

**Silver Spring Recreation and Aquatic Center (SSRAC)  
Community Meeting  
Nov. 3, 2022  
7 p.m.**

Welcome intro: Montgomery County Recreation Director, Robin Riley

Presentation and Virtual tour of Facility: Montgomery County Recreation Division Chief, Melanie Sasse

[Click here to see presentation.](#)

Question and Answer

- Will the facility be self-funded?
  - No, Montgomery County Recreation is funded with taxpayer dollars.
- What is the progress and plan for the demolishing and rebuilding of the Elizabeth House?
  - HOC currently working on securing funds to demolish Elizabeth House prior to the opening of SSRAC.
- What is the parking situation going to look like for the new building?
  - Parking is available in the Cameron St. garage. There is also limited on-street parking. Parking fees will apply.
- How will the pass memberships and daily admission work for this facility?
  - No final decision yet. That's why we are here today, to hear what you would like to see.
- Do you plan to keep the current classes that are held at the Martin Luther King Jr. Swim Center?
  - Yes, the opening of this facility should not impact the classes offered at MLK.
- How much would do you anticipate the passes or daily fees will be?
  - Those decision have not yet been made. That's why we are here today, to hear what you would like to see.
- How do you anticipate the Holy Cross floor to function? If there is an emergency in the building, would they respond?
- What are the plans for safety in the facility? Would there be security guards?
- What hours and days of the week would the facility operate?
  - We believe the facility will be open seven days a week.
- Since this is connected to senior housing do you plan to have senior programs? For example, senior meals?
  - Yes, absolutely.
- Do you envision this being an aquatic facility for just the public or for high school teams as well?

- This facility will be open to everyone.
- Could heaters and covers be put at the outdoor pools for the teams to use all year round?
  - We have been looking into that. That funding would be part of the capital improvement budget.
- Will there be movable floors in the swimming pool?
  - No. However, there will be a shallow pool with a maximum depth of four feet.

**Break out session:**

Highlights for each floor:

**Aquatics B1**

- Individual lap lanes
- Scuba diving intermediate class NABS
- Pool physical therapy
- Scuba lessons
- Aquatic classes
- Lap pool opening early
- Therapeutic group exercise ramps into all pools (lifts to pools break down and are dependent on staff training)
- More family bathrooms and accessible to wheelchair users (more than two)
- Open at 6 a.m.
- Kids swimming classes
- Aqua spin classes
- Strength classes
- Aqua exercise classes
- Aqua fit classes
- Water babies swim lessons
- Adult swim lessons
- HEPA air filters
- Class drop-ins
- Reasonable public lap swim options
- Fun, new aquatic programming
- Video screens with Bluetooth for teaching in pool area
- More swim equipment, allow renting for swim equipment i.e. paddles, pull buoys, fins
- Have specific time for adults
- Synchronized swimming

- Different levels of aquatic fitness classes
- Masters swim program with time slots early morning or late evening
- Adult swim lessons
- Weekend and early evening youth swim classes
- Thanks for gender neutral changing rooms
- Separate hours for seniors, teens, families, competition swimmers
- Youth swim team
- Evening swim lessons
- Opening sauna pool before senior lap pool
- Steam room
- No swim team or private rentals
- Stronger swim and program focus for seniors and adults
- Block scheduled swims (Four hours)
- Splash pool pad
- Spa age regulated and enforced
- Open swim
- Watery safety classes
- Aqua class schedule displayed one year in advance

### **Ground Level**

- Walking track
- Monthly pop-up vendor shop
- Bike lockers
- Bike spaces
- Cooking classes and wheelchair accessible kitchen
- Art gallery for local artists
- Snack and coffee bar
- Cooking classes with wine/beer available
- Wellness center
- ADA Access
- Tax prep group or classes
- African dance
- Espresso Kiosk
- Fish tank
- Square dancing
- Music concerts
- Movie nights
- Feminine products in the bathrooms

- Valuables lockers by the front desk
- Stay open later on weekends (especially activities for teens)
- Support small businesses
- Theatre/performance space
- Free family play area
- MoCo iron chef competition
- Community meals/potlucks
- International food cooking classes
- Sip and paint
- Healthy food cafes
- After fitness smoothies
- Quick meals cooking class
- No skate park privileges
- Healthy cooking classes for kids and families (free for SNAP and WIC participants)
- Signage for metro bridge branch trail
- Big map of the area in the lobby
- Competition cooking and baking events
- Bike share
- Signs for the building on the west side so they can see it from the bike path
- Pedestrian lighting from all sides of the building
- Access to buy purple line passes
- Keep this a “walkable area” no more parking
- Middle and high school social evenings

### **Gym Level 2**

- Kids play area
- Block time for gym
- Open time and rental time different
- Kids day care staffed room with additional fee so adults can take classes
- Basketball
- Volleyball
- Gift shop
- Sport watch parties
- Senior dances
- Badminton
- Free weights
- Pickleball
- Balance yoga

- Senior strength
- Adaptive sports
- Pilates
- Wheelchair rugby, basketball, tennis
- Hoyer lift in fitness area
- Physical therapy
- Different fitness levels within senior classes
- Exercise mat that is chair height for persons with disabilities or those who can't get onto the floors
- Spinning classes
- Aerobic fitness classes
- Fitness equipment that is accessible with wheelchairs
- Family play classes for kids on the autism spectrum with parents
- Family play area
- Sensory play area for autism
- Designated hours/classes for seniors, families with kids on the autism spectrum
- Stair master
- Row machine
- Kettle bells
- Program collaborations with Holy Cross
- Dance classes for children and youth
- Senior Meals
- Adult vs. kid times in the gym
- Free health screening i.e., blood pressure, glucose levels
- Be able to reserve rooms for dance practice
- Open dance studio times
- Fitness dance classes

### **Activity Floor L3**

- Have time for adults and seniors
- Yoga and meditation classes
- Kids art classes
- Middle school aged art classes
- Pair with the Silver Spring library to host mobile library
- Allow community groups to rent conference rooms
- Ask high school kids directly or through social media for what games they would like in the game room
- Martial arts

- Highly qualified instructors
- Game room for youth, something that allows them to engage in social media
- Tai Chi
- Foosball tables
- Table tennis
- Dance classes i.e., swing, salsa
- Board games
- Rock wall
- Guest speakers
- Eatery
- Live podcasts
- Art classes for adults
- Walking program or track
- Chess and bridge
- Area where artists can paint individually or in a group not instructed
- Book club
- Paint and jars classes
- Wii games
- Air hockey table
- Playground wheelchair accessible
- Mediation room
- Computer lab
- Plant/greenhouse room
- Cryotherapy, red-light therapy
- Ceramic class
- Photography classes
- Hyperbaric Oxygen Chamber
- Cryotherapy
- Red Light Therapy
- XR (AR/VR) equipped for youth projects

### **Memberships, fees, and access**

- Annual memberships
- Gym access could be separate, use fob bracelets for access
- Gym memberships should offer a specific quantity of drop-in sessions for programs
- Membership should include gym and pool access while classes should be a separate fee

- Reserve online or on an app
- Website experience could use some improvement
- Discount for residents
- First year for County residents only
- A la Cart membership and package options
- ADA Compliant
- Keeps fees like other centers so that the center remains accessible to all County residents
- Online comprehensive schedule of all available classes with online registrations
- Include aqua classes in the pool fee
- Email alerts to residents
- Resident sneak peek before official opening
- Seasonal rates
- Class fees separate from memberships
- Senior rates
- Staggered opening
- Sliding scale fees

#### **General/ Additional notes**

- Integrate the center with MCPS, have high school students earn SSL hours
- Collaborate with Impact, Sheppard's Table, Arts on the Block, Silver Spring Cares, other nonprofits to create or teach programs
- Keep the facility clean
- Communicate with PTAs
- Quality lighting throughout the building and the surrounding areas outside
- Adequate staffing for security concerns
- DEIB committee that hosts community meetings and ways to be culturally sensitive

Closing remarks: Communication and Public Outreach Manager, Carmen Berrios and Robin Riley