



## Workshop #2 – Summary Notes

### Municipal Sports/Recreation Facilities + Programs Thursday, March 3, 2011 Mammoth Lakes Community Center

#### **Workshop Overview and Attendance:**

With 23 attendees, discussion and interaction amongst participants was robust and engaging. After a short presentation on the purpose of the workshop and the history of the RecStrats planning process, Attendees were organized into groups ("tables") and asked to identify what recreation elements might be missing from the published RecStrats document and then bring forward needed elements in the Municipal Recreation category that would contribute to achieving the vision of RecStrats – "to be the best alpine recreation community in the country."



#### **Prioritization Process Outcomes:**

After approximately one hour of discussion, each table reported their top "needs." Attendees were asked to prioritize those needs, based on which ones had the best opportunity to meet the three guiding principles from the RecStrats document - stewardship management, economic sustainability, quality of life. The top six are listed first. The numbers listed behind each need indicates the count of stickers received (attendees were each given three stickers to place on those needs they felt were the top priority). Additional needs listed below received less than three stickers. The notes from each table follow the prioritized list.

1. Field House/Community Recreation Center (multi-use, flexible programming, versatile, low-cost, assorted sport-focus) 11
2. Educational programs (youth + family, camping, natural environment, etc) 10
3. Enhanced maintenance/completion of, and increased access to existing facilities 9
4. Seasonal coaches/staff to provide "best" programs 9
5. Better integration of existing recreation/facilities providers (MMSA, MUSD, TOML, etc) 3
6. Geothermal indoor aquatic center 3

Additional Needs (listed as they were given in random order by each table)

- Trails and Parks (all season trails linked to/through town)
- Artificial turf fields
- Rock climbing gym
- Night lighting on fields
- BMX/motocross park
- Ice Rink (open and improve existing facility)
- Free transit to all facilities
- Community tennis courts
- Cycling facilities
- Child care
- High Altitude Track

### **Individual Breakout Table Summaries:**

#### **TABLE #1**

- Define Municipal Recreation – Youth Programs and Adult Programs

Note: OHV may be missing in municipal programs

- Low-income = all programs are subsidized
- Elements in Municipal Recreation (what's missing, what works, what doesn't)
  - YMCA –type facility
  - Recreation Center (pool) with youth + adult programs
  - Start kids early in sport programs (i.e. Rio Hondo Prep); create seamless transition from TOML programs into school athletic programs
  - Wrestling program
  - Running / cross-country
  - Volleyball
  - Sports nutrition
  - Lack of PE @ elementary school
  - Do kids have a path to follow in muni-sports? (i.e. ski programs to ski team)
  - Youth ski and snowboarding programs
  - Traditional sports (baseball, softball, soccer, etc)
  - Ice Rink – needs work; used for hockey in winter and roller hockey in summer
  - Indoor soccer
  - IDEA= open gym on Sunday night @ high school
  - Better integration of sports/kids programs
  - Nordic programs – low income included;
    - o IDEA=consider use of Shady Rest for Nordic programs
    - o Husky Club – develop a Nordic program @ elementary school, grooming on existing fields
- Existing Facilities (to do)
  - Adopt Parks & Recreation Master Plan
  - Adopt Trail System Master Plan
  - Better use of existing facilities / coordination
  - Better maintenance of existing facilities before building anything new (pool)
  - Whitmore complex – consider artificial grasses for longer season of use
  - Need longer season(s) for existing facilities
  - Enhance Shady Rest facilities

- Maintenance/enhancement of existing facilities/parks needs to be a priority
- Complete existing parks/facilities (i.e. ice rink, trails, parks)
- Better integration of programs (MUSD + TOML + Little League + AYSO + Softball)
  - o IDEA=Create a “culture of recreation” at an early age; provide broad access to programs such as club soccer, club volleyball, club swimming because of no organized sports in schools
- Resources
  - MUSD
  - TOML
  - INF
  - Mono Co
  - Valentine Reserve (bat camp, natural habitats)
  - YMCA – summer camp (i.e. MLJJ camp, etc)

**TABLE #2**

- Change term from low-income to “affordable” (includes access for people who can’t afford athletic club dues and for visitors)
- Elements in Municipal Recreation (opportunity to improve)
  - Tennis
  - Snowshoeing/Nordic/walking trails all season
  - Camping
  - Cycling
  - Educational programs
  - Youth development; Mommy + Me; Middle years family oriented programs not identified in RecStrats
  - Address and celebrate the diversity of the community, while increasing sense of community
  - Address needs of Latino community
  - Emphasize access to trails
- Priorities for Implementation
  - Develop camping education program for front and back country experiences
  - Town must support either financially or acknowledge importance of various recreation programs with letter of support or MOU
  - Identify affordable recreation programs with emphasis on youth enhancement, family oriented programs (i.e. “how to camp” education programs)
  - Develop marketing & recruitment strategy to access economically challenged inner-city youth and families to experience the “Gateway to the Great Outdoors”. Ties into “high altitude training” aspect.
  - Develop the strategy to obtain the land and the funding to build the facilities and develop budget to support the maintenance of facilities.
  - Develop a recreation facilities master plan that supports the vision of a world class alpine recreational town through partnerships with other agencies and organizations, specifically the school district. (i.e. use existing school facilities for some programs)

**TABLE #3**

- Define Municipal Recreation = it is huge and covers almost everything

- Elements missing?
  - What do youth need?
  - Year round programs/training such as swimming/baseball = indoor facility
  - Club soccer + synthetic turf = Whitmore track facility
  - Running track
  - Ice Rink
  - Aquatic facility (indoor) plus geothermal hot springs (Icelandic-style resort)
  - Open gym
  
- Priorities for Implementation
  - Aquatic indoor facility with geothermal pool/spa (7-10 yrs)
    - o Resources=private sector + TOML + MUSD +NGO
  - High Altitude Track (0-3 yrs)
    - o Resources=High Sierra Striders + TOML
  - Ice Rink (get a roof and get open 0-1 yrs)
    - o Resources=TOML + MUSD
  - Year-round facilities to support traditional team sports (5-10 yrs)
    - o Resources=TOML+ NGO + private sector

**TABLE #4**

- Priorities for Implementation (top five have timeline and resources listed)
  - Trails and parks as free public recreation facilities and feet-first all-season connectivity
  - Community recreation center (7-10 yrs)
    - o Resources=TOML + MUSD + UG + private sector
  - Artificial turf community field (4-6 yrs)
    - o Resources=TOML + NGO + UG + MUSD + MCWD
  - Climbing gym/bouldering cave
  - Lights at fields (0-3 yrs)
    - o Resources=TOML + UG + private sector
  - BMX park/track
  - Complete and maintain parks and facilities such as tennis courts to a professional/high standard (ongoing)
    - o Resources=TOML + UG + NGO + private sector
  - Access to existing facilities such as school gyms rather than construct new ones (0-3 yrs)
    - o Resources=TOML + MUSD + UG
  - Teen programming to make-up for lack of after-school programs, loss of arcade, etc.
  - Free public transit to parks and recreation facilities
  - Trails are important recreation facility
    - o Municipal trails, including sidewalks and paved pathways
    - o Linking parts of the community, reduce vehicular travel
    - o Winter and summer

**TABLE #5**

- Define Municipal Recreation
  - Affordable activities to touch large portion of community (adult or children)

- As public as possible to keep access as reasonable as possible
- Appropriate for all age groups= youth, teen, young adult, adult, senior (after school programs and library filling that role now)
- All ages offered seasonal social sports leagues
  
- Users
  - Generational = children, teen, adult, masters
  - From = international, national, regional, state, county, town
  - Level of involvement = spectator, supporter/friends/family, novice, masters, expert, elite (from casual to committed)
  - Intensity = recreate, participate, compete, dominate
  - “Who are our people?”
  - “What do they want?”
  - Determine how to meet those demands
  - People first, facilities next
  - Pursue “sweet spot” between triple-bottom line of stewardship management, economic development and quality of life
  
- Resources
  - TOML
  - USFS
  - County
  - Private Business
  - BLM/LADWP
  - Local financial experts
  
- Needs (based on above definitions)
  - Indoor facilities
    - o YMCA-type
    - o Proximity to schools for after school activities
    - o Computer labs
    - o Generational grouping
    - o Sports
    - o Multi-use with ability to use for conference, pro sport (tennis), tournaments (volleyball, basketball, etc), exhibits (Ferrari car club), commercial kitchen/catering, concert
    - o Additional uses=education, cultural, sports, business, possible emergency shelter
    - o Analysis to determine programming needs of local/visitor/students/seasonal residents (public+private effort) for indoor facility
    - o Land Issue/Need – possible resource is USFS
    - o Capacity to accommodate 1,000 ppl with supporting amenities including parking
    - o Land trade with college
    - o Secure development support with funding instead of placing in proposed projects
  - Facility Assessment
    - o Identify current facilities to accommodate short term needs
    - o Understand why current smaller facilities aren’t used more

- Is there demand for larger facility?
- Invest in professional coaching staff to increase participation and identify resources for new programming (i.e. ski coaches in winter could teach outward bound courses in summer-creating year-round job and programming opportunities with existing resources)

**Outcomes from Group Discussion:**

- Desire to integrate youth programming into pathway to follow for sport/activity development
- Consider environmental issues when building facilities (set example with sustainable design/construction)
- Consider what “best” means (from RecStrats vision)
- Quality projects/programs vs. quantity (relative to what is affordable)
- Pursue “best in class”
- Programming opportunities to connect to “the place” – use natural environment to develop programming unique to the area vs. traditional programming