

City of Toronto – Parks Development & Capital Projects

Ethennonhawahstihnen' Community Recreation Centre Programming Opportunities Virtual Public Meeting Meeting Summary

November 2, 2022

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Contents

- Introduction 2
- Meeting Purpose..... 2
- Meeting Advertisement 2
- Feedback Summary 2
- Next Steps 6
- Contact Us 6

Introduction

This document provides a summary of the virtual public meeting that was held from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on October 19, 2022, to explore programming opportunities for Ethennonnhawahstihnen' Community Recreation Centre. Thirty-five community members participated in the meeting via Webex.

More information about the project can be found on the project webpage at toronto.ca/Ethennonnhawahstihnen.

Staff in attendance included:

- Michael Ellison, Manager Community Recreation
- Charlotte McMulkin, Supervisor Community Recreation
- Matt Garber, Supervisor Community Recreation
- Vivien Li, Community Recreation Programmer
- Michael Carroll, Community Recreation Programmer
- Alex Lavasidis, Senior Public Consultation Coordinator
- Elijah Bawuah, Senior Public Consultation Coordinator
- José Ramón Martí, Public Consultation Coordinator
- Navyata Neeraj, Public Consultation Coordinator

Meeting Purpose

In September 2022, the public was invited to participate in an online survey and thought exchange to provide their ideas and feedback on potential programs and activities that could be offered at the new community recreation centre. The purpose of this meeting was to review and confirm the findings of the survey and thought exchange. Participants were asked to consider the most popular ideas and share their own ideas, comments and questions.

Meeting Advertisement

Meeting advertisement included:

- Paid ads on Facebook and Instagram, and organic posts on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter in the two weeks preceding the meeting
- Flyers posted at community recreation centres in the area two weeks prior to the meeting

Feedback Summary

Community Recreation staff presented an overview of the new facility (including its recreational spaces and amenities), the project timeline and the results of the thought exchange.

Participants provided their ideas, comments and questions during breakout room discussions and a question period. Participants' ideas for specific spaces or areas of the community centre are presented below:

Gym and Track

Ideas for programs, activities, and amenities:

- Introductory adult sports (instructional program)
- Running and walking club
- Badminton and volleyball leagues, instructional and drop-in programs for adults
- Table tennis drop-in programs
- Ping pong league (+1)
- Pickle ball
- Bike tuning workshops
- Ultimate Frisbee
- Lawn games that could be played in the field like Kubb and ladder ball. Good for all ages
- Aerial yoga
- Ladies only or seniors hours
- Programs for toddlers

Ideas regarding program times:

- Kid programs from 3:30 to 4 p.m. and adult programs after 7 p.m.
- Kids programs after 7 p.m.

Ideas to make the space more welcoming:

- Display posters of accomplished body builders as part of decor

Other ideas and comments:

- Sports tournaments
- Possible partnership with sports leagues (e.g. JAM Sports)

Lap and Leisure Pools

Ideas for programs and activities:

- Aquatic pregnancy related classes (e.g. stretching)
- Open lane swim for adults
 - Speed-based lanes for open swim
- Family-only swim time
- Parent and toddler programs
- Swimming lessons for toddlers
- Instructional learn-to-swim for all ages
- Book pool for group scuba certification
- Summer camps that include pool programs
- Low-impact programs

Ideas regarding program times:

- Aquatic pregnancy related classes may work in daytime
- Open lane swim for adults in the evening
- Leisure times should be earlier, so younger children can attend (e.g. 4 to 7 p.m. on weekdays, or weekends)
- Family-only swim time in the evening (mid-week and weekend)
- Tot Classes weekend mornings (Sundays)
- Instructional swim classes for kids in early evening/weekend

- Instructional swim classes for adults outside of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (later evening)
- More toddler programming on weekends
- 4:30/5:30 p.m. (before dinner) programming is good for my toddler

Ideas to make the space more welcoming:

- Music
- Have swim diapers for sale
- Display posters of people who have achieved in the field of swimming as part of decoration. Maybe someone from the community might end up in the same space as an achiever!

Other ideas and comments:

- Registered courses are good for assessing personal Covid risk

Fitness Studio

Ideas for programs and activities:

- Aerobics, yoga and stretching
 - Step Class
 - CardioDance program
 - Stretch class
 - Evening (8 to 10 pm) candlelight yoga classes
- Combat sports and martial arts
 - Tai Chi or Chi Gong class
 - Kickboxing class
 - Martial arts
 - Martial arts club
- Dance and singing
 - Ballroom (+1)
 - Latin dance classes
 - Line dancing (+1), including sign-ups for line dancing
 - Drop-in dance socials
 - Dance events - no lights, early morning, flexible timings
 - DJ dance floors fortnight
 - Parent and kid dance event
 - Choir
 - Karaoke sessions (+1)
- Public talks
 - Talks from physiotherapists or massage therapists - how to adapt, prevent smaller injuries, functional fitness
- Weight training
 - Have a weight room
 - Muscle fit classes, all-around classes (weights, HIIT, for different age groups), flexible classes (for low/high impacts and intensity)
 - Drop-in hours for weight training

Ideas regarding program times:

- Programs on week nights and weekends
- More morning/daytime programs

Ideas to make the space more welcoming:

- Body neutrality messages for making it a welcoming environment

Multi-Purpose Rooms and General Programs

Ideas for programs and activities:

- Arts and crafts
 - Pottery classes for kids and adults
 - Origami classes
 - 3D printing classes
- Business and finances
 - Small business/marketing classes for adults
 - Investing and money management
 - Financial literacy classes (+1)
- Coding
 - Coding program for children ages 7 to 18
- Community and social events
 - Bake sales
 - Holiday market
 - Community BBQ
 - Events to celebrate holidays (e.g. Easter egg hunt)
 - Weekend movies
 - Social hours for community recreation members (e.g. paint night, networking hour/mixer, table games - card games, dominos, bingo night, teatime, and mahjong) (+1)
- Cooking and baking
 - Cooking/baking
 - Cooking classes teaching how to cook quick and easy meals
- Information and resources
 - Drop-in resource help/general info hours (e.g. a parent who requires assistance in applying for autism programming; or someone applying for a subsidy program)
 - Drop-in hours for someone to help people navigate city and/or provincial resources. Could be for newcomers, seniors, whoever - having in person guides on hand to help fill out forms or even know what to ask for/who to ask
 - A resource (e.g. info board, brochure, webpage) that clearly outlines the various programs and resources available at the library and CRC
- Table games
 - Board games night
 - Chess club for children and adults – chess tables, drop-in chess clubs
- Other:
 - Adult and children language programs for Japanese, Mandarin, Cantonese, Spanish, French
 - Book club
 - Children and adult music classes for guitar and piano
 - Drop-in classes for seniors – social hours or recreational games
 - Nutrition and healthy eating classes (+1)
 - Homeowner classes
 - Homework clubs/classes for children – primary and secondary students
 - Martial arts
 - Parenting group classes – educational for parents and parent and toddler development classes
 - Programs pertaining to mental health and wellness

Ideas regarding program times:

- After school hours for programming is ideal
- Weekends are preferred for toddler classes
- Ideal times suggested for programming: after 7 p.m. on weekdays and weekends; weekend programs for toddlers
- Evenings and weekends are preferred for drop-in/organized classes
- Older adult programming scheduled for the evenings (suggestion for after 7 p.m.)
- Drop-in classes for seniors at 10 a.m. or 1 p.m. - 3 pm. Avoid rush hour times or mealtimes

Other Ideas and Comments

- Putting pronunciation guides on the signage
- Volunteer opportunities
- Display kids' art competitions
- Tool library and/or repair café
- A local "human library" like this one: <https://humanlibrary.org>
- Invite sports stars to community recreation centre
- No ping pong in lobby

Next Steps

The feedback gathered during the meeting will be used to update the findings of the thought exchange activity. The revised findings will inform the development of programs and activities offered at Ethennonnhawahstihnen' Community Recreation Centre and future community engagement opportunities. Recreational offerings at the Centre will change and adapt as community needs change.

Additional City-led community engagement to determine the Centre's programming will include:

- Engagement sessions with local youth between the ages of 13 and 29, including a series of in-person workshops and a youth-focused thought exchange activity
- Engagement sessions with First Nations and urban Indigenous communities
- Another public, online survey and public meeting(s) after the community recreation centre opens in early 2023

Contact Us

For questions or comments related to this project, please contact:

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