

Community Webinar: BMS Community Input

Additional Information & Response to Questions

On December 10, the Sunset Empire Park & Recreation District hosted the second in a series of community webinars. This webinar focused on the Community Input of potential uses for the Middle School property. The webinar featured the following speakers:

- Wally Hamer (Educator, Coach & Pickleball enthusiast)
- Frank & Kerri Januik (Educators, Coaches, Founders & Operators of Pacific Basketball League)
- Andy Klumper (Business Owner, Coach, Community Volunteer)
- Shelly Owen (SEPRD Youth Programs Manager)
- Justin Smith (SEPRD Aquatics & Recreation Manager)

We strongly encourage you to view the entire webinar on the [District YouTube page](#).

Below is a summary of some of the answerable questions from the SEPRD staff perspective and responses to those questions.

We thank those that attended and encourage all to tune into our final webinar on December 17.

Please note that in some instances the questions have been edited for clarity.

1. The Broadway property includes other assets outside the building- like the parking lot that faces the highway and the Chamber of Commerce building. How would SEPRD programs – or other city services – be impacted if these assets were included to an entity other than SEPRD?

- a. This is a great question and unfortunately, unanswerable. If the building were sold to a different party the land would be used by them for the purposes they desire. It is fair to state those properties and assets could be lost or altered.

2. Do you think it's fair for the Park & Recreation District to compete against local businesses with programs and residents who already pay taxes to the District?

- a. Park and Recreation agencies, like the Special District that SEPRD is, have a charge to provide services that improve the health and wellness of all their residents. The SEPRD Mission is to invite and inspire our entire community to P.L.A.Y! (Positive Life Activities for You). We strive to provide programs that will be appealing for residents and guests of all ages, ethnicities, socio-economic status and do our best to improve accessibility to programs and facilities. The District serves a population of around 10,000 individuals and we believe that there is space in the "marketplace" of recreation and fitness programs for SEPRD to exist as well as private businesses. Our goal is to provide opportunities that are appealing to all but we know that many may elect for private services.

In 2018, as part of the planning process for the recreation bond, the District worked with a recreation planning firm. That firm produced a feasibility study that analyzed the market in our area and shared that in areas where there are successful park and recreation services provided, it actually helps private businesses because many people want the unique consumer experiences that a private gym can have.

It should be stated that many cities and communities have strong recreation programs with services such as those that would be expanded if the property transaction were to be finalized. Those communities have thriving private gyms, preschools, and other businesses.

3. What types of requests does SEPRD get for indoor exercise/recreation classes for seniors in the community?

- a. SEPRD works hard to provide programming for our aging adult population. We have 15 hours of fitness (dryland programming) per week and 10 hours of aquatic fitness classes. We partner with a local business to provide daily yoga classes. One consistent request going back to 2014 was that the community wanted gymnasium space and an indoor walking area. Those aspirations could be accomplished with the BMS property.

4. What is the timeline for the rehabilitation of BMS?

- a. That timeline has yet to be determined. We are currently reviewing the condition of the building and working with experts to determine what is needed. Once that is completed, the District will compile a Strategic Plan and work with the public to ensure that the property is utilized the best way possible and in a fiscally responsible manner.