

February 2018 Update

Dear FPFC Patron:

I wanted to take a moment and update you on progress made and initiatives underway. Overall the facility is busy. The swim team currently has 115 members. Swim lessons are overflowing--we have actively reached out to free-and-reduced lunch families and offered reduced or free sessions to these children, supported through our scholarship programs. In concert with the school district, we are currently teaching Island View 3rd graders to swim through the end of the school year. I hope to expand this to all ASD 3rd graders next year--it is a vital life skill and our mission. We are also home pool to four swim teams: TAC, Anacortes (2A State Champs!), Burlington-Sedro Woolley, and Special Olympics. In addition:

1. Based on feedback received, the moves taken at the beginning of the year re: simplifying our fee structure, implementing reduced-fee family passes, increasing our weekend operating hours and removing expiration dates on punches have been positively received.
2. Our sound system has been upgraded, enhancing the aqua aerobics experience.
3. The camera system is operational, enhancing patron safety.
4. We have added a spin bike into the gym. A second bike is on order and will be installed shortly. We will be actively evaluating these additions over the next several weeks to determine which model best fits our need. Subsequently, I plan on purchasing ten more bikes and instituting regular spin classes, likely in the April time-frame. The classes will be conducted in the upstairs fitness center--bikes will be kept in the back storage area, off the floor when not in use. There will be no additional charge for these classes--they will included as part of your combo pass/punch plan. Based on feedback, I believe these classes will be popular.
5. An article appeared in the American last month, outlining the need for replacing our 42-year old facility, with potential costs and preliminary design features. The initial plan devised by our architects called for eliminating the current gym space after construction of the new building was completed. From comments received, I asked the architects to devise an alternate plan, under which the gym space would be retained and integrated into the new building design. This alternative design was completed last week and will be included in public presentations this spring.
6. I have also had a number of concerned patrons approach me re: the potential cost of a new facility and the public's ability/willingness to cover this cost. As noted in the article, the total price tag is estimated at \$22-25M, based on comparable pools in the area. After reviewing my property tax bill last month, I share their concern. As such, I am in the process of forming a steering committee, with the intent of approaching major donors and gauging our ability to raise these

funds privately. Concurrent with this process, we will be pursuing alternative delivery construction authorization from the state. Should funding at some point come available, this is a much more sane (and economical) methodology than traditional bid.

I will continue to keep you updated on these and other initiatives each month. In the meantime, my door is always open. Comments/questions, please let me know. As always, thank you for your continued support!