

# **Addendum**

**March 2010**

## **To the Limited Assessment of Community Support for the Development of a Mountain Home Community Recreation Center**

Provided by Judy Mayne and Laura Foreman, Co - chairs  
of the Program and Facilities Sub Committee  
February 2010

### **Need for Addendum:**

The need for additional interviews was identified by the members of the Programs and Facilities Subcommittee during the review and approval of the original report on February 18, 2010. Specifically, we wanted to include further input from fitness center owners/operators and the local youth center staff. These interviews are meant to supplement the original interviews, not as a substitute. Neither this addendum, nor the original report should be considered as separate independent pieces. An attempt has been made to provide only new information in this addendum. Comments that duplicate the original report are purposely not provided.

### **Disclaimer:**

**The information contained in this report is one small part of an overall process to determine the need and support for a community recreational center. This is not intended to be a stand alone report. It will be combined with information from a broad based community survey, site visits, additional interviews and third party market and feasibility studies. All information will be processed and discussed by a volunteer community member committee representing diverse perspectives. Additional input is welcomed and can be provided by contacting the co-chairs of this committee or the listed YMCA staff members.**

### **Additional Interviews conducted by Judy Mayne and Laura Foreman in March 2010**

Sue Basabe	Fitness First
Theresa Bowman	Youth Center
Edie Corbus	Fitness First
Rick Holmes	MHAFFB
Beth Thomas	Curves
Susan Walters	Curves

## **Additional Observations**

Based on these interviews and our YMCA knowledge and experience, we are making the following observations. We ask you to consider the following:

### **Observations**

There was no new information discovered that invalidated or discredited the information from the original interviews. Many of the same themes were echoed in these interviews, adding emphasis to the original findings.

### **Summary of Responses to Interview Questions**

*Each question is stated in bold. A summary of the responses follows. This report is not intended to provide statistical information. When appropriate, a sampling of specific comments has been included. Duplicate comments were combined in order to make the report shorter and more readable. Comments that duplicate the original report are purposely not provided.*

#### **1. Do you feel that your community needs a Community Recreation Center? Why or Why not?**

There was general support for a community center with some qualifications. There was greater concern among this group about competition, more emphasis on youth and community meeting space facilities, but less on fitness.

- Not interested in anything that would increase taxes
- Need an organizer of events and services under one roof
- Our community cannot sustain a center
- No fee based/membership base facility
- Our county ranks high in numbers of youth suicide, teen pregnancy and high school drop out rates
- Existing services (fitness facilities) meet the need
- Not a lot for youth to do
- Gathering place for the community

#### **2. If yes, how important is it to you that it is a YMCA?**

All interviewees indicated that the Y would be an asset to the effort, even when they had no direct experience with a Y.

- Also need involvement from the schools
- Do not need lap or therapy pool, can use air force base pool

### 3. What kinds of programs are currently offered in your community for:

Many of these answers were very similar to the answers included in the main body of this report. A few select comments are included.

<b>Youth?</b>	I would not let my kids go to current youth center Most programs stop at 6 <sup>th</sup> grade Arts Council brought in the Missoula Children's Theater
<b>Families?</b>	Not much Bowling alley Nothing for 40 – 45 year olds
<b>Adult?</b>	Library Bunco Square and line dancing Elks
<b>Other?</b>	ECHO Hispanic program Disabled and special needs programs are lacking

### 4. What programs would you like to have that are not now available?

Many of these answers were very similar to the answers included in the main body of this report. A few select comments are included.

- Need collaboration between MHAFB and Parks and Rec
- Base has everything
- Baby Classes
- Mommy and me Classes
- Open Gyms
- Therapy Pools
- Community Theatre
- Martial Arts
- Dancing for adults
- Need programs for more advanced sports, can't use school property
- Youth Arts
- Community College Courses
- Multi purpose space

### 5. Are there some special groups in the community who need more help and attention?

Many of these answers were very similar to the answers included in the main body of this report. A few select comments are included.

- Disabled
- Over 60
- Underprivileged youth
- Teens at risk
- 8 – 11 preteens
- Activities before school
- 14 – 20 year olds that don't play sports

## **6. What are the strengths of this community?**

Many of these answers were very similar to the answers included in the main body of this report. A few select comments are included.

- Cultural Diversity
- Fire and Police Department
- Air Force Base
- Diverse sporting events
- Agricultural Businesses
- Local grocery stores provide culturally diverse food (i.e., meeting unique needs of the Singapore group)
- Caring for elderly - Meal-on-Wheels now done with Elks support

## **7. What challenges do you think a Community Center or YMCA in this community would face?**

Many of these answers were very similar to the answers included in the main body of this report. A few select comments are included.

- Finances
- Educating public regarding the positive aspects of a rec center
- Overcoming negative reputation of WECRD
- Bringing groups together

## **8. Do you have any other comments or opinions recreational opportunities you would like to share?**

These comments reflected a tone of starting slow and emphasized collaboration.

- Start programs first to build trust – then build facilities. We may not need them.
- Collaborate with base
- Start slow and build on success
- I am frustrated with the district. We could do a lot with a building
- I am concerned about my business, half of my members would go to the Y and I would have to close my doors.
- My numbers have dropped – a “Y” with similar facilities would be a big hit – I probably couldn’t survive
- Pool sustainability is an issue – go as minimal as possible if you choose to build a pool. A 3-5 lane, 3½ ft. deep lap pool and/or a resistance pool