



Belltown Community Center Public Meeting Notes - 3/16/11 Service Providers and Programming Discussion

A Project Advisory Team (PAT) has been assembled to make recommendations on programming and to assist in outreach for the community center project. The PAT's membership includes community members and business owners from the neighborhood. The PAT and Parks staff have been meeting regularly; thus far, the PAT's involvement has included:

- Discussions on facility location;
- Preliminary input on program priorities;
- Public meeting content and structure; and
- Additional outreach.

More than 65 citizens attended the March 16, 2011 public meeting for this project, hosted by the Belltown Community Council and Mary's Place. The intent at this meeting was for the community to give input on five key discussion questions (listed below). Attendees could give input at the public meeting or send comments by mail or e-mail.

Public Meeting #1 Questions -

1. What types of programs and services would you like to have at your community center?
2. What hours of operation are most important to you?
3. How should the community center be staffed?
4. What is your vision for the community center?
5. Other important things to consider?

During the meeting, after the community had a chance to brainstorm ideas, they had the opportunity to place dots on their top three priorities. There were boards with a variety of programming options, visual images and written lists available for the dot exercise. Dot priorities were then added up: 1st priority = 15 points, 2nd priority = 10 points, 3rd priority = 5 points.

Key priorities from the community on future programming and operations of the Community Center include:

- Seattle Police Department - 24 hour Police desk space;
- Free town hall meetings;
- Tai Chi, Yoga, Pilates, possible martial arts classes for all ages;
- Adult programs and classes;
- Evening dances/events;
- Open 7 days/week all day; and
- Creation of a community board to work in tandem with the operator, regular operator evaluations by the City and community board, and an operator who understands and is engaged with the neighborhood.

<i>What types of programs and services would you like to have at your community center?</i>	Points
Free town hall meetings	75
Tai Chi, Yoga, Pilates, possible martial arts classes for all ages	55
Adult programs/classes	40
“Language Lab” ESL classes, foreign language tutorials	35
Space for civic groups to meet in the evenings	35
Bingo	35
Computer classes	30
Kids programs	30
Scheduled space	30
Art room/classes: easels, pottery wheels, lots of art supplies.	25
Space with folding tables for evening scrabble, chess, games, cards,	20
Information - sharing	20
Disaster information classes	20
Green elements	20
After school programs/tutoring	15
‘Front desk’ for referrals, maps information etc. Notice boards	15
Party space	15
Sports/off-site organization	15
Lending Library	10
Dog/citizen classes	10
Multi-purpose physical activity room: climbing wall, “Gymboree/mommy and me (soft mats).	5
Quiet room: meditation, very Zen, could hold yoga here and also evening meetings.	5
Book clubs	
 <i>Community events</i>	
Seattle Police Department - 24 hours Police desk space	150
Evening dances/events	45
Place to meet	25
Twice a year rummage sale	25
Library Annex	20
Socializing	15
Music events	15
Ice skating rink (outside, can be put in vacant lot during the winter)	15
Special events	10
Fundraising events for local community	10
Cultural events	5
Swimming pool	
 <i>What hours of operation are most important to you? How should the community center be staffed?</i>	
7 days/week all day	70
Sundays - open	40
Clear reservation system - recurring - one-time	5
Flex hours	5
Noon/1pm - 9pm	
Evening	

After school

Weekends (for working shifts)

Build for future

Other important things to consider?

Community board - works in tandem with operator. Regular operator evaluations by City and community team. Operator understands and is engaged with the neighborhood.

30

Volunteer opportunities

25

Community responsibility for positive activity

15