

Comments by Bart Hamlin at VB meeting – December 9th, 2008

Remarks re SCC Site Study - Outline

- History of indoor pool and SCC site studies
- Current SCC site study
- SCC position regarding site

History of SCC site studies

- There were **multiple studies** of possible **indoor pools** since 1945.....
 - There was never a consensus reached by the Village Board and the Board of Education
- In 2001, the **Scarsdale Community Recreation Center Study Committee presented its study**
 - the TVCC formed this ad hoc committee - with the **concurrence of VB**
 - This study created the current **Community Center model**
 - **Combined indoor pool and additional activities.**
 - Everyone interested in this topic **should read this report.**
 - The 2001 report, including site evaluations, are a part of **the public record** and are available on the SCC's web site.
 - Evaluation included **nine site alternatives** and **ranking** of a site characteristics.
 - The **2001 Study concluded** a recreation center should be built at the Outdoor Pool site, specifically, the **Bushin lot** on the western end of the Outdoor Pool site.
 - The **ranking of sites from the 2001 Study** placed the Outdoor Pool site as the preferred site;
 - the Leaf Transfer as the second preference and
 - the Harwood site as third.
- **Also in 2001, the VB engaged Thomas Associates of Ithaca, New York,**
 - This architectural firm **validated the feasibility** of the community center at the Bushin site
- Subsequent to that validation, site analysis took a back seat to membership drive and financial analysis.
- Site discussion started again with the VB looking at alternative ideas in 2006
 - **Joint partnerships** were proposed with third parties like:
 - Scarsdale Board of Education and JCC.
 - Discussions **did not lead** to tangible results.
- **VB resolution of Feb. 2007,**
 - directed the **Village staff** to prepare an evaluation of possible sites.
 - This 2007 Village study produced **nine locations**
 - Although the VB requested a **prioritization – none** was provided
- Subsequent discussions by the VB
 - **VB narrowed** the sites to three alternatives: Freightway, Outdoor Pool, Harwood
 - However, there was **no commitment of public funds** to engage professional advice in order to help finalize a site selection

2008 Site Study

- The SCC offered to provide the funds for an independent contractor to review the three sites
 - This effort was supported in a VB resolution dated February 2008.
- The site evaluation study was conducted by Bargmann Hendrie + Archetype, Inc.
 - Architectural design firm with extensive experience in community centers and public pools
 - Four presentations in a series of four public meetings during June, July, September and October. Summary of findings were also presented to the VB on November 18th.
 - All presentations were open to and appropriately advertised to the public.
 - The June presentation presented
 - the background and methodology of the architects.
 - also included a preliminary description of the three site to be studied:
 - Freightway, Outdoor Pool and Harwood.
 - The leaf transfer site was subsequently added by request of the architect
 - The 2008 Study identified three sites viable for the community center and the architect's ranking placed the Harwood site first, the leaf transfer site at Crossway a close second and the Outdoor Pool site third.
- Subsequent to the architect's fourth presentation
 - SCC made two public presentations of the content of the September report
 - One presentation was for the general public, with particular notice given to FM residents
 - Another presentation on November 11th to the Fox Meadow Neighborhood Association mtg
- Some important points to raise regarding the process
 - The 2008 Study was initiated following recommendations of the VB
 - The SCC attempted to make the site study known to, and available to, the public.
 - All presentations were well publicized and open to the public
 - Documentation of the public presentations were and are available at the SCC website
 - We encourage everyone to participate in the discussion and resolution of this issue

SCC Position regarding site

- Clearly the SCC has not jumped around from site to site as alleged by some residents
- The site reviews since the 2001 Site Study, have been extensive and available to the public
- It is note worthy that:
 - The 2001 Study, the 2007 Study and the 2008 Study have all specified Outdoor Pool and Harwood among their top picks
 - The 2001 study and the 2008 also included the leaf transfer as one of their top picks
- Outdoor pool, Leaf Transfer and Harwood -- pick one
- We appeal to the Village Board of Trustees to work with us to finalize a site selection
- We welcome a continuing public dialogue.
- We remain site neutral
- We welcome the chance move forward with this project at any of these three sites.