

Focus Group Discussion Notes - August 27, 2018

The group in attendance asked the following questions:

QUESTION 1: Why is the LeisurePlan International telephone survey only collecting information from people between the ages of 20 – 64?

ANSWER:

If a new facility is built, the intention would be to offset operating costs with user fee revenue. The 20-64 age group has the biggest impact on operating revenue, as youth and senior user fees are subsidized or discounted.

The reason the Committee needs a scientific, quantitative study is so we know with certainty from this core user group if there is the minimal financial support for a project like this.

There are several ways to provide input on the project:

- Individuals can attend a Focus Group, such as this.
- Individuals can speak to a Committee or Council member (names of Councillors and contact information is available at SouthHuron.ca)
- Individuals wanting their comments recorded can send a written submission to Council via the Municipal Clerk (clerk@southhuron.ca)

There are several ways to stay current with information about the project:

- Members of the public are welcome to attend Committee meetings that take place biweekly at the Municipal Office or at the call of the Chair. Upcoming Committee meetings are posted on the Events Calendar at SouthHuron.ca, and in the newspaper under “The Hub” section.
- Key points of each meeting are published by the Municipality of South Huron in the Lakeshore Advance newspaper under the “The Hub” section.
- All project information, including meeting minutes is posted to SouthHuron.ca (on the homepage, click the image of the boy flying a kite to go directly to the project page).
- Individuals can contact municipal staff at communications@southhuron.ca or 519.235.0310 x 231

The Municipality sincerely apologizes to those individuals who received messaging from the surveyors that left them feeling excluded from participating in this project - that was not the messaging recommended by the Committee nor approved by Council. This is an inclusive project and the Committee is actively seeking input from all residents of South Huron using many methods.

QUESTION 2: How can you come up with a statistical survey representative of South Huron if you exclude seniors?

ANSWER:

The survey is a statistical representation of residents between the ages of 20 and 64. The opinions of all residents are valued by the Committee and are being collected using various methods (see answer to QUESTION 1), including these focus groups.

QUESTIONS 3, 4, 5, 6: How much is this facility going to cost? Will the cost estimate go up? Will Council increase the financial commitment beyond the \$7.5m? QUESTION 6: What will the operating costs be?

ANSWER:

At this time, no decisions have been made on the design of the facility or the cost. South Huron is still in the information gathering phase to determine what programs and services the community wants and what is affordable.

Any decision on spending will be made by South Huron Council, which acts with the best interests of the entire community in mind.

QUESTIONS 7, 8: Why is there a need to consider building a new rec facility? How did this project come about?

ANSWER:

In 2009 the Municipality of South Huron commissioned a Master Plan Recreation study that determined the South Huron Recreation Centre had reached the end of its life.

QUESTION 9: Has a site been selected for a new facility?

ANSWER: No.

QUESTION 10: What would it cost to renovate the current facility?

ANSWER:

Renovating the current recreation centre and building a new facility are two completely different projects with different costs and outcomes.

South Huron Council believes that building a new facility offers better value for money invested. A new build gives the Municipality a chance to construct a facility that is more efficient to operate, would last longer than renovating the current facility, and that incorporates other uses (e.g., youth centre, senior's centre, cultural hub, etc.) to match the community needs now and in the future.

A consultant's report (*Invizij Architects Inc*; November, 2016) estimated that renovating the South Huron Recreation Centre would cost an estimated \$6 million with second level work included and \$5 million without second level work included (as summarized on page 7 of [South Huron Recreation Centre and Exeter Pool Options Paper](#), which was presented to Committee of the Whole on February 13, 2017).

QUESTION 11: Is the YMCA in a conflict of interest?

ANSWER:

The YMCA was engaged by the Municipality to help identify and gather the information necessary for the project. If, at the end of the project, Council chooses to engage an outside agency to administer/operate a new facility or programs within it, that agency would be recruited through an open, competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) process.

QUESTION 12: Has the Committee researched the experiences of other hub / rec facilities?

ANSWER:

Yes. To gather information on the experiences of other facilities, the Committee has toured the following facilities:

- Stoney Creek YMCA, London
- Middlesex Centre YMCA and Community Centre, Komoka
- North Middlesex YMCA, Parkhill
- Steve Kerr Memorial Centre, Listowel
- Pyramid Recreation Centre, St Marys
- Wilmot Recreation Centre, Baden
- North Huron Westcast Community Complex Arena, Wingham
- Goderich-Huron YMCA, Goderich
- Central Huron Arena and Community Centre, Clinton
- Thames Centre Recreation Complex, Dorchester