

Comments to the VB by Robert November, December 9, 2008

I am Robert November of 73 Walworth Ave, where we have lived for the past 37 years. I am also the treasurer of the Scarsdale Community Center, a task I undertook because swimming is my wife's favorite form of exercise, and I am a fitness exerciser. My role has been to process the checks and credit cards of the 1200 plus members which has acquainted me with the broad community support. Since I joined the effort I have been very impressed with the thorough job the others on the executive committee were doing in analyzing economics of the project and the shape of the facility (which were and are related). From the beginning their numbers showed that for the community center to be self- sustaining it had to include both aquatics and fitness and therefore the initial plan included both. When it was reviewed by Thomas Group in 2001, for conformity with code, the square foot total came to 31,840. That plan was the basis of the initial communication to attract our members. Since then, Steve Bush and others have visited facilities in other communities. And, as you know, we hired consultants who plan such facilities. Their reports confirmed the scope of the project, so what was presented by the consultants at the

recent meeting of a 32,000 square foot facility is within 200 square feet of the 2001 plan. And the cost increase is, alas, explained by the increase in construction costs of the intervening 7 years.

I want personally to reinforce what Neil and others have said regarding site. As the board requested, the Community Center hired an outside expert to evaluate sites. Because of the expense of moving a pool or rebuilding the existing locker facility, the outdoor pool is most expensive. It was reported that the leaf transfer site cost was \$100,000 more than the Harwood site, but was second choice because of the Village had not indicated a willingness to relocate the leaf facility even if the expenses are borne by the Community Center. Either of these sites has advantages and would be a great asset to the community.