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Question/Comment

The proposed Wellness Center (WC) has two primary user targets -- each with differing and overlapping needs:

1. JR AND SR HIGH STUDENTS: are in need a place to gather for after school activities in the winter when the days are short. If left to their own devices without a proper gathering place, social media can dominate their late afternoons and evening time. The young men and women students participating in outdoor sports need a winter practice arena -- baseball batting cage, golf driving cage/putting area, a place to run soccer drills, etc.

The building that would allow such activities for students needs to be located within a short walk from the Southside schools. Otherwise, the complications of transportation will compromise usage of the facility.

A 100' x 200' (20,000sf) metal fieldhouse with a dirt floor, can be built for \$125 per sq foot. (\$2.5MM) to accommodate the students needs. (The cost of the barebones metal building would be less than \$600,00. The foundation, doors, electrical, plumbing and HVAC could bring the total cost to the \$2.5MM)

RECOMMENDED LOCATION: The property adjacent to the HS softball field is available for the facility and large enough to accommodate parking.

2. SR CITIZENS; have requested a walking track, a therapy pool and a swimming pool along with meeting rooms.

If, by chance, it's determined that the Wellness/Aquatics Center should be located on the North side, then a practical proposal that will fulfill the needs of both sets of primary users would be to:

1. Bifurcate the project. Locate the aquatics center on the Northside. Locate the fieldhouse close to the schools.

2. Reduce the size of the Northside Wellness Center (as the fieldhouse would satisfy some of the requested features in Wellness Center's current plans.)

3. Use the savings from the WC and whatever other funds are available from urban renewal and other government entities to build the fieldhouse.

Current estimated costs for the WC with an aquatics center are at \$700 per sf. This proposal for a fieldhouse reduces the requirements for the current 45k sf center. And those requirements can be satisfied by a fieldhouse that is significantly less per sf to build.

Note: due to the simplicity of the project, the fieldhouse could be completed within a year of the approval date. (This would be an encouraging sign to the people of Livingston as they'll see that things are happening and some needs are being met right away.)