



City and Borough of Sitka

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Date: 3/27/08

To: Mayor Marko Dapcevich and Assembly Members
John Stein, City Administrator

From: Lynne McGowan
CBS Parks and Recreation Manager

HAMES CENTER UPDATE DECEMBER 2007 AND JANUARY 2008

The Hames Task Force members, Community Schools and CBS staff have compiled the following information on the Hames Athletic and Wellness Center to update the Assembly. Volunteer activities, Hames use statistics and a financial report for December and January are included in this report. Kayla Boettcher, Curt Ledford and Lynne McGowan will be present at the meeting to answer questions.

Hames Task Force Update:

Meetings:

- 11/29 – task force (18);
- 12/6 – promotions (7)
- 12/12 – task force (14)
- 12/14 – promotions (8)
- 1/4 – task force (15)
- 1/8 – promotions (7)
- 1/17 – long-term planning (7)
- 1/18 – task force (13)
- 1/22 – promotions (2)
- 1/25 – long-term planning (12)
- 2/8 – task force (8)
- 2/8 – long-term planning (8)

Task Force Goals:

Short Term Goal – Increase use through promotion campaign, additional program and activities offerings, fitness equipment upgrades and improvements to the building.

Mid Term Goals –Continue to improve methods of tracking and charging for use. Explore capital funding options. Write grants and hold fund raising events to promote the facility and bring in revenue for equipment and building improvements.

Work with SJC to complete the building inspection and condition survey (forth-coming) and encourage SJC to complete the campus subdivision.

Long-term Goals – Complete a business plan for the Hames. Determine long term plan of action for ownership and operation of the Hames Center.

Meeting Topics:

User analysis – Community Schools and Task Force have been working together to establish better user tracking system. Soon to be installed: a membership card with bar code reader at the door.

Equipment – Priority to acquire new cardio and resistance equipment for upstairs. Volunteers have worked with an equipment vendor to develop an equipment plan for the Hames fitness area. Three new pieces have been ordered. Potential grants are being pursued to purchase more equipment. Inquiries of Harborside equipment have been unsuccessful. New climbing wall equipment has been added; belay training underway..

Repairs/Improvements – Cleanliness and present ability of pool, locker rooms, and all other areas of facility are greatly improved. Pool users voice appreciation for better management of water and chemicals. City and Task Force have been trying to solve problem of roof leak; Chilkat Services has promised to provide assistance on this in near future.

Promotion – New logo developed. Series of newspaper ads placed end of December, with support from Sentinel and SEARHC Steps program. Radio PSAs also being played. Free weekend hosted Jan 26-27 to give tours of facility and demonstrate group activities (e.g. water polo) and climbing wall. Website established and updates:
www.sitkacommunityschools.org

Resources/Support – Community Schools, Task Force, and City are pursuing several grants and fund-raisers to support operations, improvements, equipment additions, and long-term planning strategies. Task Force is preparing letters of request for local businesses highlighting opportunities to help support the Hames Center.

Long-term planning – A strategic planning group has been establish to explore future possibilities for Hames Center. Task Force members have been researching feasibility of partnering with existing entities (e.g. YMCA), the requirements for securing future public funding, private funding, and possible federal grants and foundation monies. A Letter of Inquiry has been submitted to the Denali Commission for consideration for an economic development grant.

Other activities – Sitka Physical Therapy is setting up a pilates/yoga studio in the main classroom upstairs. They have also volunteered to spend some time teaching other Hames members how to properly use the fitness equipment.

Upcoming Events – Strategic Planning with consultant Norm Down, Sock Hop in April, Ludwig's fundraiser 3/12. Three new pieces of cardio equipment due to arrive by the end of the month.

Additional Volunteer Efforts:

Locker room floors were painted by crew of 8 volunteers on Jan 1.

Blatchley day of service – 20 BMS students cleaned gym bleachers and pool deck on Jan 21.

Two volunteers used the lift to replace burnt out light bulbs in the gym in December.

Attachments:

Hames Use Statistics – 12/07 – 2/4/08

Hames Revenues– 12/07 – 2/4/08

Hames Expenditures– 12/07 – 2/4/08

Hames Volunteer Hours - 12/07 – 2/4/08