

Penticton Community Centre Aquatic Expansion: Update December 23, 2009

- A series of Stakeholder meetings took place on December 16. Representatives from various user groups, swim clubs, special needs users, triathletes, and families all contributed to refining the preliminary design which was initially proposed earlier this year and presented at a public open house event in March.
- Generally all of those attending agreed that careful consideration should be made to ensure that the design provides for multiple uses and capitalizes on the space within the buildings envelope.
- As well, some challenges were identified from the preliminary layout. Considerations that were suggested to solve these issues include: expansion of initial storage space, re-locating the fitness room, and creating a single entrance (rather than 2 main entrance locations).
- An integrated design workshop was also held with key sub-consultants (engineers, sustainability consultant, etc.) and user groups to familiarize them with the complexities of the project and collectively develop refinements to the plans.
- At the City Council meeting on December 21, council approved the signing of the contribution agreement between the city, the province and the federal government. This funding agreement specifies the total amount allotted from the senior levels of government for the project (of \$15.3 million) as well as the project completion date. It indicates that the project must be substantially completed by March 31, 2011.
- The contribution funding excluded costs for development cost charges and permits; finance costs; and the HST charges to be applied beginning in 2010, all totaling \$787,500. These ineligible costs were unanticipated, so council has chosen to absorb these into the project budget. Consequently, this impact will challenge the design process to refine the scope of the project to address the primary needs of the project only. A cost estimating process occurs continuously during the design period (and construction) in order that the project is kept within budget.
- Council also approved establishing a Project Steering Committee consisting of Mayor Ashton; Councilors Albas and Litke; Doug Leahy, Treasurer; John Kirbyson, Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture; and Dennis Back, the City's CAO. The purpose of the group is to guide the process and ensure that the needs of the community are being met and that the project is kept on budget and on time.
- A public open house will be scheduled for Friday, January 8 for residents to review the progress of the design and provide input. Public notification will occur during the week prior after specific arrangements are confirmed.