

Focus Group Discussion Notes - August 30, 2018

Those in attendance asked the following questions:

QUESTION: Is there a location for the proposed new facility?

ANSWER: No

QUESTION: When is the next Focus Group meeting?

ANSWER: Focus Group meetings will continue with specific user groups during October and November. No additional public meetings have been scheduled at this time.

QUESTION: Where will the dates and locations of upcoming meetings be published?

ANSWER: The Municipality will send information to emails provided by Focus Group attendees, as well as promote the meetings on social media, in newspapers, on SouthHuron.ca etc.

QUESTION: Why was I excluded from the telephone survey because I was over the age of 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

QUESTION: If council voted to exclude an indoor pool, why are ‘aquatic users’ being consulted as part of the process?

ANSWER: The scope of the project was determined by the following Council resolution made on November 6, 2017:

Motion: 457-2017

Moved: C. Hebert

Seconded: T. Oke

Whereas the Municipality of South Huron Council has had the opportunity to host an Open House for the Community Hub/Recreation Centre in Exeter; and Whereas feedback from the public requesting Council consider incorporating a second ice pad and an indoor pool as part of the Community Hub/Recreation Centre was heard; Therefore

Be it resolved that a feasibility study to consider incorporation of a second ice pad and indoor pool be undertaken for the planning of future phases to the project.

Disposition: Carried

QUESTION: What is the cost / benefit of a new facility?

ANSWER: This work is part of the research and these questions will be answered by the Committee.

COMMENT: Every community is different in terms of demographics. The project should consider how to include all of South Huron's demographics.

RESPONSE: The Municipality of South Huron is committed to an inclusive process and all comments are welcome.

COMMENT: Are we duplicating services with a new facility? I am concerned about the risk and debt that this project could produce for tax payers.

RESPONSE: No. This project is about determining the best replacement for a facility that has reached the end of its lifecycle.

QUESTION: How did this project come about? Why is it necessary?

ANSWER: Improving and enhancing the quality of recreation facilities and community well-being are priorities identified in the South Huron Corporate Strategic Plan, 2015-2019.

The need to assess the municipality's recreational service offer and redevelop the Exeter facility was first identified in the Community Services Master Plan, 2009.

The purpose of the project is to identify the scope and program for a new community hub/recreation centre.

QUESTION: What happened to the architectural drawings presented by the CAO at the Church meeting?

ANSWER: Those conceptual drawings were to stimulate discussion and feedback from the community to begin the conversation about this project.

QUESTION: Transportation is an issue in rural communities. Will Council consider transportation as part of this project?

ANSWER: Transportation issues in South Huron are outside the scope of this project.

QUESTION: Would it be reasonable for the Committee to look at the feasibility of sharing facilities with neighbouring municipalities?

ANSWER: Facility use is determined by users. The Committee is researching what South Huron residents want in a rec facility and what they are willing to pay for.