

**OVERVIEW**

Si View staff collected community input in August 2021 to determine next steps for the proposed future aquatic center. The purpose of this process was to understand current community level of support, and what questions and/or concerns residents have regarding the capital proposal that narrowly missed the 60% super majority in November 2020. Input was collected in three ways: in public meeting setting, with short written questionnaire, and through email.

Updated project proposal information was posted on the District website, including overview of the phase I proposal, location of the project site that has been secured adjacent to Si View Park, and a timeline for a new potential funding source through King County Parks Levy grant program.

As in-person meetings may not be an option for everyone due to the pandemic, meeting presentation and questionnaire were made available on the District website and in print at the Community Center and Pool ahead of the meeting. Information was also published through District's email service and social media.

Community members were asked whether the pandemic played a role in their decision towards the 2020 capital measure, what questions they had regarding the proposal, what features they liked and if there is anything that should be changed in the proposal. Opportunity was also provided for open ended feedback and comments.

**ATTENDANCE**

Si View staff counted 34 attendees during the presentation. Attendees were asked to sign in, 24 participants completed the sign-in process.

**DISCUSSION**

Following staff presentation, attendees were asked to provide input verbally as well as using the questionnaire form. This resulted in some duplication of comments received. Discussion was focused on three primary areas:

- Strong continued support for the project and the desire for the full proposal (including phase II which requires additional community investment). The pandemic was not cited as a contributing factor for level of support.
- Questions about the new proposed site adjacent to Si View Park, it's potential impact to the surrounding neighborhood with additional traffic, reduction of greenbelt and concerns of loss of neighborhood character.
- Recommendations for altering proposal to remove splashpad as that could be viewed as wasteful use of water, and inclusion of additional lap swim lanes in the proposed design.

**QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS**

33 responses were received from the community. This includes questionnaires completed at the in-person meeting, forms returned by email following the meeting and open email feedback received during the public input collection process in August 2021.

***Did the pandemic play a role in your decision for our 2020 aquatic center capital proposal?***

23 responses were received to this question.

23 No

***Are there items in this proposal that are unclear, what questions do you have?***

21 responses were received to this question.

16 stated No.

1 question about location

2 questions about tax burden to residents

1 question about traffic study and whether it would be made available to the public when complete

1 question for more information about phase II

***What do you like about this proposal?***

23 responses were received to this question.

- 4 Location
- 6 Included features
- 1 Professional proposal
- 8 Everything
- 3 Nothing
- 1 Pursuing alternate funding sources

***Is there anything you would change about this proposal?***

23 responses were received to this question.

- 1 Location
- 9 Nothing
- 1 Consider limiting access to location from Cedar Falls Way
- 1 Consider ingress/egress and lighting in parking lot
- 3 Build both phases at one time
- 1 Include competition pool in phase I
- 4 Additional lap swim lanes in phase I
- 1 Replace river current with more open pool space
- 1 Remove splashpad
- 1 Do not want an aquatic center

***Other Comments.***

26 responses were received. In summary these comments address the following topics:

- Praise for professionalism and quality of proposal, and work of the District.
- Question regarding cost for using the new facility.
- Concerns with location having a negative impact on surrounding neighborhood with additional traffic, lighting, noise and impact to wildlife.
- Concerns with location's feasibility to house both phases.
- Recommendation to consider other locations in town.
- Satisfaction with District's approach to continually improving quality of life for residents.
- Disappointment in the level of community support with November 2020 proposal that did not pass.
- Encouragement to keep moving the project forward.
- Recommendation for the City of North Bend to publicly support the project and require developers to dedicate more land for active parks.
- Recommendation of adding indoor exercise area to the proposal.
- Observation that pandemic may have impacted District's ability to connect with residents with public meetings leading up to the election.
- Recommendation for a larger splashpad and improved pedestrian connection between Torguson Park and Si View Park.
- Question regarding timeline between phases I and II.
- Request to disregard the proposal all together.
- Recommendation for protecting borders of the project to preserve privacy of nearby homeowners.
- Request to consider a flow rider.
- Question regarding when grant money would become available.

**Other Comments, continued.**

- Recommendation by several individuals to consider accessibility for anyone with mobility in the design, so all can enjoy benefits of the project.
- Appreciation for the beach entry pool as it improves accessibility eliminating the need to use stairs.
- Recommendation to scale down proposal.
- Recommendation to seek alternate funding sources to reduce the burden on tax payers.

**DISTRICT RESPONSES TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS****Recommendations for facility design alterations for improving accessibility and additional water features:**

The current design is a concept plan that will go through a final design process if project moves forward. The comments received can be taken in to consideration at that time.

**Site concerns adjacent to Si View Park and surrounding neighborhood:**

The 4-acre site is located adjacent to Si View Park, along the connected trail network. This provides excellent access from nearby neighborhoods as well as from I-90, operational efficiencies with the community center, and shared parking with Si View Park complex. The selected site is also suitable for a potential outdoor splashpad which was identified as a desired feature, as well as buildable space for future administrative offices.

If the project moves forward, in the project design phase, appropriate environmental and traffic studies will be completed. It is the intent of the District to design a park-like setting that minimizes impact to surrounding neighborhoods and work with the community on a design that makes most sense.

**Recommendation to move project location:**

District residents have previously voiced a strong preference for a site that is centrally located inside the District with good connectivity to neighborhoods and the greater community. Sites that are outside District boundaries are no longer considered as an option for that reason. The South Fork Landing site is not suitable location for an aquatic center as it would require a very costly sewer extension over I-90.

**Overall cost, and alternate funding sources:**

The District is currently in the process of updating the project cost estimate as the previous estimate was produced in late 2019. This update will be available later this Fall. The District will then survey residents for their level of support based on the new cost estimate.

Staff is actively pursuing a new aquatic facilities grant through the King County Parks Levy. This program has funding available for up to \$5M awards towards community aquatic center projects. The grant status will be available in early 2022.

**Cost to use facility:**

During the feasibility study, an operations plan with proposed user fees was developed. It is available here: [Si View Aquatic Feasibility Study - 092619.pdf \(siviewpark.org\)](#)

**Timeline between phases I and II:**

Construction on phase II with separate competition pool and community spaces requires additional community investment. The timeline is dependent on community's level of support. The estimated time from design to completion of construction on the already developed site is approximately two years from the time that funding is secured.

**Appendix A:** Questionnaire responses available upon request.

