

What We Heard Summary

Emerald Hills Leisure Centre Second Floor engagement with Council Advisory Committees

Background

Representatives from all four Council Advisory Committees were invited to an online engagement session to discuss future use of the 2nd floor multi-purpose rooms at Emerald Hills Leisure Centre. Attendees were first walked through the floorplan and then had an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback into how the rooms could be best utilized by the community

In attendance

- Two representatives from Council's Accessibility Advisory Committees
- One representative from Council's Senior's Advisory Committees
- Recreation, Parks and Culture Acting Operations Coordinator
- Recreation, Parks and Culture Recreation Analysts

Do you see community members that you represent through your committee, wanting to participate in programs or use the space here? What types of programs or uses do you see this being a good location for?

Seniors Council Committee

- Space for seniors to partake in some sort of activity while they are taking their grandchild to the pool.
- Objective to end up with a Seniors Centre or Hub. Interested in utilizing some of these rooms on a temporary basis. Could be used for arts, crafts, education, painting, yoga, music, dancing, or weaving. We already have exercise areas, but few social spaces.
- Storage room could be a real plus to keep equipment in.
- Keep seniors programming in one room or one area – do not like changes.

Accessibility Council Committee

- Mostly focused on how the space is built/designed in order to be welcoming to all members of the community.

Youth Council Committee (not in attendance but sent in notes)

- Based on the presentation at the end of last year, it seems that senior "gathering place" might be an appropriate use. Seniors are struggling with isolation, even before Covid. Maybe some kind of drop-in centre with guided fitness activities and learning opportunities.
- Possibly even a technology resource area where seniors can use computers etc. When we drift away from Covid restrictions we could start transitioning seniors wellness day to a physical location, and make it daily, or at least more frequent.
- If this is available, maybe then we can partner with local seniors' facilities and county transit to ensure access.

Do you see any barriers for community members that you represent through your committee, accessing programs or using the space here?

Seniors Council Committee

- Would like to see the rooms wired for computers. AV component (laptops, screens, AV equipment, etc...).

Accessibility Council Committee

PHYSICAL

- Elevator is a great idea – asked about entering on one end and exiting on the other end.
- Both stairways should have a hand railing on each side, rather than just one side.
- All doors into the hallways should be at least 36 inches, including the washroom.
- Accessibility applies across the spectrum – including all age ranges. Accessibility items need to be looked at to accommodate everyone.
- Fire door – does it stay open or closed? If it needs to stay closed, how will it be opened? Will it have a mechanism to open it? Will this have a button open?
- The railing overlooking the first floor needs to be tall enough and high enough to ensure no one could fall over.
- Will the movable walls manual or electric? RPC staff would be responsible for moving the walls during room set-up.

SENSORY

- Consider sensory barriers, not just physical.
- Can windows be added to each room to look into the hallway? It can be challenging for some people who cannot see out outside of the program rooms into the hallway.
- Can lively artwork or murals be designed in the rooms if there are no windows?

LIGHTING

- No fluorescent lighting due to eye problems.

WASHROOMS

- Women's washroom is concerning with only one stall being accessible. Stalls may be too small for parents assisting their young children.

*Would like plan to come back to see the final design to see if there are any adjustments that could be made to it.

What time of day would community members that you represent through your community, be most likely to participate in programs or use the space here?

Seniors Council Committee

- Seniors could go any day of the year – activities every day. Seniors do get used to do things during the day.