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West Lafayette recreation center study asks public what they want

Shannon Hall, Journal & Courier

Published 4:32 p.m. ET Jan. 16, 2018



(Photo: Shannon Hall/ Journal & Courier)

WEST LAFAYETTE — The city of West Lafayette wants you to design a \$25 million recreation center.

Or at least tell them what you would like to see in one.

Officials handed out build-a-center worksheets to the public Tuesday to workshop ideas for a possible recreation center.

The \$25 million budget is a hypothetical budget. All the different potential amenities include an estimated cost. The base building is priced at \$4 million. A multi-activity gym costs roughly \$1 million per court and six-lane, indoor lap pool would be \$4.5 million.

More: [West Lafayette discusses possible recreation center \(/story/news/2017/12/11/west-lafayette-discusses-possible-recreation-center/940100001/\)](/story/news/2017/12/11/west-lafayette-discusses-possible-recreation-center/940100001/)

More: [West Lafayette adds 1,000+ new customers to trash service \(/story/news/2018/01/09/west-lafayette-adds-1-000-new-customers-trash-service/1016029001/\)](/story/news/2018/01/09/west-lafayette-adds-1-000-new-customers-trash-service/1016029001/)

The couple dozen people who attended the workshops could turn in "their" recreation centers but if others weren't able to attend the workshops, they can submit their ideas online at reccenterwl.com.

All the ideas will be collected to see what the public thinks is needed for a **West Lafayette Recreation Center**. Right now, the city is conducting a **feasibility study** to see if it's possible or necessary to build one.

Lindsey Peckinpaugh, a principal architect with the consultant group **Perkins+Will**, said there won't be a time limit on when people need to submit their designs.

"But giving us your feedback within the first month will be most impactful," she said.



A map of Cumberland park. The different bubbles show where the different activities could go if a recreation center is built. (Photo: Shannon Hall/ Journal & Courier)

Barberry Heights resident Sarah Kelly wants the West Lafayette recreation center to be an inviting space. She lives nearby and doesn't want it to look institutional but friendly with lots of light.

She also thinks a track with a walking lane would be a good idea for a recreation center.

"That way people don't sweat to death outside during the summers or freeze during the winters," Kelly said.

One feature that Cathy Nakajima thinks is needed for a recreation center is a pool.

All ages can use a pool to exercise, she said. She knows a pool isn't inexpensive but it's the ideal for everyone to exercise.

"I'm putting all my chips in with the pools," Nakajima said of her design of a recreation center.

Recreation Center Town Hall Presentation

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She thinks a recreation center is needed for the West Lafayette community.

"I wish it was here 10 years ago," Nakajima said. "It's necessary."

But just because the public gets a hypothetical budget of \$25 million doesn't mean that will be the price tag of the possible recreation center.

In February, the consultants will provide a preliminary cost opinion to the redevelopment commission.

According to the city's website dedicated to the study — www.reccenterwl.com— part of the study will include recommendations for the Morton Community Center.

The plan is to keep the activities that are held at the Morton Center but the study will look into whether moving the activities to the possible recreation center or if they should stay put.

A city hall feasibility study is also in the works. Both studies will look into whether a joint facility would be possible.

Upcoming workplan

Mid February: preliminary cost opinion

March 21: draft recommendations and community open house meetings