



## Summary of Community & Senior Center Information Sessions July 16 & 24, 2024

The Meridian Township Community & Senior Center Task Force hosted two information sessions for the public on July 16 and July 24, 2024. These sessions were geared towards showing residents the current conceptual plans, including floor plans and renderings of certain areas in the proposed center.

At each session, poster boards were available for residents to leave their feedback on, focusing on the four following categories:

- Enhance – Which areas/items would you like to see enhanced?
- Create – What types of spaces and/or ideas would you like to see created within the center?
- Reduce – Which items on the current plans would you like to see reduced?
- Eliminate – What do you believe should be eliminated from our current plans?

A summary of the notes left by session attendees follows, as well as additional notes gathered by the Task Force.

### **ENHANCE:**

- #7 youth area – suggest ability to break up space (7400') into smaller areas
- Increase amount/# of classrooms available for community ed: chair yoga, computer skills, etc. Expand second floor possibly for this purpose
- Please consider universal design to ensure wide accessibility for persons w/ dementia, autism, etc. Especially consider color contrast & texture changes in floors
- Conceptual plan looks good!
- Senior center – office space in senior center area for senior center management
- Turn the north parking lot into an open outdoor space w/ umbrellas, chairs, gardens
- Carded door in hall to southern senior center
- Senior center – coat/boot storage area near entrance
- Explanation of shared areas – how are spaces reserved? How will parks & rec work with senior center coordinator?
- Outdoor activities
- Ongoing funding options explored
- Income generating ideas w/in our community i.e. pickleball charity events, etc.
- Bathrooms accessible directly across from the multipurpose room

### **CREATE:**

- Spaces welcoming & labeled for non-binary folks (bathroom & lockers)
- Need more community space for activities other than recreation – TOO recreation focused
- Massage/fitness space for seniors
- Add planter bollards outside the front entrance – safety & greenery
- Need a separate senior center facility!

- Senior center – quiet space to rest and/or for small group meetings
- Create Plan B from what has been presented so far – funding is tenuous
- Adequate senior dedicated parking
- Bicycle parking
- Fed Ex Driver - 90° angles in parking/drive safety
- Green roof? Solar panels
- Will school buses drop kids for after school activities
- Roof lighting
- Solar panels
- Handicap drop off near each door
- Upstairs pickleball for beginners
- Space and capacity for seniors to have meals together
- Early voting/precinct

#### **REDUCE:**

- Too many hard surfaces will be too loud, cold environment, needs curves – too boxy
- Needs natural elements, like stone + wood + fountains
- Needs greenspace (everyone especially seniors spend too much time indoors); (and school-age)!
- Light from atrium roof, think indoor park should be considered
- Reception area looks too spacious! (smaller?)
- Obtain real data to justify gym space – the Westside Y is barely used
- Marna Wilson did a great job answering questions & explaining issue
- Looks great, like the parking and multiple usage of space
- Reduce design to first focus on replacing the senior center space and slowly build on the rest w/ donations/grants to reduce taxpayer burden

#### **ELIMINATE:**

- Membership fees (who? Resident vs. non-resident)
- Eliminate the larger banquet area, keep senior area with tables

#### **ADDITIONAL NOTES:**

- Request to add URL to state grant to our website
- Will there be showers in the senior bathrooms?
- Will the senior area be open at all after hours?
- Preference of gender-neutral bathrooms
- How will spaces be programmed? Do seniors get first priority during the day?
- Need for massage space
- Confusion as to who pays the senior center salaries, misconception that it is OPS
- Will there be fees?
- Is something happening to the Haslett senior center?
- What are the next steps for this project?
- Who gets to use the auditorium space?

- Someone mentioned flipping the 2 workout spaces to where the auditorium space is – Brendon (lead on project from Progressive AE, our engineering firm) discussed that this would add significantly to the cost, showed that the warming kitchen location is an added benefit to keeping auditorium where it's at
- Senior center offices should be moved into the senior center space
- There should be a small enclosable space in case someone has medical issues
- Are we working on getting donors?
- Resident concerned of additional taxes given the 5% increase the last few years
- Like and need community fundraising space (auditorium)
- Be careful about products and amenities to be all inclusive (i.e., Alzheimer's, sensory sensitive, etc.)
- Provide a Mother's Room for nursing mothers
- Like the addition of community rooms for meetings/events in community, especially in evening hours
- Concerns about senior programming and priority