

# HART HOWERTON

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## MEETING NOTES

**Project: 19-044 – Belle Haven Community Center & Library**

**Meeting Date(s): 02/09/2020**

**Meeting Location: Belle Haven Senior Center**

**Meeting Subject: Community Meeting #2**

**Attending:**

- Fergus O'Shea, Director of Campus Development, Facebook
  - Solon Stewart-Rose, Project Manager, Facebook
  - Maya Perkins, Strategic Initiatives Manager, Facebook
  - Lauren Swezey, Sustainability and Landscape Project Lead, Facebook
  - Ashley Quintana, Facebook
  - Cecilia Taylor, Mayor, City of Menlo Park
  - Starla Jerome-Robinson, City Manager, City of Menlo Park
  - Justin Murphy, Deputy City Manager, City of Menlo Park
  - Clay J. Curtin, Public Engagement Manager, City of Menlo Park
  - Derek Schweigart, Community Services Director, City of Menlo park
  - Sean Reinhart, Director Library Services, City of Menlo Park
  - Eron Ashley, Principal, Hart Howerton
  - Rachel Hsu, Senior Associate, Hart Howerton
  - Clare Stockwell, Designer, Hart Howerton
  - Meghan Jones, Designer, Hart Howerton
  - Soraya El Alami, Designer, Hart Howerton
  - Jennifer Lau, Senior Associate, Hart Howerton
  - Jim Jacobs, Principal, Hart Howerton
  - Flora Chen, Designer, Hart Howerton
- Members of the community, listed in attached sign-in sheet

**Date of issue: February 17, 2020**

**The following notes summarize community feedback from the meeting. See attached sign-in sheet at the end of the notes.**

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## Presentation Outline

- Introduction – Mayor Cecilia Taylor
- Project Overview – Fergus
- Preliminary Concept & Community Meeting #1 Overview – Eron
- Breakout for group exercises



**Group Exercises:**

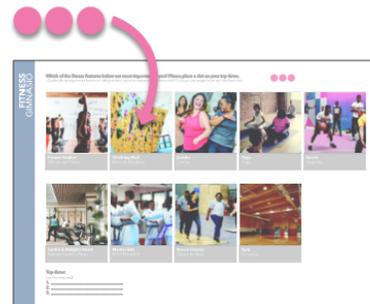
- Each table was given 6 sheets of paper describing feedback received from the community regarding the community center, senior center, youth center, library, fitness center, and pool.
- The community members were asked place dots on the functions/spaces that were the most important to them. See descriptive slide below:

**Group Exercise**

**At your table, we will discuss the following topics for 10 minutes each:**

1. Community Center
2. Senior Center
3. Youth Center
4. Library
5. Fitness Center
6. Pool

*For each board, place your sticker dots on the (3) items that are most important to you:*



**Overall Results**

- See results tallied in the spreadsheet below.

GROUP EXERCISE TALLY (Dots Total)					
Community Center		Senior Center		Youth Center	
Large Community Functions	26	Daily Lunch	29	After-School Activities	32
Family Resource Center	21	Game Room	19	Teen Lounge	26
Community Classrooms	19	Multicultural Days	18	Performing Arts	23
Café	16	Garden	17	Childcare Program	16
Arts& Crafts/Makerspace	12	Outdoor Dining	13	Youth Art Program	14
Outdoor Event Space	10	Painting & Ceramics	10	Outdoor Play	12
Gathering Spaces	9	Cooking Class	9	Gymnastics	6
Counseling Space	9	Crochet & Sewing	9	Stroller Parking	2
Nutrition and Health Class	7	Lounge	8		
Community Art Gallery	5	Movies	3		



Fitness		Library		Pool	
Cardio & Weights Room	30	Technology Lab	41	Swimming Lessons	27
Gym	25	Story Time Space	20	Winter Tent	23
Fitness Studio	17	Community Learning Spaces	17	Splash Pad	20
Yoga	17	Tutoring/Homework Center	15	Lap Pool	18
Dance Classes	14	Flexible Seating Area	14	Wading/Teaching pool	18
Sports	11	Book Self Checkout	11	Lawn Area	16
Climbing Wall	10			Snack Shack	10
Martial Arts	9			Pool Games	5
Zumba	6			Waterpolo	1
				Underwater Hockey	1

### Community Center Board

See additional notes collected from all the tables below:

- Community members like the idea of having smaller/broken-down spaces so that different cultural and age groups with diverse desires and needs can all access and use the community center at the same time.
- The café could be a nice addition.
- Make sure that the café is not replacing the senior center kitchen. It is specifically serving the seniors now and would like to keep it this way in the future.
- People are always on the go, therefore, would like to have a café nearby with healthy food choices – e.g. vegetable cups and yogurt.
- Café? There's a Starbucks down the road.
- Nutrition classes would be helpful for people who want to lose weight and to learn about healthier choices.
- Combine family resource center and counseling space. Combine art gallery, community classrooms, nutrition and health class, and family resource center.
- For large community functions – receptions, meetings, speaker series, girl scout/boy scout meetings.
- Concern for wind impact. Love the outdoor space but...
- Belmont Library – food desert, separation from kids.
- The counseling space could fit in any other space.
- There is a need to plan for major growth in the community.
- It would be great to have a labyrinth and/or water structure.
- Nutrition: an area where the Facebook mobile farmers market can be held, or where local neighbors can set up their carts to sell fruits, vegetables, meals, etc.
- Communications: dynamic signage that allows promotion of weekly classes and programs, special events, etc.
- Bike/scooter racks: encourages people to get out of their cars.



### **Senior Center Board**

See additional notes collected from all the tables below:

- We enjoy the natural sunlight, visual and physical connection to Kelly Park. Hope to have this in the future.
- There's no dedicated outdoor dining space right now. Would be amazing to have in the future.
- Yes to everything food related.
- Space for movement/exercise.
- Separate function room for the senior center.
- Include knitting with crochet & sewing
- Movies should be included as part of the community center not the senior center.
- "Statue of Onetta Dixon Harris" – Gail Dixon
- Colorful rose bushes in the garden.
- A lot of the activities described on the boards could be supported in the same spaces.

### **Youth Center Board**

See additional notes collected from all the tables below:

- After-school activities are very important – especially in this neighborhood where many parents work full-time.
- Very important for teens to have a safe place to gather.
- Kids should be outdoors as much as possible.
- Encourages us to think about what types of play spaces for each age group will be provided.
- Things good to have: climbing wall, skating/scooter area, etc.
- Performing arts would be great for community building!
- Create gymnastics program that compliments other gymnastics around town.
- Include tech lounge and STEM learning
- Performing arts could be tied with teen lounge.
- The Los Altos library has an amazing teen space – kiosks, cushy seating, homework, games, and desks.
- Computers for youth and cubbies.

### **Library Board**

See additional notes collected from all the tables below:

- Will the technology lab finally have the new computers that we have been requesting for over a decade? Will it offer classes related to AI, coding, robotics?
- Allowing food and drinks in library.
- Storytime/spaces for author talk is critical.
- Important for kids to have a place to sing, dance, learn, and have fun.



- The schedule of storytime is currently very challenging as there are limited time offered and often conflicts with nap time.
- Café should be in or near library.
- Place youth library space above gym/fitness.
- Beechwood school year-round programs for K-8<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Soundproofing: a number of new libraries do not have adequate soundproofing either in common areas or in conference rooms.
- Furniture: flexible, modular furniture that has many uses, as well as specific single-use furniture.

### **Fitness Board**

See additional notes collected from all the tables below:

- Hope to have more senior-friendly exercises and/or activities.
- Hope to have more sports offered locally/all in one place so people would not have to go to different locations for different sports.
- We could gain lots of traction with yoga. This is a great exercise for people of all ages.
- Climbing and martial arts are great activities for kids. Think about kid-specific programs or classes for climbing wall.
- There's a capacity issue in the current gym.
- Fitness studio should include programs like Zumba, yoga, dance, and martial arts.

### **Pool Board**

See additional notes collected from all the tables below:

- Only the lap pool is currently open in the winter. Winter tent is very important to make sure little kids stay warm and can use the pool throughout the winter.
- The existing pools are too deep and not kid friendly.
- It would be great not to have to go downtown or further for a splash pad.
- Make sure the pool is heated.
- Shading for parents.
- Include water aerobics in swim classes.
- Make sure the swimming classes are taught by qualified coaches—coaches should have both technical skills/knowledge on swimming as well as soft skills such as being nice and kind to kids.

Notify the undersigned as soon as possible if there are any discrepancies or misunderstandings with the above notes. HH will implement decisions and selections made in these notes unless notified otherwise within two days after issue date.

**Prepared by  
HH**

