 years and building it using the knowledge of the past experience from current facility in case renovations are needed?
 - Is an aquatics centre really needed considering the high costs of maintaining it?
 - Site location is great
 - Consider partnerships with other nearby facilities to share resources such as parking and do joint programming (e.g. ski clubs in Pippy Park, French school programming).

- Would like to see a plan that includes outside walking trails, outside courts, outside climbing walls.
- Would like to see different levels of change rooms – regular and premium or adult only, regular and family.
- Will there be steam rooms or saunas in change rooms?
- Would like to see the building built with a commitment to the concept of family and being able to engage children and keep them as they age and throughout their life.
- Jason pointed out that the plan is to have adult only, regular, and family change rooms to allow for personal choice and for all to be able to participate according to their comfort level. The survey conducted as part of the business plan showed that the number of members would be 10 – 15% higher with this type of plan for change rooms.
- Would like to see committee consider having a café similar to Tim Horton's at the Aquarena as a source of additional revenue.
- Would like to see panic buttons for emergencies and security throughout the building.
- The task to build the new Y is a complex one and it appears many of the ideas will exceed budget – the committee and architects have very hard work ahead of them.
- Will the building and programming be flexible to allow for aging populations and renovations as needed?
- If anyone has a chance to visit a new Y in another province it is recommended they do so – what the new St. John's Family Y will be like is nowhere near what we now have at 34 New Cove Road.
- The location is great – it will be a focal point for the entire city.

4. Meeting conclusion

Jerry Kirkland spoke up to say that all who were in attendance obviously care about the Y and this project very passionately. To build the new Y St. John's deserves is going to take commitment and support of the board, committee volunteers, staff, and Y members. All those in attendance were thanked by Jerry for coming and for expressing their sincere interest. He then asked that they consider how they can help make the project a success by speaking to others about the positive impact a new Y will have and considering a financial contribution to assist Sharon Horan, the fundraising committee chair, to meet and exceed the goal to raise the needed funds.

Overall there was very positive discussion facilitated by Jim Case and members were encouraged to continue to express their interest in the project by contacting anyone on the committee.

Craig thanked all for attending and for expressing their thoughts and ideas which will be taken into consideration as project moves forward.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.